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Knowledgeable
NOEL

The GAA's first
Agony Uncle
provides straight
answers to key
Gaelic Games
questions

Just get a grip, girl

Dear Noel, Dear Noel,

Some time back, you advised Lisa from Lower Laois not to humour her husband who wanted to get involved in a seven-a-side.

My husband wants me to shorten my grip, even though I have used the same grip since I first started playing as a teenager.

I have tried to tell him it's not that easy to change a grip - you can't teach an old dog new tricks.

He assures me I will get

used to the new grip in no time, and play much better Camogie as a result. I'm not convinced.

I don't want to have a row about this - we've just celebrated our first anniversary and, apart from this little niggle, and the fact that his mother is living with us, everything else is going just fine. I just don't want to interfere with the karma.

What do you think, Noel?

— Mairead (28 ½),
Mid-Monaghan



NOEL
Replies

You're playing with fire there, Mairead. Change your grip now and you might finish yourself forever. You were lucky to find a grip that works for you, and that's all that matters.

A grip is a very subjective, personal thing, and, by using the proper tape, you should be able to maintain an excellent grip in wet or dry conditions.

Your husband would have ruined Joe Deane, Gary Kirby, and dozens more with all this grip nonsense. People like him are all technique and no backbone. Break it to him gently that under no circumstances will you be heeding his advice, whether he likes it or not.

Stick to your guns, Mairead, and if he doesn't fall into line, I'd chance the butt of the hurl into his midriff when no-one's looking. Pull hard, he's no relation, so to speak.

The CCCG won't have any problem with that, either, I can assure you - like Dickie, they're all for keeping the game flowing.

And if that doesn't get you the desired result, Mairead, I would threaten to transfer to a club in Dublin.

Local hero

Cathriona Foley is captain of the Cork senior camogie team.

Where are you from?

I'm from a place called Ballythomas, about 10 minutes outside Carrignavar village. I live with my parents, Dan Joe and Kathleen, and my brother, Daniel, and two sisters, Mairead and Colleen. I'm the oldest so I guess I'm trying to set the example!

Have you a sporting background?

There's a big sporting background in the family. My mother's brothers played with Bride Rovers. My mother even played a bit with Watergrasshill and Bride Rovers. My dad, Dan Joe Foley, played with Carrignavar and Imokilly and played senior for a little bit with Sars. He won an All-Ireland Minor title with Cork in the early 1970s.

Where did you go to school?

I went to school in Scoil an Athair Tadhg in Carrignavar and then I went to secondary school in Glanmire Community College. One of the teachers there was Angela Sheehan, a former Cork senior player, and she was a big influence.

Were you good at school?

I was average enough in school, I was always trying to balance school with sport, but it worked out well enough in the end. The teachers in Glanmire were very helpful.

What did you do after school?

I'm now studying biochemistry in UCC. I'm going into fourth year. I'm currently involved in the Eureka Scheme, where you work on a biochemistry project for 12 weeks to get experience.

How did you get into camogie yourself?

I started in the front garden with my dad and my brother. When I was nine, I

started playing with the boys. Then I started playing in national school from third class, in Sciath na Scoil. I played in an U12 boys team with Carrignavar and we got to a county final. In 1997, my club, Rockbán, was formed. I played U12 to U18 with Rockbán. When I was 14, I was playing U16. I was always playing a grade higher up along. I went into Junior B, Junior A and Senior B. I'm now playing Senior B camogie with Rockbán and Senior A football.

When did you start playing for Cork?

I was first involved with the U12 primary team, and then I played U14 Cork Colleges. I played U16 Camogie, which was then like minor, and won two All-Irelands with Cork at that level. At 16, I was playing junior with Cork and we lost an All-Ireland to Kilkenny in 2002. In 2003, I started playing senior and I was brought on at half-time in the All-Ireland final that year against Tipperary. I was 17, so it was amazing to be playing at Croke Park, although we did lose that day. I did my cruciate in 2004 and missed the season. In 2006, I played at full-back and I won my first All-Ireland that year.

How often do you train?

I train with Cork on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. It's been very difficult for me for the past six weeks as we have had a game every weekend also, so my club has suffered. I'm also playing representative with Muskerry. You're constantly trying to balance different stuff. But training seems to be going well with the seniors at the moment.

What are your goals this season?

My goals are to win the All-Ireland with Cork this year, to win the Senior B County Final with Rockbán and with UCC to win an Ashbourne Cup medal.

Who'll win the All-Ireland hurling title this year?

Obviously I really hope Cork can do it, but I also think Tipp look very strong this year and Kilkenny will always be there or thereabouts.

Who'll win the All-Ireland camogie title this year?

We've won five out of six games to get to the semi-final this year so we can do it. We play the All-Ireland semi-final on August 16. The only team that have beaten us is Galway so maybe that says something. And Wexford won it last year so maybe they could still come good too.

Any advice for young people?

The difference between an average and a great player is the extra training you do outside team training and matches. Do it for yourself, and by yourself. Learn from your mistakes and always play to win.

— Compiled by Martin Claffey



Cork and Tipp to renew rivalry in semi

WITH THEIR place in the semi-final of the Gala All-Ireland Championship secured, Cork had to wait until 7pm on Saturday before they knew who would be joining them in the hat when the draws would be made the next day for the semi-finals, writes

MARY NEWMAN.

Galway and Wexford had also done enough to ensure their spots but it all hinged on the result of the last game, where Tipperary

and Galway clashed in Semple Stadium on Saturday. Any kind of a result good enough for the home side to make it to the latter stages. Certainly Tipp lived dangerously and scraped through with a draw but it was enough to edge out league champions Kilkenny who, at the start of the season, were fancied to be the side to watch. Kilkenny needed Galway to win to force a play-off with Tipp but it

was not to be as Galway had to battle back with a goal from a penalty to deny Tipp victory. Sunday night's live draw on the Sunday Game saw All-Ireland champions Wexford paired with Galway in a game that will give the champions a chance to gain revenge on a Galway side that were full value for their five-point victory in the round-robin series. Cork will meet old rivals Tipperary in a tie that will evoke

many memories.

Down the years the rivalry has been intense and up to last year Cork and Tipp dominated. Last year Wexford made the big breakthrough, can they repeat the feat or can Galway nip in to take the title for only the second time? It remains to be seen, but first the semi-final hurdle must be jumped. Nolan Park will be the venue on August 16 for what promises to be a cracking double-header.

HURLEY BURLEY FOR CORK CAMOGIE STAR'S NUPTIALS



Friends and team-mates create a guard of honour for Cork senior camogie player Eimear O'Farrell after she got married to Emmett Fennell at St Joseph's Church, Glanmire, this weekend.

Picture: Darragh Kane

Car boot sale

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Ardsúirthóir/ Director General - Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael

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Sheila Wallace, the current Ardsúirthóir, retires from the position shortly. The Central Council of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael is now inviting applications to fill this executive position.

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By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie

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IN WHAT was a new structure this season, all divisions played off with one coming through to join with the losing teams from round one.

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Muskerry, with two games under their belts, will go in this evening in confident form having received a stiff test from Carrigdhoun, where they hung on to record a two-point win.

In their first game, they easily disposed of the challenge posed by Imokilly and now, with games behind them, they have their title defence back on track.

Last season they blazed a trail of glory to take the division's first title in 72 years and.

Backboned by players from the Éire Óg, Ballincollig and Rockbawn clubs, they look to be on course to be there at the business side of things again this season.

Cork senior captain Catriona Foley and Sile Burns and Linda Dorgan spearhead a very strong outfit, Siobhán Gleeson, Catriona McKenna and Leah Weste are part of a strong defence while up front Margaret O'Herlihy, Denise Cronin and Ellen O'Herlihy are capable of taking on defences.

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Their quest for victory has been severely hampered by the loss of intercounty senior players Jennifer O'Leary, who is travelling for a year, and defender Rosalie Holland, who was sidelined with a shoulder injury.

The loss of players of this calibre was a huge blow but Barryroe battled hard and made Inniscarra fight all the way for victory.

This evening, Rosalie Holland is expected to make a return and line out and if fully recovered she will be a huge asset to their defence.

Eimear White, Ger Collins, Louise Gannon, Rosemary Dineen and Karen McCarthy are amongst the players Barryroe will look to for

Garvan should be too strong for Rovers

By LINDA MELLERICK
Cork Senior Camogie

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Ballygarvan v Courcey Rvs
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BALLYGARVAN and Courcey Rovers meet this Wednesday evening in round two of the 2008 Evening Echo Cork Senior Camogie Championship. With both teams having lost their opening games to St Finbarr's and Milford respectively, round two is effectively the back-door with much at stake for both sides. Lose this one and there are no more chances.

Ballygarvan go into the game as hot favourites after their highly-impressive first-round encounter with last year's finalists St Finbarr's.

Considering that Ballygarvan are only playing in the senior ranks since 2006, their progress has been highly commendable.

Year on year they continue to be involved in some of the season's most memorable games and have been unfortunate to come out at times on the wrong end.

They have tested the best of them over the past couple of years and if they had another forward or two would be strong championship contenders.

Unfortunately, they rely too much on Catriona Kelly to notch up the scores. Emer Dillon is their driving force and a big performance is expected and needed from her at every outing.

Sarah O'Donovan played well in her new role of centre-back against the Barrs.

Goalkeeper Mary Ellen O'Donovan should be back between the posts after an injury forced her to miss round the Barrs tie.

Courcey Rovers, on the other hand, face an uphill battle. Regaining confidence after their 3-25 to 1-8 defeat to Milford must be difficult.

The side will obviously take to the field anxious to atone for that but in truth they don't have the players across the pitch.

Again, much is expected of Cork seniors Sarah Hayes and Rachel Moloney.

Scoring forward Rachel Moloney surprisingly lined out at centre-back against Milford, thus limiting Rovers' scoring ability up front and it's a ploy that may be considered again this time out.

It's a 'catch 22' as, should Rachel play up front, she may not get the supply and Rovers will surely concede more.

No matter how hard they try, two players cannot make a team. Rovers will need a huge effort from their entire panel to advance to round three, something I feel is beyond them at present.

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Aghabullogue were at the receiving end of a 1-17 to 1-4 defeat by Douglas and they will not relish tonight's clash.

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ship campaigners and, against Douglas, they were determined and never gave up.

Cloughduv will provide strong opposition.

Backboned by no fewer than five Cork players, Briege Corkery, Una O'Donoghue, Joanne O'Callaghan, Aoife Murray and Marie Corkery, they are formidable but they need to get more of a return from their forwards as an

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Aghabullogue won't be found wanting and will battle hard.

Last time out Sinead Buckley gave a superb performance at centre back and they will look for a similar display from Clara Murphy, Jill Crowley and Mairead Twomey. Cloughduv look to hold to much strength and will be favoured to make it through

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Barryroe have no answer for dominant Muskerry

By BRIAN AHERN

Senior camogie championship

Muskerry	5-15
Barryroe	1-2

A POLISHED and powerful display by reigning champions Muskerry saw them cruise into the quarter-finals of the *Evening Echo* Senior Camogie Championship in an entertaining game played at Bandon.

Having already been victorious over Imokilly and Carrigdhoun, Muskerry started as strong favourites. Backboned by a number of Cork stars, the divisional side had to work hard early on to break down a tough Barryroe defence.

The opening point from Denise Cronin was quickly followed by three more from placed balls by Síle Burns. Despite outstanding saves from Barryroe keeper Eimear White, the net was eventually rattled in the 13th minute when a long range effort from Margaret O'Herlihy nestled in the top corner.

Try as they might, Barryroe struggled to get passed a dominant Muskerry half-back line with Cork captain Catriona Foley particularly impressive at centre back. Barryroe were unlucky not to get a goal of their own when a shot from Geraldine Collins hit the post.

A further flurry of points saw Muskerry end the half in a comfortable position of 1-9 to 0-0.

It was always going to be an uphill battle for the club side but when O'Herlihy and Valerie Mulcahy put two more goals on the scoreboard inside the opening five minutes of the second half, the game was well and truly over as a contest.

To their credit, Barryroe never gave up and were rewarded with their first score in the 38th minute when their captain Elaine McCarthy sent over a well-earned point.

Substitute Margaret Howard scored a third goal for the Muskerry girls following yet another great save from White.

Barryroe got a goal of their own when McCarthy added to a long-range free from Geraldine Collins. Collins followed this up with another point soon after but with time running out a last minute goal from Alanna McKenna sent the current holders marching on to the last eight and on course to retain their title.

Scorers for Muskerry: M O'Herlihy 2-1, S Burns 0-6 (0-4), 0-1 (45), M Howard 1-1, V Mulcahy 1-0, A McKenna 1-0, L Dorgan 0-3, D Cronin 0-2, C Foley, E Casey 0-1 each.

Barryroe: E McCarthy 1-1, G Collins 0-1.

MUSKERRY: T O'Donnell (Ballincollig); S Gleeson (Eire Ogl); L Weste (Ballincollig); L Murphy (Eire Ogl); C Foley (Rockban); M O'Donoghue (Ballincollig); L Dorgan (Greenagh); S Burns (Rockban); D Cronin (Ballincollig); A McKenna (Eire Ogl); K McCarthy (dol); S Buckley (Ballincollig); V Mulcahy (Rockban); E Casey (Ballincollig); M O'Herlihy (Eire Ogl).

Subs: E Kelleher for O'Donoghue (half-time); C Meeney for Buckley (38); K O'Donoghue for Casey (40); M Howard for Mulcahy (42); P Buttner for Foley (46).

BARRYROE: E White; E Carroll, AM Fleming; P McInerney; K McCarthy; R Holland; A O'Donoghue; I Dineen; L Gannon; AM O'Regan; R Dineen; N O'Driscoll; G Collins; E McCarthy; M Sheehy.

Referee: Colette O'Mahoney (St Finbarr's).

Cork stars ensure that Cloughduv advance

By MARY NEWMAN

Senior camogie championship

Cloughduv	2-11
Aghabullogue	0-3

POWERED BY their five inter-county players, Cloughduv always controlled this senior camogie championship Mid-Cork derby in Ballyanly last night.

With all back doors about to be firmly shut it was winner-takes-all, and this time Cloughduv were not going to be caught in the final stretch as in the opening game versus St Catherine's.

Last night, from the throw-in they looked sharp and fit, none more so than Brieg Corkery, who once again seemed to be every where, her work rate as always was 100% and she had plenty of support from Marie Corkery and Jean Lucey at midfield while in defence Joanne O'Callaghan, Orla McCarthy and Aoife Barry-Murphy controlled matters.

Aghabullogue showed plenty of fighting spirit but Cloughduv's experience at this level was always a factor and at the finish they were full value for their victory.

Una O'Donoghue and Mary Buckley swapped early points but driven on by the excellent Brieg Corkery, Cloughduv picked off three points in succession before Claire O'Donoghue finished to the net for the opening goal.

Aghabullogue battled hard and contested every ball, but they failed to avail of a few first-half chances that came their way.

This allowed Cloughduv build on their advantage and by half-time Una O'Donoghue, Sinead Buckley and Claire O'Donoghue had added points to their tally.

The second half was again controlled by Cloughduv, Corkery firing over an early point before her long-range free was connected on by Clare O'Donoghue.

Aghabullogue worked hard and never let their heads drop. Tina Roche Sinead Buckley and Brid Twomey giving it everything, but they couldn't match the pace of O'Donoghue, O'Callaghan and Corkery, who dictated matters.

Mary Buckley and Tina Roche pointed for Aghabullogue but in between Sinead Buckley Jean Lucey and Una O'Donoghue struck Cloughduv points to usher their side safely through.

Scorers for Cloughduv: C O'Donoghue 2-2, U O'Donoghue 0-4 (0-11), S Buckley, B Corkery 0-2 each, J Lucey 0-1.

Aghabullogue: M Buckley 0-2 (0-11), T Roche 0-1.

CLOUGHDUV: A Murray; E Dunne, S Corkery, G O'Sullivan; A Barry-Murphy, J O'Callaghan, O McCarthy; J Lucey, M Corkery, B Corkery, S Buckley, M Lucey; U O'Donoghue, C O'Donoghue, A Murray.

Subs: E Ahern for A Murray (46); M Byrne for C O'Donoghue (55); A Cronin for E Dunne (55); E Lynch for S Buckley (57).

AGHABULLOGUE: E O'Connell, M Twomey, J Twomey, M O'Leary, C Kiely, S Buckley, M Healy; B Twomey, N O'Connell; A Twomey, T Roche, J Crowley, M Twomey, M Buckley, M O'Sullivan. **Subs:** U Murphy for M Healy, E Mc Sweeney for M O'Sullivan (both half-times).

Referee: Michael Sheehan (Cyda Rovers).

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Try as they might, Barryroe struggled to get passed a dominant Muskerry half-back line with Cork captain Catriona Foley particularly impressive at centre back. Barryroe were unlucky not to get a goal of their own when a shot from Geraldine Collins hit the post.

A further flurry of points saw Muskerry end the half in a comfortable position of 1-9 to 0-0.

It was always going to be an uphill battle for the club side but when O'Herlihy and Valerie Mulcahy put two more goals on the scoreboard inside the opening five minutes of the second half, the game was well and truly over as a contest.

To their credit, Barryroe never gave up and were rewarded with their first score in the 38th minute when their captain Elaine McCarthy sent over a well-earned point.

Substitute Margaret Howard scored a third goal for the Muskerry girls following yet another great save from White.

Barryroe got a goal of their own when McCarthy added to a long-range free from Geraldine Collins. Collins followed this up with another point soon after but with time running out a last minute goal from Alanna McKenna sent the current holders marching on to the last eight and on course to retain their title.

Scorers for Muskerry: M O'Herlihy 2-1, S Burns 0-6 (0-4), 0-1 (45), M Howard 1-1, V Mulcahy 1-0, A McKenna 1-0, L Dorgan 0-3, D Cronin 0-2, C Foley, E Casey 0-1 each.

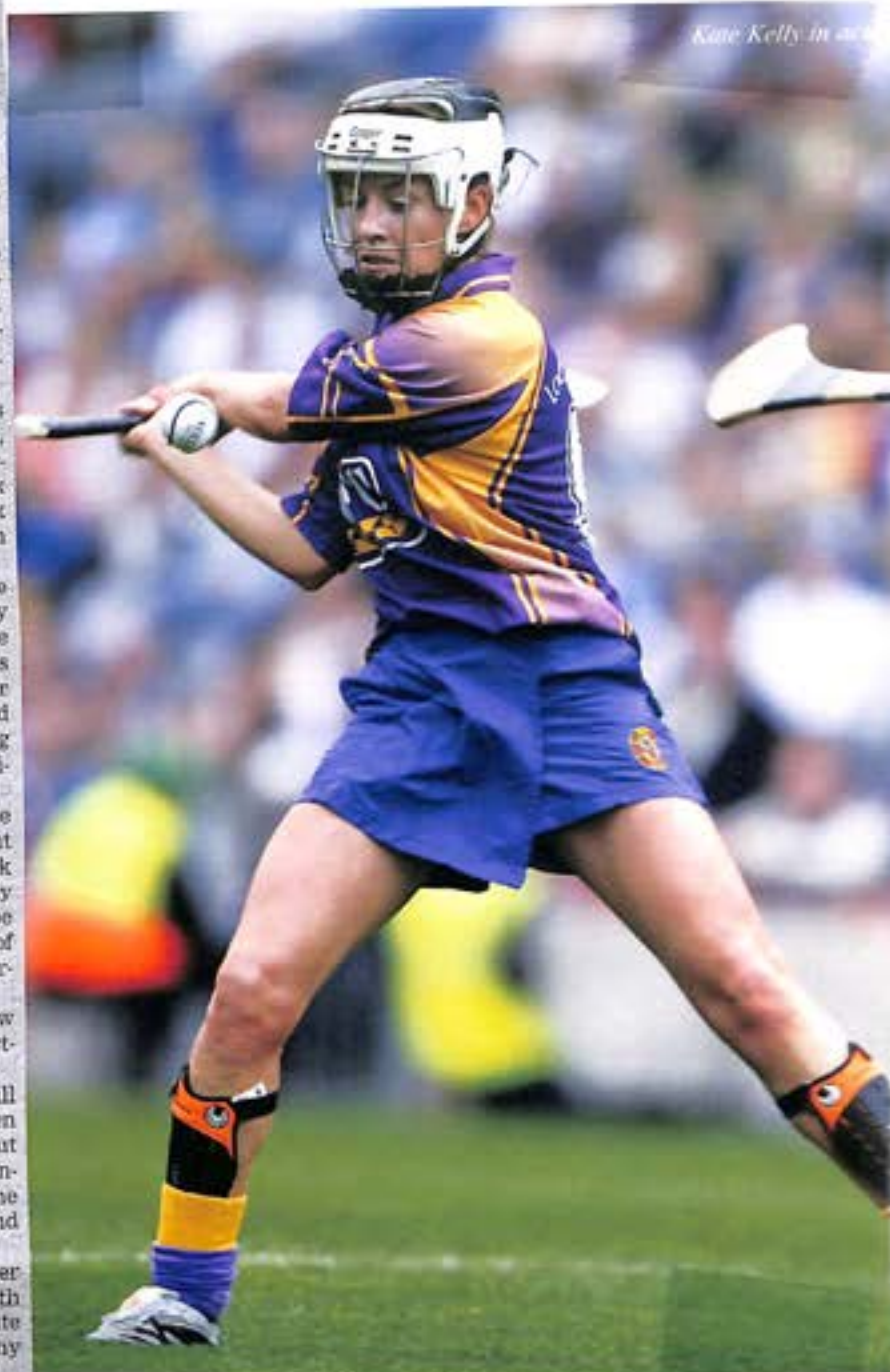
Barryroe: E McCarthy 1-1, G Collins 0-1.

MUSKERRY: T O'Donnell (Ballincollig); S Gleeson (Eire Ogl); L Weste (Ballincollig); L Murphy (Eire Ogl); C Foley (Rockban); M O'Donoghue (Ballincollig); L Dorgan (Greenagh); S Burns (Rockban); D Cronin (Ballincollig); A McKenna (Eire Ogl); K McCarthy (dol); S Buckley (Ballincollig); V Mulcahy (Rockban); E Casey (Ballincollig); M O'Herlihy (Eire Ogl).

Subs: E Kelleher for O'Donoghue (half-time); C Meeney for Buckley (38); K O'Donoghue for Casey (40); M Howard for Mulcahy (42); P Buttner for Foley (46).

BARRYROE: E White; E Carroll, AM Fleming; P McInerney; K McCarthy; R Holland; A O'Donoghue; I Dineen; L Gannon; AM O'Regan; R Dineen; N O'Driscoll; G Collins; E McCarthy; M Sheehy.

Referee: Colette O'Mahoney (St Finbarr's).



Aug. 2008

CLUB NOTES

NA PIARSAIGH

Na Piarasigh Summer Camp 2008

The Summer Camp is due to start on August 20 and will run until the 23rd. Registration is Tuesday, August 12 at 7pm in Na Piarasigh.

All newcomers welcome, any more information contact Catherine Allen on 086-3120574

ST CATHERINE'S

U13 League (12-a-side)

Our U13 team took on Bride Rovers in this league game and ran out comfortable winners on a 4-2 to 1-4 scoreline. We got off to a good start with Emer O'Brien scoring a goal and a point. Bride Rovers responded with three points to leave us one point in front at the break. We dominated the second half with Katie England goaling twice, Emer O'Brien adding another point and a very hardworking Laura Ahern adding a further goal, to leave us comfortable winners.

Team: R Spillane, C McAuliffe, A O'Brien, E Murphy, R O'Callaghan, E O'Brien, J O'Keefe, E Spillane, K Mulcahy, K England, L Ahern, M Galvin.

Subs: M Mulcahy, M O'Connor, G Walsh, N Coughlan, A Fitzgerald, N Clohesy, C McCarthy.

Scorers: E O'Brien 1-2, K England 2-0, Laura Ahern 1-0.

U16 All-Ireland final

Commiserations to our players Finola Neville and Fiona Cotter, who were our representatives on the Cork team which were defeated by Kilkenny in last week's final. Having commenced training in February, both girls put in a lot of hard work but, unfortunately, victory eluded Cork on this occasion. Nevertheless, they can be proud of their contribution and both can feel happy that they wore the red jersey with great pride.

GLEN ROVERS

On Saturday last a busload of Glen Rovers camogie players, decked out in red and white, travelled to Thurles to support the Cork U16 team in their quest for the All-Ireland title, however the end of the day didn't bring the expected result much to the disappointment of everybody who got behind the team from the throw-in.

The journey home was a long one as everybody reflected on what might have been. Commiserations to our own Sinead O'Halloran, who did everybody proud with her commitment and dedication, she wore the Cork colours with pride and did both herself and her parents John and Martina very proud. We are sure that Sinead will have many good years ahead in the red and white of Cork.

Thanks also to Elma O'Mahony who, along with club secretary Mary Newman, travelled on the bus with the girls who, despite the result, all enjoyed their day out.

Underage

As the holidays fly by, players are gradually returning to training. We enjoyed an excellent game with our friends from Sarsfields in what has now become a traditional friendly game during the summer months for players from age 13 to 16, who are around anxious to get back into training while some of their team mates are still enjoying holidays. Training will continue for players on the U14 and U16 second team on this Monday at 5.30pm. The U16 first team will have a training session on Tuesday next at 7.30pm followed by a team meeting.

Junior team

Our junior team get their league championship under way when they play Ballygarvan on Thursday next at the Glen Field at 7.15pm. Any players that are interested in coming back playing junior can contact any of the club mentors, who would be delighted to welcome them back.

Senior team

Our seniors continue the count down to their first championship game in the round-robin series where they will meet Kilbrittain on Sunday August 17, time to be arranged for this during the coming week.

Good luck

Best of luck to Lydia, Denise and Karen, who are part of the Cork minor squad that meet Kilkenny in the All Ireland minor semi-final today Saturday in the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick at 3.15pm.

We also extend best wishes to Patrick Hogan and the Cork senior team, who play Kilkenny on Sunday and indeed to the Cork footballers also go our best wishes for what we hope will be a great double in Croke Park.

GAA draw

Anybody with money outstanding for the GAA draw, please get payments to camogie draw co-ordinators this week to enable it to be completed and rounded off.

KILLEAGH

Senior team

Our senior team recently played Ballinhassig in the first game in the round-robin series of senior championship. Ballinhassig quickly opened the score with a point. Stephanie Beausang replied with the opening score for Killeagh. Ballinhassig had two more before the break as did Killeagh, thanks to Angela Walsh and Mary O'Connor.

Claire Keohane started the second half with a well-taken free. Killeagh had a lot of possession but found scoring difficult. Ballinhassig equalised, making it four points a side. Fifteen minutes into the second half, Angela Walsh scored a goal and it was quickly followed with a point by Ann-Marie Walsh. Another point was scored by Ballinhassig. Karen Walsh came on for Laura O'Connor.

There was a lot of pressure on the Killeagh backs but they held firm with Mary O'Connor being a tower of strength. Jessica O'Shea scored point number six and set up Noelle O'Donovan for the seventh. A great pass from



The Cork minor camogie team who play Kilkenny this weekend.

Mallow through to the last four

WITHOUT doubt, one of the most competitive and exciting underage grades is the U16 grade.

With both league and championship titles to be won still, all games were eagerly contested.

Early April saw games commence with a break for exams in late May, games resumed in July and with a closing date of July 31 we saw a mad flurry to get games completed.

U16 A

The U16 A league is played in one section with the top four to qualify and here Douglas, Inniscarra, Milford are joined by newcomers this season to the A grade Mallow who have made great strides to secure a semi-final berth.

U16 B

In the U16 B league, we had two sections with top two from each section qualifying for the semi-finals and it was Ballincollig, Valley Rovers, Glen Rovers and Brian Dillon's who made it to the concluding stages.

U16 C

The U16 C league was divided into

Gillian Cunningham to Jessica O'Shea left the final score 1-8 to 0-6. Well done to John O'Connor, who made a few good positional switches which made a difference to the game. It was our first senior championship win and hopefully the first of many Carrigaline. Bishopstown and Valley Rovers are the other teams in our group.

Our next match is on August 18 and support would be greatly appreciated.

Killeagh: Carmel Deane, Marie Smiddy, Clara Walsh, Sandra Smiddy, Ann-Marie Walsh, Mary O'Connor, Eanna O'Neill, Katie Kelleher, Laura O'Connor, Claire Keohane, Stephanie Beausang, Angela Walsh, Liz Kelly, Noelle O'Donovan, Susan Nolan, Karen Walsh, Gillian Cunningham, Clara Meade, Jessica O'Shea, Karen Rohan, Aileen Walsh, Ash-

New fundraising venture

WITH work progressing on the county board's new playing field on Ringmahon Road, Blackrock, it's great to report that the inter-county team have been using the pitch for training and with the temporary dressing rooms about to be installed shortly, it will be all systems go for the big opening day when the first game will take place.

A lot of hard work and effort has gone into getting the facility up

and running and to help with the ongoing expenses the county board are holding a big fundraiser in the form of a car-boot sale which will take place on Sunday August 17, starting at 9am and going on for the day.

They are calling on all supporters of camogie to come down and view their wonderful facilities and at the same time support what they hope will be a successful event.

three sections with top two from each section qualifying St Catherine's, Sarsfields, Douglas 2, Eire Og, Kilbrittain and Ballinascarty have made it here and we will have quarter-finals and semi-finals to be decided.

U16 D

Again a grade with two sections with top two from each section securing semi-finals spots. It was Val-

ley Rovers 2, St Mary's, Glen Rovers 2, and Barryroe who go on to the semi-finals.

In the U14 A league, three of the four teams that contested the Féile na nGael semi-finals have again battled it to the top of their respective sections to book themselves semi-final spots. In the grade, all teams were paired in one section with the top four coming out to con-

test the closing stages. Cork Féile winners Douglas are joined by Valley Rovers, Glen Rovers and Milford for what are sure to be two very competitive and interesting games.

In U14 B, there were two sections with two teams to come through from each and here Newtownshandrum and defeated Cork Féile na nGael finalists Courcy Rovers have secured their respective spots in the closing stages.

They will have to wait to see who joins them as there is a play-off to decide this. In section one, Brian Dillon's and Carrigaline will have to play off for second place while in section two there will have to be a three-way play-off between Ballygarvan, Ballincollig and Buttevant.

In U14 C, we had two sections with the top two coming out and here Douglas, Bishopstown, Enniskeane Kilbrittain Mallow and Millstreet have secured their places to contest the quarter and semi-finals.

Similarly, in the U14 D it was two sections with top two teams coming out and it will be Castleyons, Douglas, Banteer and Barryroe who will battle it out for the title.

Christine O'Mahony had a great game out the other wing. Susan Brosnan and Emer Keane kept the ball moving at midfield and set up great scoring chances for the forwards. Therese Drummond was excellent at centre-forward and added to the scoreboard hugely.

Claire Dooley worked hard out the wing and sent some great ball into the full forwards as well as picking up some nice scores herself. Louise Fleming did huge damage at full forward and contributed greatly to our 9-16 to 0-1 win. We look forward to the semi-final and appreciate all support.

Team: Saoirse Rodgers, Aisling Russell, Anthea O'Brien, Sarah Cotter, Christine O'Mahony, Amanda Dorgan, Deirdre Ring, Emer Keane, Susan Kate Brosnan, Emma Lane, Therese Drummond, Claire Dooley, Megan

Kelly, Louise Fleming, Therese Deane
Scorers: Therese Deane: 4-1, Louise Fleming 3-3, Therese Drummond 0-6, Emma Lane 0-3, Claire Dooley 1-2, Gillian O'Connell 1-0, Megan Kelly 0-1.

Subs: Orla Lawrence for Aisling Russell, Claire O'Mahony for Sarah Cotter, Jane Dooley for Therese Deane, Gillian O'Connell for Louise Fleming

CLOUGHDUV

Cloughduv's senior team had a comprehensive win over their rivals Aghabullogue on Wednesday last at Inniscarra.

The score was 2-11 point to 0-3. Cloughduv's depth of experience and skill from goalie to forwards proved too much for the much younger Aghabullogue side.

Tough task to stop the four in a row bid



Cork will be looking to fit-again players like Jennifer Lynch to lead the challenge against Kilkenny tomorrow at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick.

TOMORROW
All-Ireland minor
championship semi-final,
Cork v Kilkenny,
Limerick, 3.15pm

A TOUGH TASK awaits the county minor side on Saturday as they take on Kilkenny in the All-Ireland minor semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds Limerick.

Aiming for three-in-a-row this year, the Cats will be hard to stop and will be boosted, no doubt, by the achievement of their U16 side, who on Saturday last made it a historic four-in-a-row, they will be determined to succeed.

Kilkenny have been the dominant force in recent times at underage level. While they have found it hard to build on it at adult level, they are patiently biding their time.

With a hugely successful underage structure which has yielded six underage All-Ireland titles in four years, they'll win a senior in the coming years.

Not content to sit back, they will

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie

go in to Saturday's contest as favourites to advance to the final.

The sides met in the U16 final two years ago, where Kilkenny recorded a 12-point victory. Among the players in the Kilkenny lineout that day were Marie Dargan, Edwina Keane, Katie Power and Michelle Quilty and again the foursome are part of a formidable outfit.

Cork go in as underdogs but they will give it everything to make it to the final. They did not get their campaign off to the best of starts, losing out to Clare in their opening game, but they knuckled down to record impressive victories over Antrim and Galway having received a walkover from Dublin.

There is concern over injuries to Christine O'Neill and Aishling Thompson and they have held off naming their team until Saturday.

However, players such as captain Julia White, Jennifer Lynch, Niamh Dilworth, Maria Walsh and Lydia Cunningham are fit and raring to go

and they would dearly love to knock Kilkenny from their throne.

Selectors Ann Marie Healy, Paddy Corkery and Pat Moran have worked hard to reach this stage and, while it's a hard task, one has the feeling that maybe semi-final time could be the place to meet the champions.

It's a big ask and will take a mighty effort but certainly it is not out of the reach of this Cork side.

In the opening game of the afternoon, Tipperary and Clare clash in the first of the two semi-finals.

CORK PANEL: Maria Gleeson (Fire Ogl), Mary Ann Hawkes (Valley Rovers), Karen Jones (Inniscarra), Roisin de Faole (Blackrock), Maria Walsh (Ballyheal), Lydia Cunningham (Glen Rovers), Christine O'Neill (Courage Rovers), Jennifer Lynch (Tracton), Sarah Buckley (Ballincollig), Julia White (Douglas), capt. Niamh Dilworth (Inniscarra), Aisling Thompson (Milford), Katie O'Mahony (Inniscarra), Catriona Collins (Ballinacorney), Sinéad O'Callaghan (Ballinacorney), Ashleen Sheehan (Ballincollig), Patricia Buttner (Ballincollig), Denise Luby (Glen Rovers), Maria Moran (Carrigaline), Rebecca Finn (Milford), Grainne O'Keefe (Carrigaline), Eimear Harrington (Buttevant), Aileen Sheehan (Glenagh), Sinéad O'Brien (Clonakilty), Karen O'Connell (Glen Rovers), Sinéad O'Neill (Clonakilty), Sarah Cotter (Carrigaline), Claire Keohane (Killeagh).



Cork have delayed naming their team with injury concerns hanging over Christine O'Neill (pictured) and Aishling Thompson.

Quarter-final draws

THE draws for the quarter finals of the Evening Echo senior championship were made on Thursday night last, and they threw up some interesting clashes.

County champions, Muskerry, have been paired with Milford, in game that is sure to be a keenly contested clash. Milford made a strong statement of intent as they powered to first-round victory over Courcy Rovers, while Muskerry came through the divisional teams side of the draw with wins over Imokilly and Carrigdhoun, before defeating Barryroe.

St Finbarr's, who defeated Ballygarvan in round one, will meet Cloughduv and this is another one which will draw huge attention. Ballygarvan got their campaign back on track with a back-door re-entry victory over Courcy Rovers, and they will meet Inniscarra, who defeated Barryroe in round one. Douglas, who had a good first-round win over Aghbullogue, will meet St Catherine's, who defeated Cloughduv in round one.

The weekend of August 29 to 31 has been pencilled in for the quarter-finals. The draws are as follows:

Quarterfinals:
A Muskerry v Milford
B Cloughduv v St Finbarr's
C Ballygarvan v Inniscarra
D Douglas v St Catherine's
Semifinals:
A v C
B v D



Catriona Collins of Cork attempts to block a shot from Ruth Bergin of Kilkenny All-Ireland Minor A Camogie Championship semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick last Saturday.



Photographed at the inaugural Munster Primary Schools' Development Squads Blitz in Rathkeale recently: Captains Coimhe Costello, Nicola Sugrue, Jenny Logue, Joy Leo, Eimear Fennell and Laura Ryan along with Rose Malone (Munster Council).

EIGHT primary development squads (Cork A & B, Dublin A & B, Limerick, Kerry, Clare, Kilkenny) are participating in a blitz this morning at the adjacent O' Loughlin GAA grounds. The aspiring stars will display their skill during the half time intervals along with teams from Galway, Wexford and Tipperary. Part of the Munster Camogie Council development plan, supported by Munster GAA council, involved the organisation of a Primary School development squad in each of the six Munster counties. It is interesting to note that many of the current seniors playing here today have represented their county on the U14 development squads. It is imperative that, as an organisation, we continue to promote innovation and create an environment in each county that facilitates new ideas and therefore encourage progress. Mol an Oige...



Linda Mellerick

Cork sit pretty in attempt to regain crown

SO IT'S Cork and Tipp in the semi-final.

Defending champions Wexford and Tipperary joined Cork and Galway last weekend in the last four of the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie championship.

Tipperary's draw with Galway at Semple Stadium on Saturday evening meant that National League champions Kilkenny were knocked out — their last-gasp chance denied. They must have been gutted but in truth they were disappointed in the championship following their league success and despite winning a record four All-Ireland U16 titles in a row and two U18 titles they are still a fair bit off the pace at senior level. Camogie needs Kilkenny strongly competing at the top again and I for one would love to see it.

The Cats met Dublin in Ballyboden on Friday and knowing their fate beforehand, managed to run out healthy victors; the victory, I'm sure, bittersweet.

Any sort of result for Tipperary against Galway was good enough although the Premier County will be disappointed not to have taken maximum points.

Galway's lethal Jessica Gill, who had been substituted, was brought back on two and a half minutes into stoppage time to convert a penalty which salvaged a 1-14 to 2-11 draw for the Tribeswomen.

Tipp led by 1-6 to 0-7 at half-time, the goal courtesy of Geraldine Kinnane who hand-passed the ball to the net in the 17th minute.

With 12 minutes remaining, Claire Grogan set up top scorer Emily Hayden for Tipperary's second goal and the same player was denied another soon after by a smart Susan Earner save.

Tipp were clinging onto a three-point lead deep in stoppage time but there was a late

twist as Gill added a goal to her three points collected earlier.

Cork must be happy with the draw. Comprehensively defeating Tipp in early July 1-16 to 0-10, they have too much all round strength for Tipp. Tipp don't have the lethal forwards up front that they used to have and rely overwhelmingly on Claire Grogan. To add to their woes Jill Horan was handed a straight red card against Wexford earlier in the month and will surely miss the semi-final through suspension.

Defending champions Wexford booked their place in the last four with a facile victory against Limerick in Kilmallock. How Limerick can subject themselves to this humiliation week after week amazes me. I can't pretend to know if the Limerick County Board are addressing this issue by developing at grassroots level but I hope someone is doing something because Limerick have produced many talented players and it's a shame.

The Model County lost their opening two matches in the competition but four successive victories since then have ensured that they will be in the hat for Sunday evening's semi-final draw.

Una Leacy and Ursula Jacob were in scintillating form against Limerick and the deadly inside forwards weighed in with 2-8 apiece as Wexford racked up 7-27.

Bridget Curran, a late call-up in place of the absent Katrina Parrock, justified her inclusion with a 2-2 haul while Aine Codd was also in good scoring form as she notched 1-2.

Limerick responded with 0-4 during the game, Eileen O'Brien supplying 0-3 from placed balls with Tara Power taking the only score from play for the hosts.

It's not hard to notch up the scores against Limerick so I wouldn't pay much heed to the winning margin. Wexford are still not the



Cork's Sile Burns will be looking forward to renewing rivalry with Suzanne Kelly of Tipperary in the All-Ireland semi-finals. Picture: Inpho

Two U12 finals to be played at end of month

NORMALLY, U12 competitions are done and dusted before the summer break but this season there is still some unfinished business to complete for the younger competitors at juvenile camogie level.

There are just two finals to be decided and with the younger players returning from summer holidays and schools about to re-open, a date of Saturday, August 30 has been pencilled in.

In the U12 B league final, Courcy Rovers will meet Brian Dillon's while in the U12 D competition the second teams from Ballinhassig and Sarsfields will do battle.

Venues and times for both games will be announced but usually the juvenile board have endeavoured to play their finals at the one venue at the same time and this has proved to be a most successful and enjoyable venture for both the young participants, followers and indeed the hardworking county board officials, who have to organise the days events.

Meanwhile there were some *Evening Echo* Junior C Championship games played recently.

Ballinascarty defeated Millstreet, Castlemagner gained the upper hand in their clash with St Vincent's, Passage advanced at the expense of Cobh while Youghal edged out Delaney's.

The quarter-final pairings are as follows: Passage v Castlemagner, Blarney v Bandon, Ballinora v Ballinascarty, Youghal v Castleyons.

The pairings for the two remaining quarter-finals to be played in the *Evening Echo* Junior B Championship are as follows:

Douglas v St Catherine's, Kildorrey v Bride Rovers. The pairing for the semi-finals are: Brian Dillon's v Grenagh, Douglas or St Catherine's v Kildorrey or Bride Rovers.

team they were 12 months ago. Is it too late to turn it around now? Time will tell.

Galway's talented players are too scattered throughout the pitch. They just don't have enough of them.

At this point in time Cork are sitting very pretty for an All-Ireland title on September 14.

Locally the draw was made last Thursday evening for the quarter finals of this year's

senior club championship. It reads as follows: A) Muskerry v Milford B) Cloughduv v St. Finbarrs C) Ballygarvan v Inniscarra D) Douglas v St. Catherine's.

The semi final pairings will be: the winners of: A v D B v C. Some exciting clashes to look forward to. Provisionally the quarter-finals are due to be played in and around the week-end of the July 29.

We'll preview these fixtures at a later date.

Faithful power crushes Déise

Jackie Cahill
Camogie

A POWERFUL second-half performance booked Offaly's place in the All-Ireland junior camogie championship final as the Faithful County ran out 1-14 to 1-3 winners against Waterford at Leahy Park in Cashel yesterday.

The sides were level at 1-2 apiece at half-time but Offaly outscored the Déise girls 0-12 to 0-1 after the break to book a New Ireland cup final showdown against Clare or Laois, who meet in next weekend's second semi-final.

Michaela Morkam led the way in the scoring stakes with six points from placed balls, including a penalty drilled over the bar, while Natalie McCabe added a crucial 1-2 from play for an impressive Offaly outfit.

And yet it was Waterford who got off to a fine start and led by 1-1 to 0-0 in the early stages as Aine Lyng, who contributed 1-2, struck for her goal after Aine Breathnach had opened the scoring with a point.

But McCabe's goal 10 minutes before half time brought Offaly right back into contention and the floodgates really opened after half-time.

Meanwhile, Clare and champions Kilkenny will contest the All-Ireland minor A final on August 31, with Nenagh mooted as a possible venue.

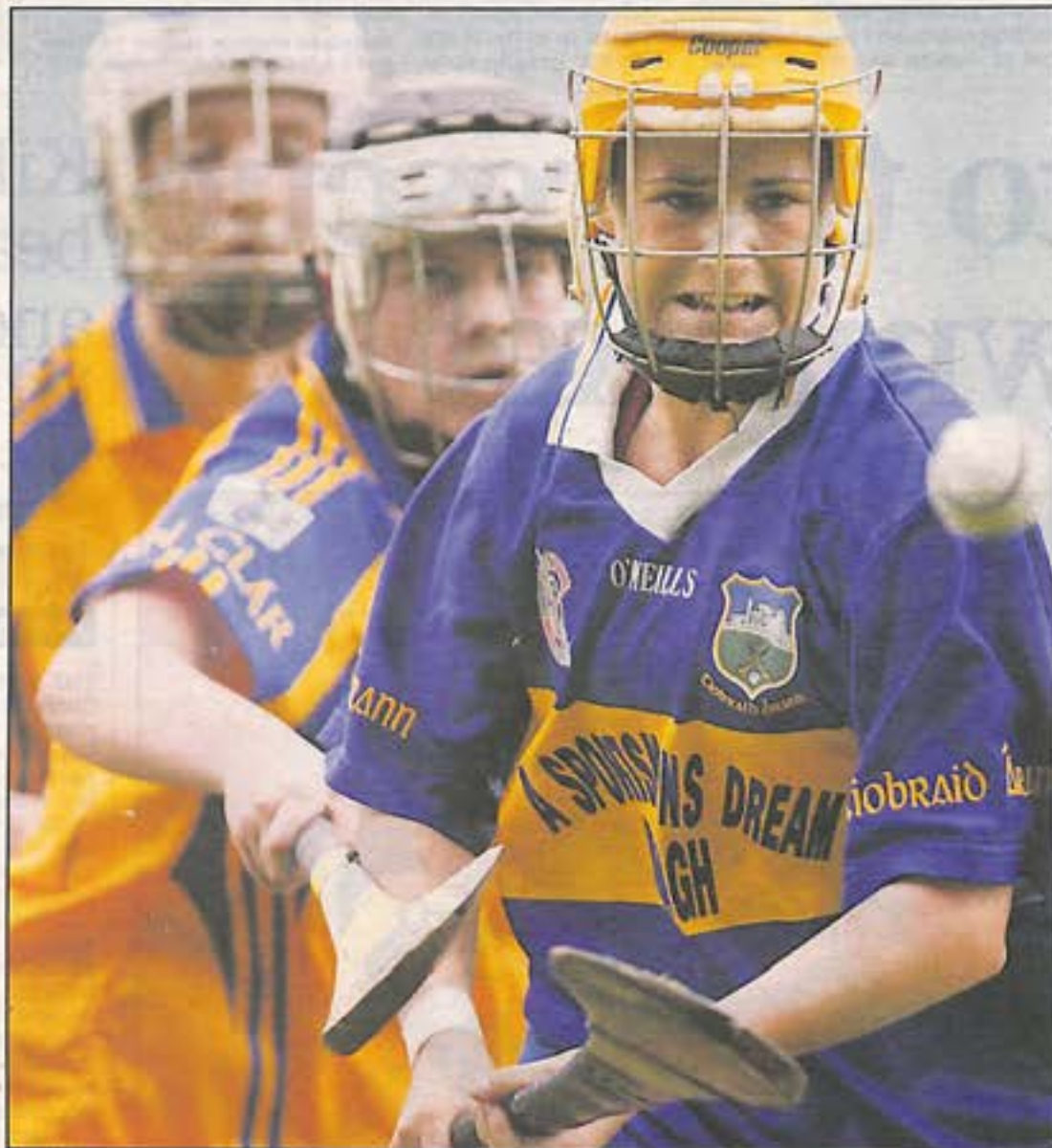
Clare booked their place in a very first final at this grade with a 4-15 to 0-9 victory against Tipperary at the Gaelic Grounds on Saturday.

A hat-trick of goals from lethal captain Carina Rosen-grave helped Clare to a 3-8 to 0-5 half-time advantage.

Stephanie Moloney's second-half goal was the icing on the cake for Clare as Rosen-grave finished with 3-2 to her name.

Shauna Enright bagged 0-11, including seven frees, while Cait Devane was Tipperary's leading scorer with seven points, five from frees.

Former Clare senior hurling goalkeeper Davy Fitzgerald has played a key role in the coaching of this team and the current Waterford manager was surprised with a post-match cake in the dressing room to mark his 37th birthday on August 2.



■ LINING UP: Clare's Sarah Reidy tracks Tipperary's Sandra O'Dwyer in the All-Ireland Minor A camogie Championship semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick on Saturday.

Picture: RPH/Caroline Quinn

In the second semi-final, Kilkenny claimed a dramatic 5-10 to 3-14 victory against Cork to keep alive their hopes of a third successive All-Ireland title at this grade.

Kilkenny's twin terrors Michelle Quilty and Marie Dargan scored two goals apiece although Cork will rue missed opportunities as they struck the post and the crossbar while Kilkenny goalkeeper Emma Staunton made a great save.

Quilty and Dargan scored first-half goals as Kilkenny led 2-5 to 0-8 at the break.

Katie Power added a third goal for Kilkenny before Sinéad O'Callaghan struck back for

Cork in a remarkable second half.

Quilty found the net again for Kilkenny midway through the half and with two minutes left, Julia White netted for Cork to leave Kilkenny hanging on to a two-point advantage, 4-9 to 2-13.

Points were exchanged before the game took another twist when Marie Dargan's long-range effort ended up in the net.

There was still time for Cork to hit back with a goal from Catriona Collins but the clock ran out on the Rebelettes.

In the Nancy Murray Cup semi-final, Meath ran out 4-14 to 1-12 winners against Carlow.

Blackhall Gaels star Jane Dolan scored 2-7 for Meath while Aileen Donnelly and Lizzie Lynch also raised green flags at St Peregrines in Blakestown.

Mary Coady was Carlow's leading scorer with 0-7 but that was not enough to deny Meath, who were beaten by Laois in the final of this competition last year.

This year's final has been pencilled in for August 24 but Meath must wait for their opponents in the decider after the Armagh v Roscommon tie at St Peregrines was abandoned due to torrential rain, with Roscommon well in control.

Clare can take Cats

THE Clare Camogie Under 18 team were magnificent last weekend when seeing off the challenge of Tipperary and thus qualifying for the All Ireland Final against Kilkenny on August 31st.

This is a huge achievement for it is the first time a Banner team will compete in the Final of such a competition. A clinical first half display paved the way as Clare led at the break by 3-8 to 0-5.

The victory was even more noteworthy when you consider Clare were without regular first choice players like Roisin Mc Mahon, Niamh Corry and Chloe Morey.

Carina Roseingrave was the hero with a fine personal tally of 3-2 while Stephanie Moroney scored one cracking goal.

Great work is being done by dedicated camogie people in the county and this win is a massive boost to the game in the Banner. I'm sure over the next few weeks the usual sponsorship and promotional activities will be undertaken and I hope the people of Clare will support the team in the fullest possible manner. They truly deserve it.



Right: Roisin O'Brien of Clare and Siobhan O'Neill of Tipperary keep a close eye on the ball in the All-Ireland Minor A Camogie Championship Semi Final at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick last Saturday. Don Moloney/Press 22

KILKENNY

Winners of their 4th All-Ireland Under-16 title in-a-row



Cats get the cream in camogie thriller

Kilkenny
Cork

5-10
3-14

ON A day borrowed from November, Cork and Kilkenny battled it out at the Gaelic Grounds Limerick for a place in the All-Ireland minor camogie final.

In the finish it was the Cats who shaded it but only by a whisker or the width of the cross bar and up-right denying Cork at crucial stages in rip roaring contest that had everything.

Two committed teams did their counties proud.

Cork went in as underdogs and stood up and were counted.

The fancied Kilkenny side meanwhile, chasing an illusive three in a row, played like true champions.

Yet they had to hang on by the skin of their teeth to deny the Rebels a place in the final.

Conditions were hard on both sides, torrential rain making the surface slippery but nevertheless camogie was the real winner.

On balance the least Cork deserved was a second bite of the cherry after a contest where neither side deserved to lose.

Cork settled well and led early when Niamh Dilworth and Catriona Collins hit points in reply to Michelle Quilty's opening pointed free.

The same player edged Kilkenny ahead when she responded quickest after the Cork keeper failed to hold Katie Power's long-range effort but two points from Cork captain Julia White quickly drew Cork level.

Marie Dargan edged Kilkenny ahead before sneaking in behind the Cork defence to link up with Katie Power for her side's second goal.

Aisling Thompson had one back for Cork but Kilkenny struck three in row without reply but as an ever improving Cork came more into the game Catriona Collins and Niamh Dilworth (2) were on target and just three points separated the sides.

Wearing down the Kilkenny defence Cork were twice denied an equaliser Emma Staunton getting down low to deny Catriona Collins before the upright denied Katie O'Mahony who connected first time with Niamh Dilworth's long range free and so it was Kilkenny who led 2-5 to 0-8 at the break.

Cork restarted well when Niamh Dilworth pointed from the throw-in,



Jennifer Lynch of Cork and Katie Power of Kilkenny battle for possession during Saturday's All-Ireland Minor A Camogie Championship semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick.

Picture: Press 22

but slack marking proved costly as the Cork defence allowed Katie Power waltz through to finish to the roof of the net.

Michelle Quilty and Anna Farrell pointed as Kilkenny threatened to open up a lead, but Niamh Dilworth kept Cork in contention with a pointed '45.

With their defence now soaking up pressure, Cork were again gaining momentum up front where Julia White and Niamh Dilworth caused huge problems for Kilkenny.

On the three-quarter stage Julia White won possession from a long Cunningham delivery and outpaced her opposite number before parting to the unmarked Sinead O'Callaghan.

She made no mistake from close range and it was game on.

Kilkenny steadied the ship in the best possible way when Marie Dargan blasted to the net to restore the six-point lead was restored.

Playing a captain's role, Julia White led the Cork rally but her shot for goal came agonisingly back off the crossbar.

Sinead O'Callaghan and Quilty again exchanged points as Kilkenny held onto the six-point lead.

Continuing to throw everything at Kilkenny, Cork narrowed the gap to four points but Anna Farrell made it five with three minutes remaining.

Kilkenny looked safe, but Cork refused to die and when Julia White again out-paced her marker and fired to the net, Cork were back in with a chance.

Dilworth fired over a point and now the game was down to the wire with a minute of normal time left. Michelle Quilty pointed a free and from the puck-out Marie Dargan won possession her harmless long range shot looked to be heading wide but somehow it sneaked between the Cork keeper and the up-right and ended up in the net.

It was disaster for Cork but still they battled refusing to let the heads drop Catriona Collins outpacing the Kilkenny defence to grab a goal two minutes into injury-time.

Still time remained for a winner.

Cork piled on the pressure and came agonisingly close twice the

Kilkenny defence standing firm and somehow clearing to safety.

The Cats held out to just about book their place in the final at the expense of a gallant Cork side that certainly deserved something from this one.

● In the opening game of the afternoon Davey Fitzgerald's Clare side proved too strong for Tipperary.

Clare won 4-15 to 0-9 to book their place in the final for the first time in their county's history.

Scorers for Kilkenny: M Quilty 2-5 (0-5f), M Dargan 2-1, K Power 1-0, A Farrell 0-3, A Dunphy 0-1.

Cork: N Dilworth 0-7 (0-2 f, 0-2 45), J White 1-3, C Collins 1-2, S O'Callaghan 1-1, A Thompson 0-1.

KILKENNY: E Staunton; R Bergin, A M Walsh, R Byrne; N Butler, L Fennelly, M Nolan; S Long, A Dunphy; A Curran, K Power, S Farrell (c); G Cullen, M Dargan, M Quilty.

Subs: E Keane for S Long (36), A Walsh for R Byrne (49), M Farrell for M Quilty (55), K Duggan for A Curran (57).

CORK: M Gleeson; M A Hawkes, K Jones, R De Faoite; M Walsh, L Cunningham, C O'Neill; J Lynch, S Buckley; J White (c), N Dilworth, A Thompson; K O'Mahony, C Collins, S O'Callaghan. **Subs:** R Finn for S Buckley (44).

Referee: Eamonn Browne (Tipperary).

Healy, White pay tribute to proud side

ANNE-MARIE HEALY
(Cork selector)

"We went into the game as total underdogs but played outstandingly against a great Kilkenny side that have enjoyed huge success.

"Fourteen of this Kilkenny side are senior and they are hugely experienced.

"Our girls gave it everything and played out of their skins,

we were very unlucky not to grab a goal before half-time we could possibly have got two goals their keeper made a superb save on the line from a great shot from Catriona Collins.

"We fought to the bitter end and we possibly should taken points early in second half, we tried for goals and were a bit unlucky not to grab an

early one, twice when we got the goals they responded, to be honest their last goal was a killer, but we came back again and hit them with a goal but time unfortunately ran out on us.

"I want to pay tribute to this bunch of girls. They were absolutely fantastic and did everything we asked of them, they gave it their all and

fought to bitter end and we are just gutted to have come so close and lost."

JULY WHITE
(Cork captain)

Young Cork captain Julia White was inconsolable at the final whistle but she gave me her reaction.

"I am really disappointed but I am very proud of our team. "Every player today gave it

everything and we fought to the final whistle, we knew it would be tough.

"They are a great team and I suppose we could have snatched a victory.

"We definitely deserved something and were unlucky on the day. We fought to the end and never let our heads drop, but it is disappointing to come close and lose out."

Aug
2008

U16 to begin by end of month

By MARY NEWMAN

U16 camogie

THE DRAWS for the U16 championships were made at the recent juvenile county board meeting.

With league competitions down to quarter final and semi-final stages, the decision was made to get championship competitions up and running.

Traditionally, these championships begin as students return to school and this season will be no exception as, according to county bye laws, U16 championships must commence by the end of August.

As in the league competitions, there will again be four grades in U16 championships, A, B, C and D.

In U16 A, just four teams will compete for honours with Ballinhassig, Ballygarvan and Carrigaline dropping down to U16 B grades for championship.

The trio, having competed in the higher grade during the league, sought and were granted a drop down for the championship and, as a result, 14 clubs will compete for B championship honours.

In the C grade championship, 19 sides will battle it out with St Finbarr's dropping down having competed in the B league.

The D championship has had an increase of clubs since the league competition with two teams dropping down from the C grade, Newcestown and Bride Rovers bringing the total amount of competing teams to 11.

Preliminary and first-round games are to be played on or before August 31, first drawn teams have home advantage.

Let's hope the weather becomes a little kinder to the youngsters and their mentors who have had to endure some appalling conditions in the last few weeks.

Best wishes to all competing clubs we hope to keep regular updates on all the games as they take place.

Clubs can contact me and email U16 championship fixtures, match reports and any updates you have results@camogie@hotmail.com.

THERE'S a noticeable buzz out Carrignavar way.

The local junior hurlers are creating a bit of a stir and not to be outdone the girls are cutting a dash as well.

Nobody is saying it, but they could have an All-Ireland winning captain in their midst next month.

The honour of leading Cork's camogie charge has landed in the more than capable hands of Cathriona Foley, the 21 years old UCC biochemistry student, soon to be entering fourth year.

She's from a very active sporting family. Dad, Dan Joe Foley, is heavily involved with the GAA club.

Mother, Kathleen, is a big Bride Rovers fan and her brother and sisters play as well.

While Cathriona's busy keeping out opponents at her end, at the other, Rockbán colleague, Síle Burns, is trying to do the exact opposite and succeeding.

The pair were central to Muskerry ending a 74-year drought by capturing the county championship last season.

"I was captain and there were three other Rockbán players involved as well.

"Apart from Síle, Valerie Mulcahy came on the in the final and Sarah Coleman was also on the panel.

"Síle and I were on the team since we were 16 and obviously it was huge thrill.

"We probably weren't fancied early on, but we were winning games by big margins and that made people take notice.

"It was hinted at after the county final that I might take over as Cork captain.

"It still had to go through the nomination process at divisional level before I was ratified last November," Foley said.

Now she's close to fulfilling a dream of walking out on Croke Park at the front of a Cork team contesting an All-Ireland final.

Before that, however, there's the matter of getting over Tipperary in the semi-final at Nowlan Park on Saturday.

Cork's progress to the last four was smooth enough, apart from a glitch against Galway, clinching their place with an impressive five-goal trouncing away to Kilkenny.

"We had six games in-a-row which brought its own pressure.

"There was one benefit in that we could only judge ourselves off our own standards.

"The concentration and focus was always on our own game.

"Galway was a hiccup, losing to a late goal. You could feel it on the pitch. They were very intense.

"I don't think we got going that day and I know we're a better team than that.

"It was definitely a wake-up call. Nobody ever wanted to feel like that again."

Foley has captained teams in the past, but this is in a different league.

"I was a bit anxious at the start, because it is a big responsibility.

"I'll never forget the first team I captained. It was the boys under-12 hurling team in national school.

"I also captained the Munster



Carrig waits for Foley's crowning moment

Cathriona Foley is leading the way as Cork captain in their bid for further All-Ireland glory.

Cork captain Cathriona will be toast of Carrignavar if the Rebel girls can land All-Ireland



MARK WOODS

Factfile

Cathriona Foley factfile
Age: 21
Schools: Carrignavar NS, Glanmire Community College
Third level: UCC, fourth year biochemistry
Sports: Camogie, ladies football, basketball, athletics
Club: Rockbán
Division: Muskerry
Position: Full-back/centre-back
Honours: All-Ireland senior medal, Cork county senior and junior medals, All-Star 2007, two Ashbourne Cup All-Stars
Likes: Music

secondary schools U18 team.

"But I'm lucky with this Cork team, because there are a lot of leaders on the pitch anyway, people who are older than me.

"And anyway the team is self-motivated.

"I wouldn't be a talker, more sit back and let it happen.

"It's just a matter of taking on the responsibility. It's usually in the huddle on the pitch just before the start.

"Jim McCarthy is the manager and he does a lot of the talking. He's a very good motivator.

"Then you have Con Malone, our manager Denise Cronin and Pat Murray, who also contribute."

Foley has been on the Cork panel since in 2003, coming on in the All-Ireland final defeat by Tipperary.

Her career, though, hasn't been all sweetness and light as she ex-

plained.

"I damaged the cruciate in my left knee during All-Ireland junior quarter final against Wexford four years ago, during my leaving cert year.

"I missed a year as a result, but I trained away on the extended panel in 2005 and then made the team as full-back in the 2006 league, when we won the All-Ireland that year."

There were tears 12 months ago, though, as Wexford denied Cork by two points in the final.

"I've seen both sides of it, winning and losing All-Ireland finals."

This is a hectic time of the year for Foley, who is still involved on all three fronts, Cork, Rockbán and Muskerry.

"It's a fairly big commitment playing with Cork, because you're trying to balance the club and division as well.

"It's difficult, because we train three times a week with Cork.

"Social life is definitely affected. You've got to be very selfish with your time.

"I've missed a lot of 21st birthday parties, including my own.

"It clashed with Muskerry training for the county final and shortly after that I was training with UCC, so I didn't have a party at all."

Win, lose or draw on Saturday, there will be no rest as Rockbán attempt to progress in the senior B championship and Muskerry try to defend their county title.

And that's not forgetting the chase for that elusive Ashbourne Cup medal with College either.



Cork captain, Cathriona Foley happy to captain a team with so many natural leaders.

CAMOGIE world

WALLACE STANDS DOWN FROM CAMOGIE ROLE

Sile Wallace, Ard Stiurthoir of the Camogie Association, retired from her position on July 31 having completed 22 years service with the Association.

The recruitment process to fill the position of Ard Stiurthoir/Director General will commence shortly. Sinead O Connor, Sponsorship and Finance Manager Cumann Camogaíochta, will assume the role of Ard Stiurthoir on an interim basis until the recruitment process is completed.

This will coincide with a review of the fulltime administrative structures in the Association, the PR/Media function, Provincial Councils and branding. This will be undertaken by Atlantic Sports Management and Training.

FR MURPHY'S RETAIN LONDON SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

In Ruislip reigning Senior County Camogie Champions Fr Murphy's took on Croydon for the 2008 title.

Murphy's got off to a great start, with two goals inside the first five minutes, but Croydon fought back to level with two goals of their own. Sinead Sparrow Kirk, then rattled the Croydon net, for her third goal in successive games but back came Croydon and not only levelled the score, but led by a point at half time 3-02 to 3-01.

Back came Murphy's after the break and levelled the scores, with a point from Laureena Murphy, the captain and full back Emer O Higgins, surged forward and her shot found the back of the Croydon net, the champions had retained their championship on a score of 4-03 to 3-03 in a game that was excellently refereed by Peter Downey from Liscarroll.

County Cork.

CAMOGIE STARS OF THE FUTURE ENJOY CROKE PARK EXPERIENCE

Camogie squads from counties Antrim, Down, Louth, Roscommon, Wexford, Waterford, Cavan and Carlow all took to Croke Park to hone their



Young supporters cheer on their team as U14 Development squads are led onto Croke Park by the Garda Band

skills as part of the Coillte Camogie Development Squads Day.

The eight counties were led on the pitch at GAA headquarters by the Garda Band before taking part in mini blitz games as well being treated to a tour of the stadium and some indoor hurling.

Galway captain, Sinead Cahalan, and 2007 Championship top scorer, Kate Kelly of Wexford, were on hand to give the budding inter-county players advice and show them some new skills.

The programme is supported by the Irish Sports Council and the counties have been participating in blitzes like these since April where the main focus is on developing the skills of Camogie and enjoying the game.

Speaking at the Development Squad blitz, Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association, expressed her delight at the scheme: "The Coillte Camogie Development Day is a day of encouragement for all those involved. It's about encouraging young players and giving them the chance to play at Croke Park, a privilege which is extended to very few in this country."

"We are delighted to again have Coillte's support with this initiative as there is a natural synergy between Camogie and Coillte. The Garda Band have been excellent and added a beautiful sense of occasion on what has

been a great day for everyone involved."

Coillte, the forestry and forest products company, began their involvement with the initiative in 2004 and last year confirmed they would continue to support the U-14 Development Squads for a further three years until 2010.

Coillte Chief Executive, David Gunning, is proud as punch to be behind the initiative: "Coillte is very proud to continue to be involved with the Camogie Association and to help in raising the skill level across the country among this year's U14 Development Squads."

"Coillte is the largest provider of outdoor recreation in the country with over 18 million visits per year to our recreational areas. We provide recreation to users that are environmentally and socially sustainable and at the same time we manage our forests to supply timber to industry for processing into a range of products - including hurleys!"

The partnership with Coillte began in 2004, the Camogie Association's Centenary year and we are delighted to be able to continue to support the Development Squads in this way and hope everyone enjoys the day at Croke Park."

Sile sets out her goals for Cork title bid

THE BITTER memory of losing last year's All-Ireland final to Wexford is the driving force to go one better this season.

Corner-forward Sile Burns is the team's vice-captain and her goals are helping Cork achieve theirs.

A couple in quick succession saw off Kilkenny in the final qualifying game, a result which propelled Cork into next week-end's semi-final.

"We're all determined to make up for what happened last year," says the 22-year-old.

"We were very hurt by losing the final by just a few points, having gone so close."

"This season, as with every time you represent Cork, it's all about winning the All-Ireland."

Sile's commitment to the cause intensified when she started work as a physiotherapist in



MARK WOODS

Skibbereen.

It means a round trip of a couple hours to training in the city three times a week, but collecting the O'Duffy Cup would make it all worthwhile.

Not that she's unused to winning All-Irelands, either in camogie or ladies football for that matter.

Her collection makes impressive reading, like a couple of U14 and U16 medals with the hurley and junior and intermediate club titles with her club Rock-ben in football.

Sile first came to the selectors' attention as a fifth-year student in 2002, when she was asked to join the panel.

Leaving Cert studies took centre-stage the following year and Sile opted out, but she returned in 2004.

Summers in the US and Cas-tlebar meant she missed out the '05 and '06 seasons, though she came back with a bang last year, helping Cork reach Croker.

It's no surprise that Sile is such an accomplished camogie player.

Her father Denis was a St Fin-barr's stalwart during the glory years of the 1970s and '80s, making the Cork panel in the All-Ireland three-in-a-row from 1976.

"He's what I call the voice of reason, because his advice has always been level headed."

"There's never been any pressure. It's always been encouragement, never criticism and he's been great really."

Being vice-captain Cork involves giving Cathriona a dig-out every now and again.

"For example, I attended the official launch earlier in the year when she was doing exams."

Indeed, Sile's hoping to emulate her Rockben colleague's achievement of guiding Muskerry to back-to-back county titles later in the season.

She's been handed the captain's armband for 2008 and her 1-9 contribution in the opening-round victory over Imokilly augurs well for another successful campaign.

Sile's captained a winning team in the past, the Cork U14 football side which swept to the Munster title in 2000.

Now she's dreaming of a double, that much sought-after All-Ireland medal with Cork and leading Muskerry to the county.

But, as Sile emphasised, it's one step at a time, beginning with the semi-final at the weekend.



Sile Burns' goals have helped pave Cork's way in this year's All-Ireland series.

AUG

2008

Clare top Tipp to reach All-Ireland final

Clare 4-15 - Tipperary 0-09

at Pairc na nGael, Limerick

Orla Considine

OVERCOMING the might of the Premier has been a major stumbling block for the minor, Under 21 and senior hurlers this year. Clare's under 18 camogie side have no such problems - a fact that was hammered home on Saturday as they took Tipp for 18 points to reach the All-Ireland final for the first time.

This was a super-confident display - total hurling you could call it, given that they went through the entire first half without hitting a wide. Clare made a lightening start and had two goals on the board inside seven minutes and never really looked back.

Captain Carina Roseingrave lead by example, banging in the two early goals. The pacey full forward was left with acres of space as her team mates crowded out mid-field and left their captain one on one with her opposite number.

This tactic certainly paid off when Aine O'Brien was on the end of a Sarah Reidy clearance to deliver to the forward line where Roseingrave collected, turned Shauna Rabbittie and crashed the sliotar to the back of the Tipperary net.

Roseingrave was sent on her way for a second goal when Stephanie Moloney fielded a high ball and sent the delivery in over the heads of Roseingrave and Rabbittie, with the Kilmomona player gathering the hop and again used her pace and accuracy to crash the ball to the Tipperary net. This gave Clare a 2-0 to 0-1 lead.

Clare never let up from here. Niamh Corry was dominating her position in mid-field, the Clare half-forward and half-back line were completely on top while the full-back line were hardly tested but looking very assured of themselves on the few occasions when they were called upon.

Clare used this dominance well and with Shona Enright accurate all day with her frees, she had Clare's first point with eight minutes gone. Clare added points from Roseingrave, a brace of frees from Enright, Roisin O'Brien, Enright from play and a free all before the 20th minute.

It got better before half-time as Tipperary failed to stem the Clare tide. Roseingrave scored her third goal, as Clare racked up a 3-8 half time total. Tipperary did stop the rot in the final six minutes of the half with four

points as Cait Devane and Sandra O'Dwyer found the range.

However, Clare regrouped at the interval, came out and went for the jugular once more.

The Banner girls continued to work hard though and Shona Enright with her accuracy from frees had the first score of the second half with two

minutes gone. Tipperary continued to smother Clare in this second period and it took eight minutes for Clare to grind them down, but through sheer hard work this they did.

Roseingrave moved to centre-forward in a switch with Stephanie Moloney. This left others free and when Shona Enright had a shot on

goal blocked, Moloney was on hand to double the rebound to the net.

In the second half they outscored Tipperary by 1-7 to 0-4, with all of Tipperary's points coming in the last five minutes when the game was over as a contest.

Clare manager Fintain McNamara was naturally proud of his charges.

"These girls have worked so hard, this win was a couple of years coming. To reach an All-Ireland final was their only aim at the start of the year and they have certainly earned it with that performance," he said.

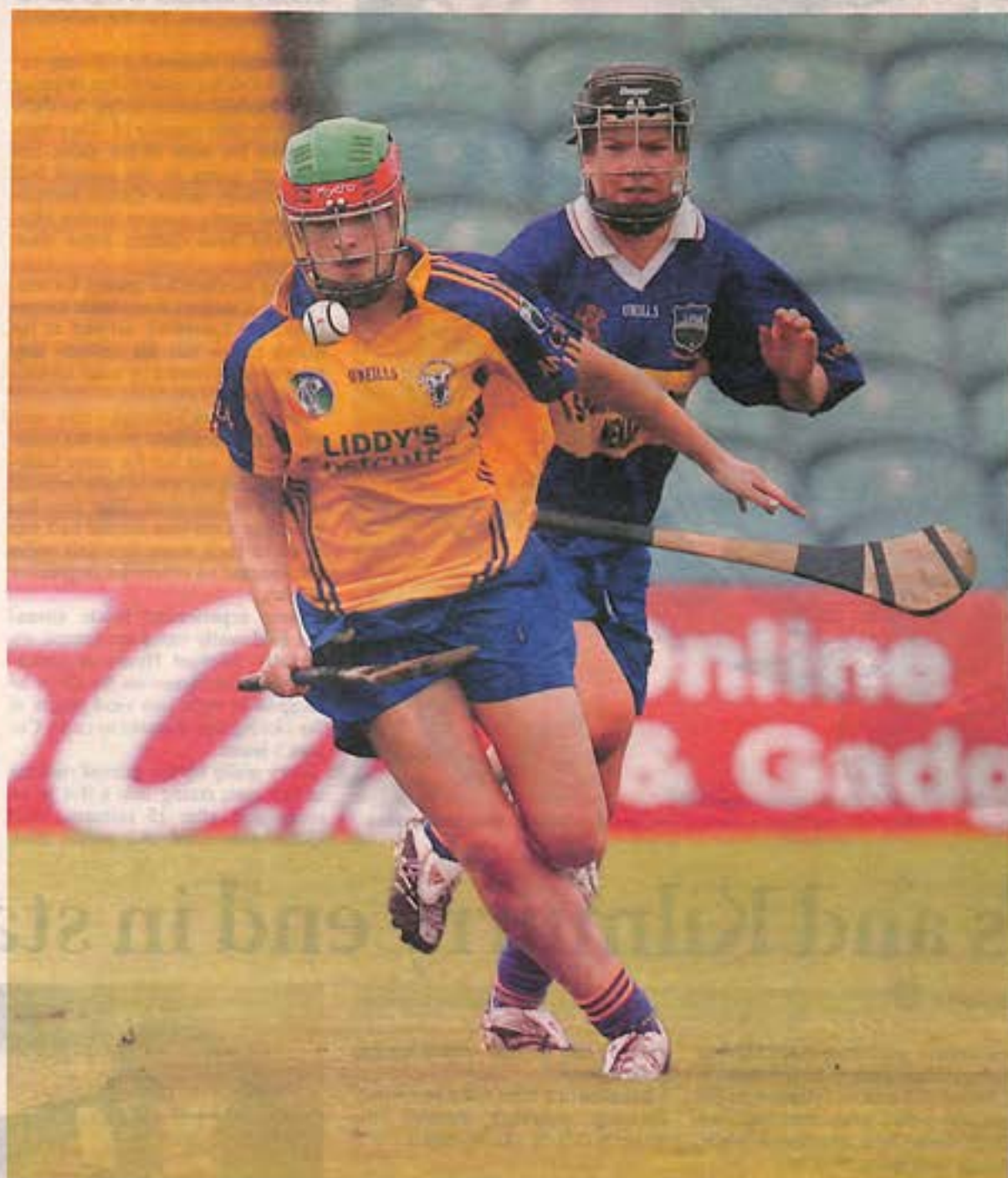
"We have time now to prepare for the final and with the way the girls have faced up to the challenges all year, we will certainly look forward to this one," he added.

Clare will take many positives from this game. They played without regular centre-back Roisin McMahon and Chloe Morey more than did herself justice in that position. Niamh Martin was another absentee from right corner-back but Sarah Reidy slotted in there with Aiveen O'Shea taking up the wing-back position and Niamh Corry and Eimear Considine partnering up at midfield.

Carina Roseingrave, Kate Lynch, Shona Enright, Carol Kaiser and Susan Vaughan were other star performers.

Now for reigning All-Ireland champions Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final on August 31.

Clare won't fear the Cats.



➤ Match Details

Clare Susan Vaughan (Ogonnelloe), Sarah Reidy (Kilmaley), Kate Lynch (Kilshen), Carol O'Leary (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Carol Kaiser (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Chloe Morey (Simslebridge), Aiveen O'Shea (Simslebridge), Niamh Corry (Simslebridge), Eimear Considine (Kilmaley), Stephanie Moloney (Broadford) (1-0), Shona Enright (Kilmaley) (0-11, 7), Aine O'Brien (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Roisin O'Brien (Ogonnelloe) (0-2), Carina Roseingrave (Kilmomona) (3-2) (Capt), Aoife Griffin (Clarecastle) **Subs** Mary Clune (Clonony) for Griffin, Louise Woods (St. Joseph's Doora/Barefield) for Moloney, Jacqueline Woods (St. Joseph's Doora/Barefield) for Roseingrave, Michelle Caulfield (Trugh) for O'Shea

Tipperary Kristina Kenneally, Siobhan O'Neill, Shauna Rabbittie, Geraldine Stapleton, Laura Greene, Fiona Young, Martina Gleeson, Sharon Hayes, Catriona Shortt, Sandra O'Dwyer, Aine Breslane, Catherine O'Meara, Bonnie Kennedy, Eimear Shanahan, Cait Devane **Subs** Niamh O'Connell for Rabbittie, Emer Dwan for Gleeson, Laura Power for Greene

Player of the Game
Carina Roseingrave (Clare)

Match Official Cathal Egan (Cork)

Left:
Kate Lynch takes a run at the Tipp defence. Don Moloney/Press 22

Hanley refuses to look past All-Ireland semi

Eoin Brennan

ANOTHER semi-final. One step away from their second successive All-Ireland Junior final but manager Colm Hanley thoughts are only concentrated on Sunday. Although Clare are favourites to overcome the challenge of rookies Laois this weekend, Hanley refuses to take their opponent's inexperience for granted.

"We are happy to be in the semi-

final and are almost back to where we want to be I suppose so we are back to basics for the week now to get ourselves prepared for Sunday. It's going to be a good battle because Laois are a very tough side. It would be very easy to underestimate them but they are going to be physical, they are going to be dogged and the way this weather is going, if we get a bad evening, all of a sudden things are very level."

Clare are unbeaten in both league and championship this year at their own grade, picking up the Division 2 league title along the way but the most striking aspect of the current side is their balance, richness in depth and blend of young and experience that have propelled the side this far. And Hanley has nothing but praise for his players.

"The things is that there is more talent in this county, certainly com-

ing through the ranks, than there is in any other county. You could see it last year with the likes of Kate Lynch and Carina Roseingrave really excelling with the juniors and they are still hurling for the minors this year and really performing as well. Chloe Morey as well came through this year and if you add that to the likes of Laura Linnane, Deirdre Murphy, Claire McMahon and so on, then without a doubt it is definitely a more

balanced side. It's a much fitter and stronger side than last year because the girls have bounced back really well from the disappointment of last September and have really put massive work in. So overall we are delighted with where they are at the moment and we couldn't really ask for more. Hopefully that will stay the same for the next few days and be enough to get us over the semi-final."

Relishing the rematch

Breen and company want payback against Galway



RONAN FAGAN

AS ROSE-MAIRE Breen points out, Wexford's loss away to Galway on July 5th last "could have been the fatal result for us" had the purple-and-gold slipped up in any of their remaining four championship qualifiers.

The 1-12 to 2-4 defeat for the Slaneysiders out west, in Killimor, certainly put their reign as the O'Duffy Cup champions under serious threat, with that result having come on the back of Wexford's 3-6 to 0-5 opening round group trimming from Cork at New Ross.

However, reflecting on the second round engagement with the Tribeswomen, Wexford's vice-captain notes how they had to endure "a long trip to Galway that morning, and that didn't do us any favours."

In the meantime Wexford have taken care of Kilkenny, Dublin, Tipperary and Limerick to fight their way through to the semi-finals - where they get a chance for revenge against Galway next Saturday in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny.

BIG WIN

In a corresponding tie last year, Wexford romped to a 2-18 to 0-14 win before taking care of Cork in the final. Rose-Marie reveals that the outcome of the more recent crossing of paths with Galway is fuelling her and her colleagues' desire to gain payback.

"Galway have definitely



Rose-Marie Breen in close pursuit of Galway's Regina Glynn during last year's All-Ireland senior championship semi-final in Kilkenny, which the purple-and-gold won 2-18 to 0-14. The sides clash in a repeat fixture next weekend.

come on well since last year, and they are a much different challenge now," the Monageer-Booleavogue ace acknowledges, before grinding her teeth while adding: "But we know we didn't perform anywhere near as well as we could have against Galway last month, and we are anxious to prove just how good we are when we meet them this time. Now, I don't know if Galway's perfor-

mance against us was their best or not; maybe they too have more to offer. Regardless, we'll be putting in a seriously improved challenge on Saturday."

All involved with Wexford were faced with a new set of circumstances in 2008 as they played host to Camogie's top prize, something the county hadn't done since the mid-1970s. "It was

completely out of the realms of whatever any of us had experienced before," Rose-Marie says. "We had to get to functions around the county and even outside of it. I suppose we were a bit blown away by it all. We loved visiting with the Cup, but obviously we couldn't be in the middle of that and be trying to successfully defend the title."

ONE-HIT

"In fairness, I think we all dealt with it very well, and we have held ourselves well as All-Ireland champions, doing the county proud," she adds. How right she is. But Wexford aren't interested in being one-hit wonders. An indication of just how ferocious they are setting about trying to extend the Cup's residency on Model County soil was their hugely

determined win over Tipperary during qualifying; the margin was only small (3-8 to 2-8), but the result itself was massive, with countless Wexford camogie teams having suffered at the hands of Tipp over the years.

"That was a big game for us. Tipp have been one of our mental-barriers during the past number of years," Rose-Marie points out, clearly conscious of suc-

cessive All-Ireland semi-final near-misses against the Premier between 2004 and 2006 inclusive. "Beating them was so important, especially in terms of us qualifying for the semi-finals again. We gave our best that day. The big thing about that Tipp match is that we proved to ourselves once again that we can battle out big results. That is what we have to do against Galway."

CAMOGIE ►► All-Ireland Junior Semi-Final Preview

Banner experience justifies favourites tag

Clare v Laois
@ Nenagh, Sunday 2:30pm

Orla Considine

CLARE will certainly face into this game as favorites. Clare have earned their right of passage, after three wins from three games, in what was definitely the tougher of the two groups in this competition. Clare had wins over Offaly, Down and Antrim. These were tough battles with the best performance coming in the last game against Antrim. It would certainly look as though things are coming right for Clare at just the right time in the season. There was no doubt that the Banner made a tough task of overcoming the

opening challenge of Offaly but as latter results demonstrated, that may have been more to do with the work and determination that Offaly have put into this campaign rather than the poor showing that some quarters thought of Clare at the time. Offaly have upset all the odds and have already qualified for the All-Ireland final after defeating Waterford on Sunday by 1-14 to 1-03.

Since that first meeting with Offaly though, Clare have worked hard and with ever improving performances against Down and Antrim, they will be quietly confident that at the end on sixty minutes on Sunday will have advanced to their second successive All-Ireland final.

Clare will also go into this game

with many of their panel having been involved in the U18 win over Tipperary on Saturday last. That win and reward of a first ever Under 18 final will give the whole Junior panel and Clare camogie in general a huge boost. That winning feeling is certainly filtering through the camogie teams at all levels and the Juniors will be looking to get to this final in a bid to add it to the league title already attained this year.

Laois stand obtrusively in their way though and although this is their first year in the Junior ranks, having gained promotion last year, Clare will not be taking their challenge for granted. At this stage it is a two team race and only the team that performs better on the day will succeed. There

are no second chances and Clare will have to continue the form that they have shown in those recent games.

The positive for Clare is that they will have almost a full squad to choose from. Fiona Lafferty will be the only injury problem but the Kilnamona dual star will be fully fit for the All-Ireland final, should Clare make it, which will be a huge boost and incentive for the Banner girls as Lafferty is recovering well after minor knee surgery recently.

Deirdre Murphy, Laura Linnane, Siobhan Lafferty, Dee Corcoran, Cathy Hally, Denise Lynch, Sharon McMahon, Claire Commene and Clare McMahon have all been going well for the Junior side recently. Aimee McInerney and Jane Scanlon

have also impressed in recent outings and these added to the strong performances of the crossover players on the U18 squad should give the management a positive selection headache.

Clare will not dwell too much on the opposition for this game but concentrate on their own game and hope to emulate the U18s in reaching what will be Clare's second All-Ireland Camogie Championship final this year. Clare should certainly have enough strength, experience and desire to overcome any challenge that Laois will present to them. Delivering on that undoubted potential will be the key to the all-important victory.

Verdict: Clare

Aug
2008



C'mon and get behind our heroines' chase for final spot

AS THE Wexford senior camogie team make their way to Nowlan Park, Kilkenny next Saturday to take on Galway in the Gala All-Ireland championship semi-final (3.30p.m.), the County Camogie Board asks that as many supporters make the journey as possible.

The eager Model County voices from the stands willing on the team can make all the difference, and nobody will forget the scenes in Croke Park last September when Mary Leacy lifted the O'Duffy Cup thanks to such massive backing.

Having huge numbers of purple-and-gold shirted fans cheering them on again on Saturday can help the side get back to Croke Park again this year, for a final clash with either Cork or Tipperary, who play in Saturday's curtain-raiser (1.30p.m.).

So, please make the effort to travel to Nowlan Park, and we would especially ask the clubs to consider bringing their young players along to witness some excellent camogie and give them a chance to see their heroines up-close.

The Camogie Board is keen to wish selectors Stellah, Alan, Noel, Eddie and the team the very best of luck.

We are with you all the way.



Wexford's Aine Codd shakes off a Galway challenge in last year's semi-final of the All-Ireland senior championship at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny.

Pic: INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan

Damien gets Galway working for the dream

by Ronan Fagan

HE WASN'T involved with Galway last year. But he was in the stand at Nowlan Park 12 months ago as they got battered by Wexford in the semi-finals of the All-Ireland camogie chase.

Damien Coleman, a highly regarded trainer (he is currently the Hurling Director with the Connacht Council), was part of the Galway backroom team a few seasons back under Sharon Glynn's management, which delivered the National League silverware in 2005.

But, he was just a spectator last year as Wexford swept past the Tribeswomen. "Watching what happened to the girls that day was certainly a motivational factor in terms of wanting to get involved again, because it's not nice sitting in Nowlan Park seeing girls who I know there is a lot more in being in such difficulty."

Actually, there's another factor which is very persuasive whenever Damien is approached to contribute to the Galway effort - he's married to long-serving top-drawer player Veronica Curtin. She'll probably be missing against Wex-

ford - at least from the starting-15 - as she continues to nurse an ankle injury inflicted by Kilkenny. Nevertheless, Damien is happy that he along with co-selectors Anne Broderick (a star player up to the late-1990s) and Liam O'Donoghue (the recent Galway hurling 'keeper) have planted a new mental determination in their troops which has taken root as the season's progressed, with their forces having already contested the National League final, losing to Kilkenny.

"There is always a great calibre of player in Galway camogie. However, we needed to put in proper support systems and develop the level of work-rate which is required to get you places," he explains. "When myself, Anne and Liam met at the start of the year, we said we would leave no stone unturned as we put every structure that is needed in place to make sure we would get the very best out of the players, and they've been responding very well. Improving their appreciation of just how hard you need to work on the training fields and match-days was the biggest issue. But now they are working like heroes."

"I know people measure success

in camogie against the bigger-picture - the O'Duffy Cup. But when you examine the history of Galway Camogie, we've only won one All-Ireland senior championship, and that was in 1996. So, expectations are never too high around here. Because of that we (the management) had to change the psyche and mindset of the players in order to develop more driven players. I won't say we're quite there yet, but we are getting closer to the right balance."

They didn't do much wrong on July 5th last when accounting for visitors Wexford by 1-12 to 2-4 in the early stages of qualifying for the championship. Damien points out: "We knew a good start in the championship was going to define our year. We had beaten Limerick in the first game (4-18 to 1-6), which, with no disrespect to Limerick, wasn't surprising - they are out of their league at this level. Then we had Wexford and Cork on successive weekends, which meant we were under serious pressure."

"The game against Wexford worked out for us on the day, and thankfully we got over Cork too (1-9 to 0-9). But, as regards Wexford, we have total respect for

them. In fact, they would have given us a bit of inspiration when they came through last year after knocking on the door for a while, getting up to Croke Park and actually crossing the finish-line. That was a serious achievement, and we want to aim just as high."

"I know Wexford had difficulties in their first two games of this year's championship (losing to Cork and then Galway), but I was always sure they were going to be one of the semi-finalists. Maybe some people thought when the early games went against them that the toll of winning back the All-Ireland after such a long time was getting to them. But, they have real quality, and once they clicked I knew they would pull themselves through to the semis."

Obviously Damien is eager to atone for Galway's nightmarish experience against them a year ago. "Of course we want to make up for that, and we are very much looking forward to Saturday's game. We're under no illusions whatsoever about the task we're facing. But one thing we are sure of is that we'll be hugely competitive. I certainly don't expect that there is going to be 10 points in it one way or the other."

CHAMPIONSHIP SCOREBOARD

Results to-date in the county camogie championships are as follows:

WFC SENIOR

ROUND ONE: St. Martin's 2-13 Monageer-Booavogue 0-2; Duffry Rovers 4-25 Bunclody 2-2; Rathnure 3-13 St. Ibar's 4-7; Oulart-The Ballagh 8-13 Ferns St. Aidan's 0-5.
ROUND TWO: St. Martin's 7-13 Bunclody 0-2; Monageer-Booavogue 3-7 Duffry Rovers 3-7; Oulart-The Ballagh 2-11 Rathnure 2-7; St. Ibar's 4-12 Ferns St. Aidan's 2-4.

ENNISCORTHY MOTOR COMPANY INTERMEDIATE

ROUND ONE: Blackwater 0-20 Marshalstown 0-7; Glynn-Barntown 1-13 Buffers Alley 0-10; Rapparees 2-7 Bannow-Ballymitty 0-4; Oylegate-Glenbrien 3-6 Naomh Eanna 1-3.
ROUND TWO: Buffers Alley 1-10 Marshalstown 0-

3; Blackwater 4-5 Glynn-Barntown 1-6; Oylegate-Glenbrien 6-12 Bannow-Ballymitty 0-3; Naomh Eanna 4-5 Rapparees 1-7.

JUNIOR 'A'

ROUND ONE: Oulart-The Ballagh walkover Faythe Harriers scr; St. Martin's 1-7 Cloughbawn 0-3; Rathnure 7-7 Taghmon-Camross 0-6.
ROUND TWO: Rathnure 5-8 Cloughbawn 0-6; Oulart-The Ballagh 2-7 Taghmon-Camross 1-5; St. Martin's walkover St. Ibar's.
ROUND THREE: Taghmon-Camross 3-17 Faythe Harriers 0-6.

JUNIOR 'B'

ROUND ONE: Ferns St. Aidan's 4-4 Bunclody 1-5; Duffry Rovers 8-10 Rathnure 0-1.
ROUND TWO: Buffers Alley walkover Bunclody scr; Ferns St. Aidan's 4-2 Rathnure 1-1.
ROUND THREE: Buffers Alley 2-3 Ferns St. Aidan's 2-2; Duffry Rovers 8-7 Bunclody 0-0.

AUG

2008

Gala all Ireland semi final

ALL or nothing on Saturday as the Cork senior team take on Tipperary in the Semi final of the Gala All Ireland senior championship in Nolan Park Kilkenny at 1.30pm.

Down through the years these sides have on so many occasions battled it out on final day in Croke Park but this season the open draw has pitted them together for the second year in a row.

Cork have enjoyed an excellent championship campaign losing just one game to Galway but despite defeating Tipperary they will be wary of the challenge they will face from a side who will be determined to reverse that result.

Denise Cronin and her fellow mentors have instilled a confidence in their charges and Cork have been playing well, but they will

need to up the ante again to contain a Tipperary side that is reported to have Emer McDonnell back in training.

Cork are captained by Catriona Foley and she will look to fellow players such as Joanne O'Callaghan, Mary O'Connor, Brieghe Corkery and Gemma O'Connor to guide Cork to Croke Park.

Tipp will strive to regain former glories and would dearly love to return to Croke Park, Saturday promises much in another fascinating saga from two counties that have helped raise the games profile to a new level.

In the second game on the double bill Galway who have enjoyed a tremendous season will take on All Ireland champions Wexford in a game that will go down to the wire.



Cork camogie players Elaine O'Riordan and Brieghe Corkery prepare for Saturday's Gala All Ireland semi-final.

Senior championship continues

CLOUGHUV defeated neighbours Aghbullogue in the senior championship. Brieghe Corkery was an inspirational figure as Cloughduv set the pace from the throw in and held their lead to the finish. Ballygarvan had to call on all their resources before safely negotiating their way past Courcy Rovers.

A power packed display for County champions Muskerry saw them keep the defence of their crown on course against a Barryroe side that battled hard but could never match the strength of the champions. With Catriona Foley, Silé

Burns, Leah Weste and Margaret O'Herlihy all prominent Muskerry marched on to the quarter final.

DRAWS

The draws for the senior champions were made as follows:

- A Muskerry v Milford
- B Cloughduv v St. Finbarrs
- C Ballygarvan v Inniscarra
- D Douglas v St. Catherine's

SEMI-FINALS

A v B and C v D

Senior B championship

THE senior B championship continues on Sunday when Glen Rovers meet Kilbrittan / Timoleague at 1pm, on Monday at 7.30pm Bishopstown meet Ballinhassig, Killeagh take

on Valley Rovers while on Wednesday Rockban meet Newcestown, venues for these games to be announced.

SATURDAY
Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final
Cork v Tipperary,
Nowlan Park, Kilkenny 1.30pm
SO MUCH has been written about Cork and Tipperary clashes over the last 10 years.

1999 was an historic year for the Tipperary senior camogie side when they won their first ever All-Ireland senior camogie title, beating Kilkenny by a single point in the final.

Meadbh Stokes captained the team from midfield. Tipp had spent many years playing at intermediate level and felt like they had been let out of the traps when they finally won the title in '98 and moved up to senior ranks.

Initially it was a baptism of fire for the Premier County when they suffered a humiliating national league defeat to Cork and this placed a huge doubt in their mind as to whether they really were good enough to compete at this level. In fact it was this defeat which prompted the county into action. Michael Cleary came in as manager/coach and the side went from strength to strength.

In 2000, they successfully defended their title, beating Cork in the final by 2-11 to 1-9. In 2001, Tipperary made it three in a row when they defeated Kilkenny, 4-13 to 1-6. Losing out to Cork in the All-Ireland final of 2002, they bounced back in 2003 and 2004 when they captured the O'Duffy Cup for the fifth time in six years.

It was Cork's turn again in '05 and '06 as the two Munster counties dominated the national scene.

Tipperary failed to make it to Croke Park for the first time in nine years in 2007 and Wexford took the title at Cork's expense.

Little things can make a significant difference in sport. There is such a thin line between winning and losing. Yet one victory, even by the narrowest of margins, can lead to a great divide.

When Tipp took their first title in '99, many saw it as a once off. Beginner's luck maybe! Had hot favourites Cork not lost their All-Ireland semi-final to Kilkenny, would Tipp have got their foot in the door? Even when Tipp defeated Cork in the All-Ireland final of 2000, they still weren't afforded the respect they deserved. Sure Cork didn't turn up at all that day!

It was only in 2001, after two epic encounters, that Cork realised that they were up against an excellent side that had grown massively since '99.

The Cork mindset changed for 2002 and they trained themselves almost to a standstill with only one goal in mind; victory over Tipp in the All-Ireland final. This they achieved. Again Tipp came back.

The pattern during those years could have a nasty way of repeating itself should Cork not respect Tipperary on Saturday when they meet in Nowlan Park as the opening game in a double semi-final fixture. The Rebels seem to have regained control in Munster these past three years, but only just and should they rest on their

laurels they will get caught.

PATHS TO SEMI-FINAL TIPPERARY
Kilkenny 2-10 Tipp 2-12, Tipperary 2-13 Dublin 2-09, Cork 1-16 Tipp 0-10, Limerick 0-05 Tipp 2-22, Tipp 2-08 Wexford 3-08, Tipp 1-14 Galway 2-11

CORK
Dublin 0-05 Cork 1-13, Wexford 0-05 Cork 3-06, Cork 1-16 Tipperary 0-10, Cork 0-09 Galway 1-09, Cork 2-21 Limerick 1-05, Kilkenny 0-07 Cork 5-11
Scores for: Cork 12-76, Tipperary 9-79
Against: Cork 2-41, Tipperary 10-59

With the round-robin series in place, both teams have played the same opposition. While statistically Cork look far more comfortable, the timing of the fixtures would have a big bearing



Douglas' Amanda O'Regan (right) will start for Cork against Tipp instead of the on honeymoon Emer O'Farrell.

Cork can't afford to be complacent



LINDA MELLERICK

laurels they will get caught.

PATHS TO SEMI-FINAL TIPPERARY
Kilkenny 2-10 Tipp 2-12, Tipperary 2-13 Dublin 2-09, Cork 1-16 Tipp 0-10, Limerick 0-05 Tipp 2-22, Tipp 2-08 Wexford 3-08, Tipp 1-14 Galway 2-11

CORK
Dublin 0-05 Cork 1-13, Wexford 0-05 Cork 3-06, Cork 1-16 Tipperary 0-10, Cork 0-09 Galway 1-09, Cork 2-21 Limerick 1-05, Kilkenny 0-07 Cork 5-11
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With the round-robin series in place, both teams have played the same opposition. While statistically Cork look far more comfortable, the timing of the fixtures would have a big bearing

on results.

For example, Tipp met Kilkenny, who were crowned national league champions in May in the first round of the championship on June 1 and defeated them by two points. Cork, on the other hand, didn't play Kilkenny until July 27.

Would Cork have had the same winning margin over the Cats had they met them in early June? By the time Cork met Kilkenny they were well into their stride.

That said, having conceded just 2-41 from six games, Cork look extremely tight in defence. Tipperary on the other hand has a massive 10-59 scored against them.

Tipp's key players are around the middle of the park and up front; Joanne Ryan, Claire Grogan, Philly Fogarty. Fogarty had a stint at centre-back for a while a year or so

ago and really impressed.

Tipp, however, seem to be of the mindset that they need her more up front.

There is one change in personnel on the Cork side, Emer O'Farrell is on honeymoon and is replaced with Douglas's Amanda O'Regan.

O'Regan came on in the dying minutes of Cork's final group game against Kilkenny and scored two goals.

She will be eager to maintain that form and secure a starting place on All-Ireland final day should Cork advance.

The Rebels go in as favourites. However, they will do well in advance to reflect on 1999.

CORK TEAM: A Murray; L O'Connell, C Foley, J O'Callaghan; G O'Connor, M O'Connor, S Hayes; B Corkery, L Dorgan; U O'Donoghue, R Moloney, E O'Sullivan; S Burns, A O'Regan, O Cotter.

Denise: We can't take Tipp for granted

CORK manager, Denise Cronin, herself a member of the 1999 Cork side remembers only too well how Tipperary's rise to fame began.

She refers to Cork's emphatic league victory over Saturday's opponents that year and the fact that it was Tipp who were crowned All-Ireland champions the following September.

"Sport has a way of biting you when you think you are going well," she says.

"We would never have predicted that outcome at the beginning of the year. With that in mind we can't take Tipperary for granted on Saturday."

"The fact that we beat them in July means nothing. We were behind at

half time 0-8 to 0-4.

"We really stepped it up in the second half but it wasn't looking good for a while. We need a good start on Saturday."

"I'll have to remind the girls that the game starts at 1.30pm and not 1.45pm," she laughs.

"But if we do go behind we won't

panic. We've prepared well. Jim (McCarthy, coach) is meticulous. Everything we do is well thought out. The players' mindset is right."

How does she think the game will go?

"We've both lost players this year and have blended in new ones. I think we are very evenly matched."

THE PAIN of losing last year's All-Ireland final as captain is still etched in the memory of Cork's star player Gemma O'Connor.

Army private O'Connor talks openly about last year's defeat, the loss only weeks afterwards with her club St Finbarr's in the county final and the chances of regaining the O'Duffy Cup next September.

"Last year was an awful downer, a disappointment and definitely a heartbreak," she admits.

"It took a while to get over it. I don't know if you ever really do but it's not the end of the world. You just have to get on with it. This is another year and we're hoping to redeem ourselves."

Cork face rivals Tipperary in the semi-final tomorrow in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny. In truth, after a poor league performance and the loss of such players as Jennifer O'Leary, Emer Dillon and Anna Geary, it was hard four months ago to see Cork at this stage of the championship. Gemma agrees.

"I don't think people gave us much of a chance this year with losing the players we did but we're coming good at the right time."

"The management did use the league to not only try out new players but try players in new positions. We've found our feet now and everyone is stepping up."

New additions Lynda O'Connell, Emer O'Farrell and Emer O'Sullivan have settled in well and while they may not as yet have built up a reputation like the three former named players, they are doing a steady, commendable job for Cork.

After the All-Ireland final Gemma threw herself into club training with a county semi-final against Cloughduv pending.

That helped put the defeat behind her somewhat but a county final defeat weeks later to Muskerry brought more pain and a feeling that the year couldn't possibly have been worse.

On the flip side is the desire to come back stronger and better.

"Yeah its things like that that make you want to succeed the following year, get back on track again and get that winning feel. I'm definitely hoping to get to the All-Ireland final and another county final this year again."

Gemma's burning desire to win gives her a type of aggression on the field that has to be admired.

Often the target of opponents Gemma takes a fair amount of flak on the pitch. Ninety percent of the time she lets her hurling do the



The Cork team who played Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Minor A Camogie Championship semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick last Saturday.

Picture: Press 2

Gemma is optimistic



LINDA MELLERICK

talking but on occasions she has reacted and needs to tread this line very carefully. Gemma is only too aware of this.

"I know I've got to be careful (laughing) but I really feel this year it's after reaching its pinnacle. There are players out there definitely trying to break me and sometimes I don't think I get that protection from referees and then it comes to a boiling point when there's only so much I can take."

"But I know that I shouldn't react to that, it's my downfall."

The army private is in the process of a six-month promotional course in the hope of becoming a corporal. This commitment has kept her from regular training with the team but her fitness has not suffered.

Tall, lean, strong and superbly

Glen in for a tough battle

SUNDAY

Evening Echo Senior B Championship
Glen Rovers v

Kilbrittain/Timooleague
Carrigaline 1pm

IT'S a first championship outing for Glen Rovers, who had a bye in round one, while Kilbrittain/Timooleague lost to Rockban.

Re-graded to senior B last season, Kilbrittain have strong performers in Adele Foley, who returns this season, while Valda Smith, Marion Murphy, Elish O'Sullivan and Miriam Deasy were to the fore against Rockban.

fit Gemma's only concern at the moment is that she would like more hurling. She will line out at right half-back tomorrow but should Cork need a push forward, could well be moved to midfield.

"I definitely prefer playing midfield, everyone knows that. I was moved back to the half-back line

They are a well-balanced side with plenty of physical strength and the Glen will need to match this.

Glen are a relatively young side but underage players such as Lydia Cunningham, Denise Luby, Zoe Buckley and Alice Keating have begun to establish themselves and are blending in well with Lorraine Kelly, Aldeen Gilton and Eileen Riordan, who are helping to guide the younger players in the right direction.

They will be hoping that they will have got the balance right as they strive to take the points on offer but they know the task ahead is not an easy one and will be mindful of this.

this year.

"That was where I initially starting playing with Cork. I think myself I'm more of a roaming player. I like to rotate between defence and attack. But if I'm to play in the back line then that's where I'll be and I'll do a job there."

No one doubts that.

Aug
2008

All-Ireland camogie semi-finals rescheduled

by Therese O'Callaghan

CAMOGIE's All-Ireland semi-finals have been rescheduled for Nowlan Park in Kilkenny next Sunday.

The Cork-Tipperary and Wexford-Galway clashes were postponed on Saturday after the Kilkenny venue was deemed unplayable.

Said President Liz Howard: "Naturally, we are disappointed and we know this decision will impact on players and their preparations, but safety was paramount."

Cork were the only team to have begun their journey to Kilkenny — they were in Cahir when they got the news.

Sunday's re-fixtures will mean a busy weekend for Cork's dual players Briege Corkery and Mary O'Connor, who will be in action with the lady footballers against Galway on Saturday, while Sarah Noone and Catriona Cormican will also be doubly involved with the Tribe.

Adding to a busy weekend, the Rebel's intermediate camogie team are playing Derry in the penultimate stage of the All-Ireland championship on Saturday, while Galway will be involved against Kilkenny. Both of these games are doubling with the All-Ireland U21 hurling semi-finals. Galway v Kilkenny clash in both codes in Tullamore and these games will be televised live by TG4.

Cork and Derry, and Tipperary and Derry, (hurling) meet in Mullingar.

Meanwhile last year's beaten finalists Clare booked their place in this season's Gala All-Ireland junior camogie championship final with a hard-fought 1-9 to 1-8 victory against Laois in Banagher yesterday.

The story of the summer of 2008



Camogie Association President Liz Howard on the pitch at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny, which was deemed unplayable for Cork and Tipperary's Gala All-Ireland semi-final at the weekend — just one more effect of the deluge that engulfed the country this summer.

Picture: Pat Murphy / Sportsfile



Blackrock Senior camogie team defeated by Glen Rovers in the 1954 County final. Back: Rose Casey, A O'Brien, Noreen Duggan, Lena O'Keeffe, Mary Delea, D Nugent, M O'Brien, Mary O'Flaherty. Front: Mary Connolly, Monica Cotter, Anne O'Shea, Maura Hayes, Stella Hunter, Lil O'Flynn, Mary O'Connell.

Picture: Ref Exam photo

Glen girls rain on Kilbrittan's parade

**Glen Rovers
Kilbrittan / Timoleague**

**3-3
0-11**

A NEVER-say-die attitude helped Glen Rovers take the points in the round robin series game in the Evening Echo Senior B championship.

Appalling weather conditions made the going hard for both sides and playing against the strong wind the Glen got the perfect start thanks to Sinead O'Halloran who fired the ball to the net after just four minutes.

They had to withstand severe pressure as Kilbrittan gradually got themselves into the game, Marion

Murphy slotting over frees from all angles.

Miriam Deasy and Marie Moloney were also prominent.

Aoife Walsh pointed for the Glen girls but with Eiblish O'Sullivan dominant the supply was cut off to the Glen inside line and Kilbrittan opened up a three-point advantage with the half-time whistle looming but an Aoife Walsh goal two minutes into injury time left it level at the break 0-7 to 2-1.

As the rain lashed down tiredness set in but credit to both sides as they battled on.

Glen edged ahead but again Marion Murphy converted a free to

equalise. Both sides squandered chances to get ahead as Kilbrittan could find no way past Kelly Newman in the Glen goal who brought off magnificent saves to keep her side in contention.

With four minutes of normal time remaining, Kilbrittan had taken the lead with Marion Murphy again converting two frees.

The Glen's Lydia Cunningham had a goal disallowed for over carrying before Denise Luby pointed with a minute remaining and from the puck out they drove forward, Luby taking on the responsibility before firing the ball to the net to put her side two points ahead.

Kilbrittan's Miriam Deasy pointed from the puck out and the final whistle arrived moments later signalling victory for the Glen girls.

Glen Rovers: K Newman; L Kelly, A Gilton, B Walsh; K O'Connell, M Hegarty, Z Buckley; E Riordan, A Keating; S Gallen, L Cunningham, C Short; A Walsh, D Luby, S O'Halloran.

Subs: S Callanan for A. Keating (44m). **Scorers:** A Walsh, S O'Halloran, D Luby 1-1 each.

Kilbrittan / Timoleague: A Desmond; E O'Donovan, E O'Regan, M Hayes; V Smith, M Murphy, M O'Sullivan; M Dullea, E O'Sullivan; J Cashman, M Murphy, M Deasy; L O'Callaghan, M Moloney, M Dollard. **Subs:** S McCarthy for M Dollard (40m). **Scorers:** M Murphy 0-8 (0-5 f, 0-3 45), M Deasy 0-2, M Moloney 0-1.

Referee: Peter Downey (Innisearra).

Under-age camogie draws made

WITH under-age camogie players' thoughts turning to school, competitions will resume shortly. Also, the draws for the under-16 championship were made recently.

Two under-12 finals are down for decision on Saturday, August 30. In the under-12 B league final, Courcey Rovers will meet Brian Dillon's, while, in the under-12 D competition, the second teams from Ballinhassig and Sarsfields will do battle. Venue and time for both games will be announced.

In the under-14 A league, three of the four teams that contested the Féile na nGael semi-finals have come through their respective sections to secure semi-final spots. In the A grade, all teams were paired in one section, with the top four

coming out to contest the closing stages. Cork Feile winners, Douglas, are joined by Valley Rovers, Glen Rovers and Milford, for what is sure to be two very competitive and interesting games.

In the under-14 B, there were two sections with two teams to come through from each, to contest the semi-finals. Here, Newtownshandrum and the defeated Cork Feile na nGael finalists, Courcey Rovers, have secured their semi-final places, but there will be a play-off to decide who joins them. In section one, Brian Dillon's and Carrigaline will play off for second place, while, in section two, there will be a three-way play off between Ballygarvan, Ballincollig and Buttevant.

In the under 14 C, Douglas, Bishopstown, Enniskeane, Kilbrittan, Mallow and Millstreet have secured their places to contest the quarter and semi-finals.

In the under-14 D, the top teams are Castletons, Douglas, Banteer and Barryroe.

Under-16 A League

The under-16 A league is played in one section with the top teams qualifying.

Douglas, Inniscarra, and Milford are joined by Mallow, who have made great strides to secure a semi-final berth in their first year in the A section.

Under-16 B League

In the under-16 B League, we

had two sections with top two qualifying for the semi-finals: Ballincollig, Valley Rovers, Glen Rovers and Brian Dillon's have made it to the concluding stages.

Under-16 C League

This was divided into three sections, with top two from each section qualifying. St. Catherine's, Sarsfields, Douglas 2, Eire Og, Kilbrittan and Ballinascorthy have made it from here and we will have quarter finals and semifinals to be decided.

Under-16 D League

Two sections, with top two from each section securing semi-finals places. Valley Rovers 2, St Mary's Glen Rovers 2, and Barryroe are safely through to the semi-finals.

Rebels must be wary of Tipperary

SUNDAY
Gala All-Ireland
Senior Camogie semi-final,
Cork v Tipperary,
Nowlan Park, Kilkenny, 1.30pm

LAST weekend's postponed All Ireland Camogie semi-finals will go ahead this Sunday in Nowlan Park. Cork line out against Tipperary at 1.30pm.

Unfortunately the cancelled game has thrown Cork into a bit of a predicament which they have no choice but to overcome.

The Cork intermediate squad travel to Mullingar on Saturday for their All-Ireland semi-final and, with a number of those players figuring on the senior panel, it's a journey 24 hours before that they could do without.

Added to that is the fact that the Cork ladies footballers also play their All Ireland semi-final on Saturday evening in Hyde Park. Cork will keep their fingers crossed that Briege Corkery and Mary O'Connor come away unscathed.

It's not the ideal preparation but Cork have to play with the cards they are dealt.

Having dominated the intercounty scene with Cork since 1997, Tipp have lost their way somewhat with a series of big name retirements.

Cork have had their fair share too but the wheel seems to turn faster in the rebel county and Cork go into the semi-final as favourites.

Cork stormed through the group stage of the championship recording five wins out of six, a goal deficit to Galway in mid-July their only defeat.

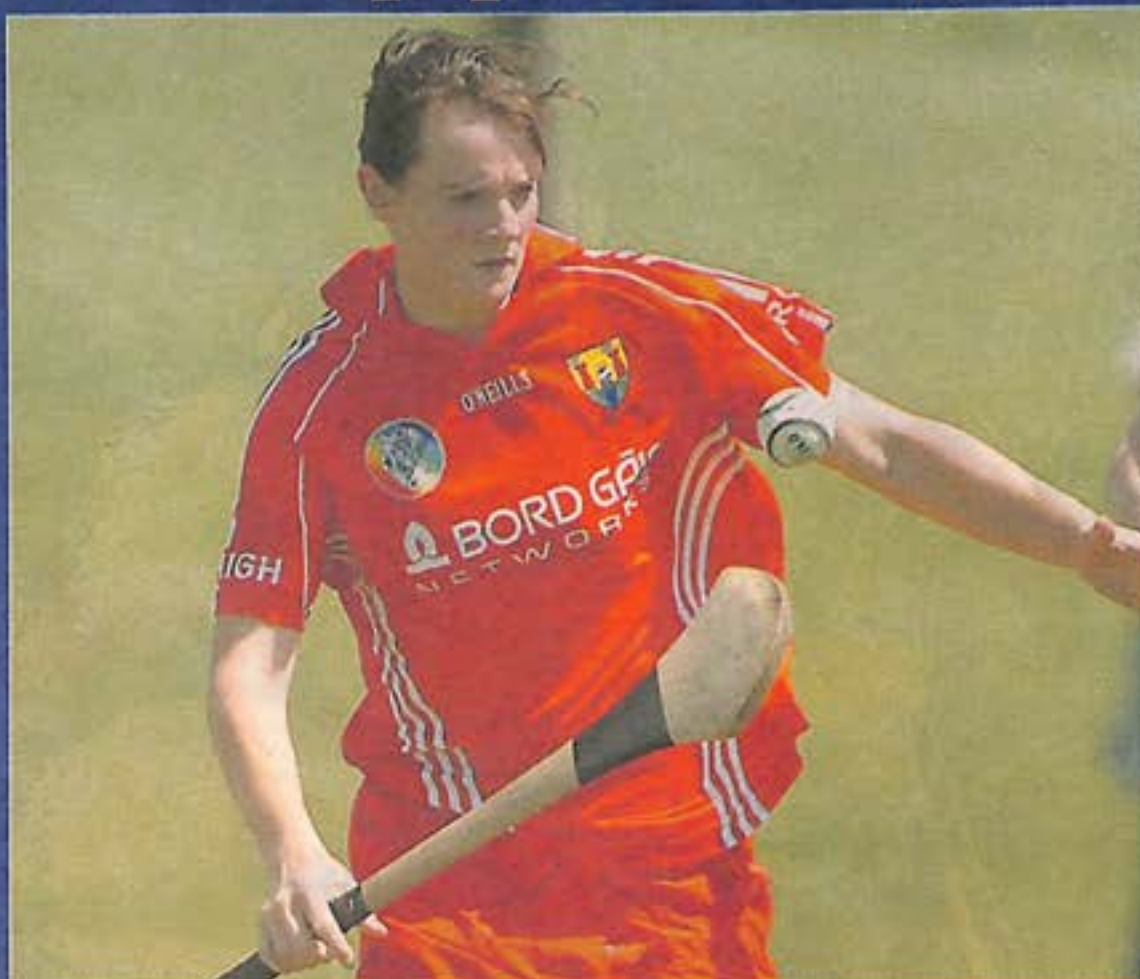
A nine-point victory over Tipperary in Ballincollig suggests the Rebels have the upper hand.

With Tipperary having secured their semi-final spot on the last day of the group series after a draw with Galway, coach John McGrath is happy with his side's progress.

He has had to rebuild this Tipperary team with the nucleus of the late '90s and early '00s gone.

Ahead of the game he is playing Tipp down somewhat: "It has been a big year in Tipperary camogie, the team we are developing is young enough with only a couple of older players and our aim at the start of the year was a semi-final".

McGrath believes his side can push on now following their last-four



Cork coach John McGrath will be keeping his fingers crossed that Briege Corkery comes through the football quarter-final game on Saturday unscathed.



Linda Mellerick

qualification.

"While we're delighted to be in a semi, we don't want to stop here either but it's all about your performance on the day."

"I don't think it has anything to do with how the other team plays, it's your performance and how well you play that'll be the difference between the teams at the end of the game. There is no doubt that Cork have been, and certainly are, the team to beat this year."

Tipp still have a strong side. Suzanne Kelly, Julie Kirwan, Joanne Ryan, Philly Fogarty and Claire Grogan are hugely experienced.

Grogan was the 14-year-old prodigy who burst onto the scene for the All-Ireland final of 2000 and won

her first of five All-Ireland medals. She is Tipp's leading scorer with a championship tally of 2-37 to her credit. Tipp expect so much from her up front but it's a burden that Grogan seems to casually bear.

Jill Horan promised so much four or five years ago but never really followed through. She looked to be another Emer McDonnell with a similar style and fast pace. That pace has diminished and her fitness for midfield where she is named for Sunday, doubtful.

Cora Hennessy is a player to be admired and can be dangerous. While not figuring hugely on the scoresheet for Tipp, she will burst through the Cork defence if given the chance.

Joanne Ryan is a workhorse for Tipp. Typically out around the middle of the pitch she works non stop. Named at left half forward you could well see a switch with Horan if things aren't going Tipp's way. Ryan won't be as involved at left half and will be marked by Gemma O'Connor. If her presence is nullified it will have a huge impact on Tipp's ability to overcome Cork. Cork won't enjoy a nine point victory this time around. They should take their Munster opponents and reach the All Ireland final but it won't be easy.

CORK TEAM: A Murray; L O'Connell, C Foley (cl), J O'Callaghan; G O'Connor, M O'Connor, S Hayes; B Corkery, L Dorgan; U O'Donoghue, R Moloney, E O'Sullivan; S Burns, A O'Regan, O Cotter.

TIPPERARY: P Ryan; S Kelly, M Luttrell, J Kirwan; P Bullin, T O'Halloran, M Ryan; P Fogarty, J Horan; C Hennessy, E Hayden, J Ryan; G Kinnane, M Morrissey, C Grogan (cl).

Cork face tough task to make the final

By MARY NEWMAN

Intermediate camogie

SATURDAY
Gala All-Ireland Intermediate
Camogie semi-final
Cork v Derry,
Cusack Park, Mullingar, 1pm

Without doubt it's the toughest of the two semi-finals as Cork face the only side to have defeated them in the round robin series of the Gala All Ireland Intermediate championship.

Last season's All-Ireland junior champions Derry had been mentioned earlier in the season as one of the favourites for ultimate honours and they have been comfortable on promotion in their first season at intermediate level making it to the Division 2 league final, where they lost out to Clare earlier in the season.

Having got a great start to their championship campaign with wins over Cork, Galway and Tipperary, they hit somewhat rocky ground, surprisingly losing out to Kilkenny before scraping past Wexford with just one point to spare.

Gráinne and Niamh McGoldrick and Jane Carey are among the players who will line out in a squad that is under the guidance of the husband and wife co-management team of Susan and Pádraig O'Mianáin.

Sinead Cassidy and Oonagh Mullen showed tremendous form in the national league and championship campaigns while, in their last outing against Cork, their midfield pairing of Gráinne McGoldrick and Briege Convery were dominant for 50 minutes.

Cork enjoyed a good league campaign missing out narrowly on qualifying for the final but they bounced back to take the Munster intermediate crown and have gone on to turn in excellent displays in the round robin series of game in championship, losing out just once, to Saturday's opponents, they bounced back with tremendous confidence to brush aside the challenges posed by Wexford Galway, Tipperary and Kilkenny.

There have been changes to the panel with players gaining promotion and others losing out as the competition has progressed but experienced players such as Marion Jaego, Lucy Hawkes, Michelle Browne, Marie Corkery and Ann Marie Fleming continue to form the foundations of the side.

The Cork backroom team and coach Bobby Thornhill will be under no illusions as to the task facing their charges, but now, just 60 minutes away from an All-Ireland final appearance, they will be determined to get the weekend off to the best possible start and become the first of the two Cork sides in action this weekend to book their place in an All-Ireland decider.

The game is being played as a curtain-raiser to the U21 All-Ireland hurling semi-final, Derry versus Tipperary, while the second semi-final, Kilkenny versus Galway, takes place in Tullamore as a curtain-raiser to the U21 hurling semi-final between the same counties.

Amanda is taking things in her stride

HAVING entered the fray in the last few minutes of Cork's final group game against Kilkenny and scoring two goals, Amanda O'Regan retains her place for the All-Ireland semi-final against Tipperary.

It's been a topsy-turvy year for the former wing-back, who has had to cope with

losing a regular starting position on the present team and when introduced slotting into unfamiliar territory. But it's something the unassuming Douglas star has taken on the chin.

"I suppose it's been an up-and-down year more mentally than physically," states Amanda.

"Trying to stay switched on and mentally tuned in to play also handling the positional switch has been challenging."

The two goals against Kilkenny were just reward for a player who has come in when called upon and done a job with minimum fuss. Those goals will stand her in

good stead as she takes up her forward role in the semi-final.

"It was nice to get in there and score alright," Amanda admits.

"Hopefully I'll be able to get a few scores or set them up on Saturday."

Amanda feels that Cork have a battle ahead.

"I think Tipperary are a totally different team to the one we met in July."

"They have improved and are a far more balanced side now."

"The conditions probably won't be good and this will even the teams out more. It will be a totally different game."

ALL IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE SEMI-FINALS

PAIRC UÍ NUALLAIN, CILL CHAINNIGH
DE SATHAIRN, 16Ú LÚNASA, 2008
CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL • LUACH €3

Súil le Chonchúir
ARDSTIURTHÓIR GNÍOMHACH



Gallimh

Marúin agus Bán

Tiobraid Árann

Gorm agus Ór



- 6) Susan Keane
S. Ni Chatháin
Killimor
- 7) Brenda Kerins
B. Ni Chéirín
Ardahan
- 8) Lourda Kavanagh
L. Nic Coamhánaigh
Davitts
- 9) Clodagh Glynn
C. Nic Fhlóinn
Kiltormer
- 10) Caroline Kelly
C. Ni Cheallaigh
Davitts
- 11) Lorraine Ryan
L. Ni Riain
Kiltormer
- 12) Catriona Cormican
C. Ni Chormacáin
Cappataggle
- 13) Sarah Dervan
S. Ni Dhoirbhéin
Mullagh
- 14) Lizzie Flynn
L. Ni Fhlóinn
Davitts
- 15) Paula Kenny
P. Nic Gionnóith
Eyre Court

(1) Susan Earner S. Ni Shaorai Eyre Court	(2) Sandra Tannion S. Ni Thanaidheáin St. Thomas's	(3) Ailbhe Kelly A. Ni Cheallaigh Davitts	(4) Therese Manton T. Ó Mhantáin Mullagh	(2) Suzanne Kelly S. Ni Cheallaigh Toomevara	(1) Paula Ryan P. Ni Riain Toomevara
(5) Ann-Marie Hayes A. M. Nic Aodha Killimor	(6) Sinéad Cahalan (Capt.) S. Ni Chatháin Mullagh	(7) Áine Hillary A. Ni Irile Pearses	(8) Sarah Noone S. Ni Nuáin Ahascragh	(5) Paula Bulfin P. Bulfin Cashel	(6) Tishy O'Halloran T. Ni Allúráin Duharra
(10) Orla Kilkenny O. Nic Giolla Chainnigh Pearses	(11) Therese Maher T. Ni Mheachair Athenry	(12) Veronica Curtin V. Nic Chuirteir Kinvara	(13) Geraldine Kinnane G. Ni Choinneáin Drom-Inch	(11) Emily Hayden E. Ni Eideáin Cashel	(12) Joanne Ryan S. Ni Riain Drom-Inch
(13) Molly Dunne M. Ni Dhoirbhéin Eyre Court	(14) Jessie Gill S. Nic an Ghaill Athenry	(15) Deirdre Burke D. de Búrca St. Thomas's	(16) Helena Jacob L. Iacób Oulart-The-Ballagh	(13) Geraldine Kinnane G. Ni Choinneáin Drom-Inch	(14) Mairead Morrissey M. Ni Muireasa Cashel
(17) Michelle Shortt M. Nic an Gheairr Drom-Inch	(18) Siebhán Ryan S. Ni Riain Hollycross	(19) Sabrina Larkin S. Ni Lorcáin Shannon Rovers	(20) Maria Tynan M. Ni Theimhneáin Toomevara	(17) Michelle Shortt M. Nic an Gheairr Drom-Inch	(18) Siebhán Ryan S. Ni Riain Hollycross
(21) Julie McGrath S. Nic Craith Cashel	(22) Therese Shortt T. Nic an Gheairr Drom-Inch	(23) Geraldine Stapleton G. Nic an Ghaill Silvermines	(24) Aoife Maloughney A. Ni Mhóilfhaichina Shannon Rovers	(21) Julie McGrath S. Nic Craith Cashel	(22) Therese Shortt T. Nic an Gheairr Drom-Inch
(25) Deirdre Dunne D. Ni Dhoirbhéin Eyre Court	(26) Helena Jacob L. Iacób Oulart-The-Ballagh	(27) Siona Nolan S. Ni Nualláin Manager-Boalavogue	(28) Lenny Holohan L. Ni hUallacháin Rathnure	(25) Deirdre Dunne D. Ni Dhoirbhéin Eyre Court	(26) Helena Jacob L. Iacób Oulart-The-Ballagh

Management Team: Liam Donoghue, Damien Coleman, Anne Broderick.

Management Team: John McGrath (Manager);
Selectors: John Ryan, Damien Young, Marion Graham; Physio: Rita O'Dwyer.



Corcaigh

Dearg agus Bán

Loch Garman

Corcora agus Ór

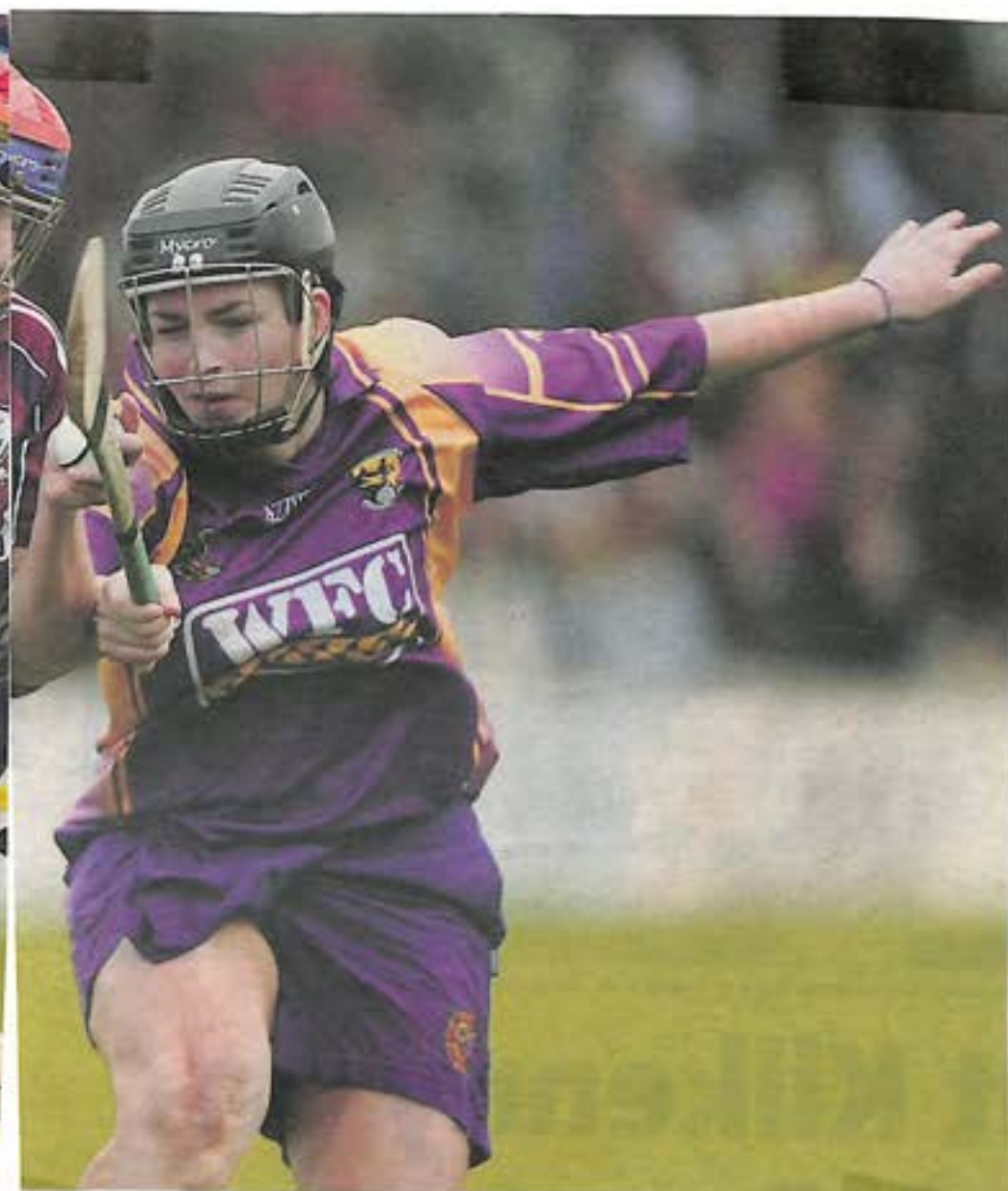
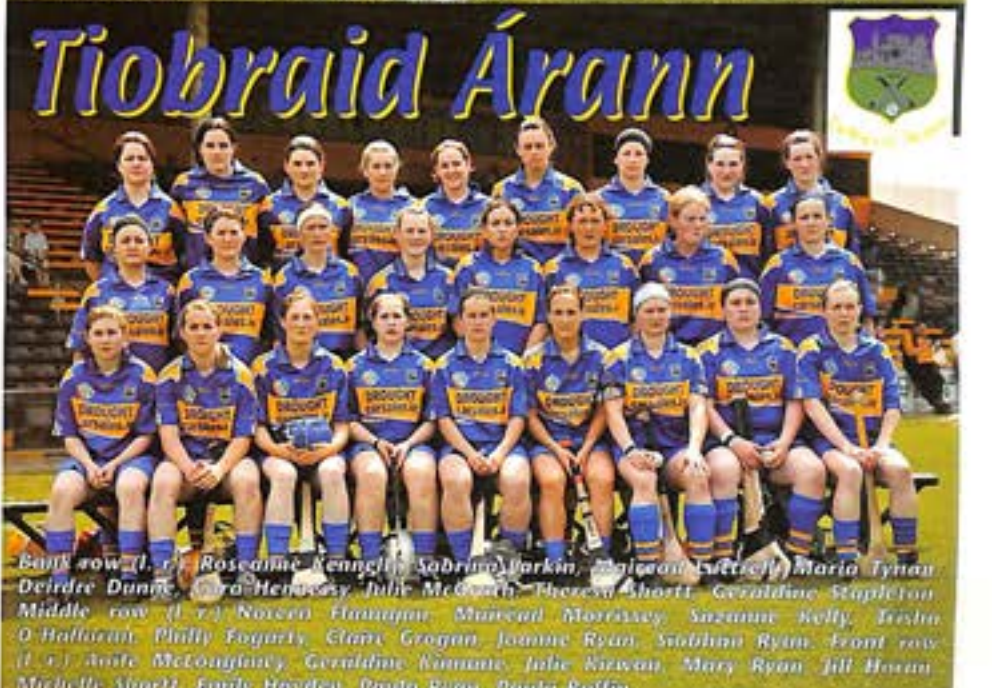
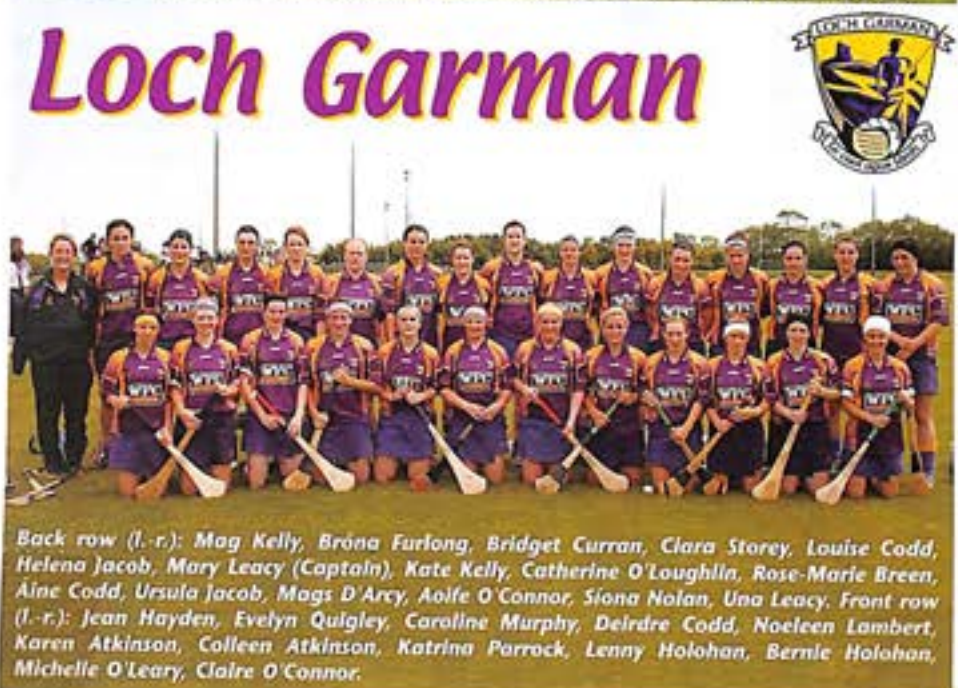
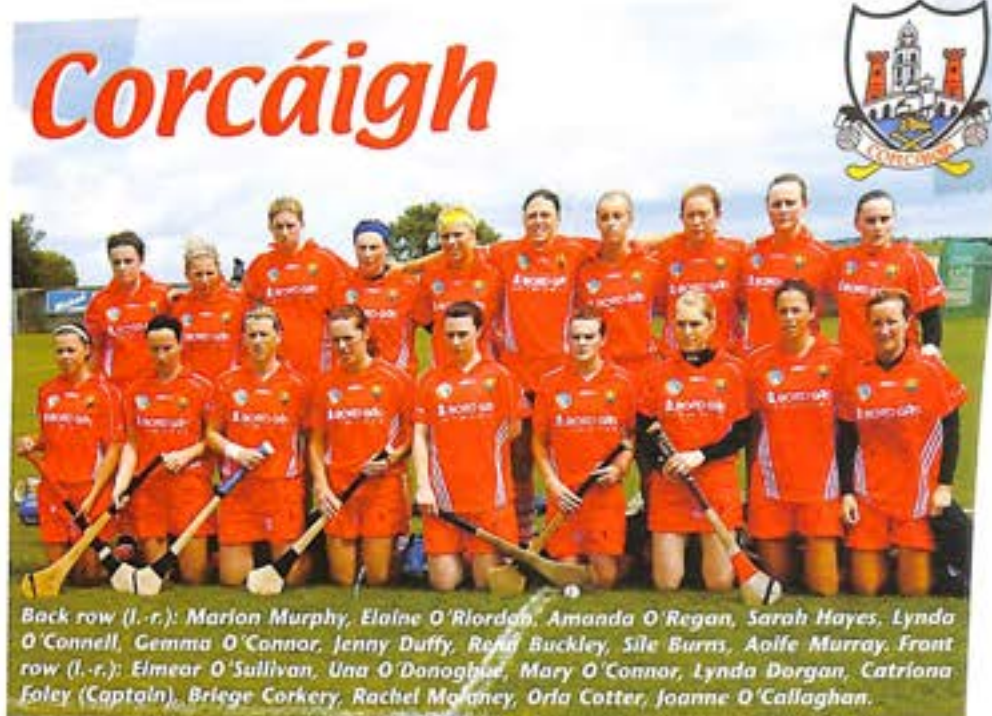
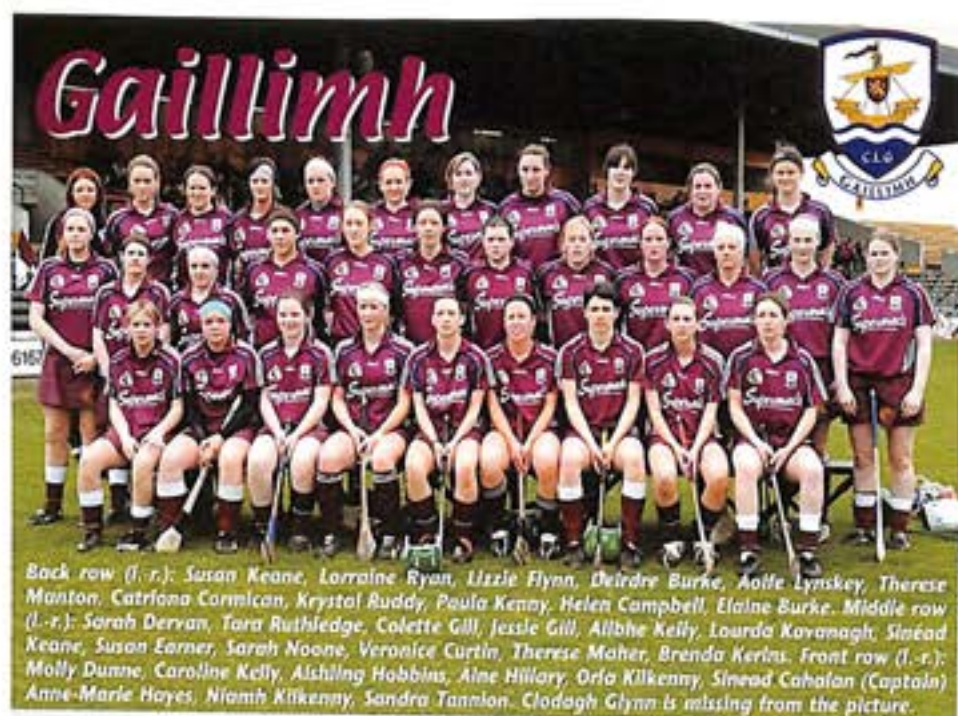


- 16) Emer White
E. de Foite
Barryroe
- 17) Jenny Duffy
S. Ni Dhuláigh
St. Finbarrs
- 18) Rosalie Holland
R. Ni hAoláin
Barryroe
- 19) Elaine O'Riordan
E. Ni Riordáin
Milford
- 20) Julia White
S. de Foite
Douglas
- 21) Lucy Hawkes
L. Hawkes
Valley Rovers
- 22) Denise Cronin
D. Ni Chéirín
Ballincollig
- 23) Marion Murphy
M. Ni Mhurchú
Kilbritton
- 24) Michelle Brown
M. Nic an Bhréithiún
Mallow
- 25) Margaret Herlihy
M. Ni Iarlaitha
Eire Óg

(1) Aoife Murray A. Ni Mhuiri Cloughduv	(2) Linda O'Connell L. Ni Chonaill St. Finbarrs	(3) Catriona Foley (Capt.) C. Ni Fhoglú Rockban	(4) Joanne O'Callaghan S. Ni Cheallaigháin Cloughduv	(2) Noeleen Lambert N. Laimbéart St. Martin's	(1) Mags D'Arcy M. Ni Dharchai St. Martin's
(5) Gemma O'Connor G. Ni Chonchúir St. Finbarrs	(6) Mary O'Connor M. Ni Chonchúir Killeagh	(7) Sara Hayes S. Ni Aodha Courcy Rovers	(8) Linda Dorgan L. Ni Dheargáin Grenagh	(5) Aoife O'Connor A. Ni Chonchubhair Rathnure	(6) Mary Leacy (Capt.) M. Ni Laitheasa Oulart-The-Ballagh
(10) Una O'Donoghue Ú. Ni Dhonnchú Cloughduv	(11) Rachel Moloney R. Ni Mhaolomhnaigh Courcy Rovers	(12) Emer O'Sullivan E. Ni Shuilleabháin Ballinacraig	(13) Bridget Curran B. Ni Chorráin St. Ibar's-Shelmalier	(10) Una Leacy U. Ni Laitheasa Oulart-The-Ballagh	(11) Rose-Marie Breen R. M. Ni Bhroáin Manager-Boalavogue
(17) Michelle Shortt M. Nic an Gheairr Drom-Inch	(18) Siebhán Ryan S. Ni Riain Hollycross	(19) Sabrina Larkin S. Ni Lorcáin Shannon Rovers	(20) Maria Tynan M. Ni Theimhneáin Toomevara	(17) Michelle Shortt M. Nic an Gheairr Drom-Inch	(18) Siebhán Ryan S. Ni Riain Hollycross
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(25) Deirdre Dunne D. Ni Dhoirbhéin Eyre Court	(26) Helena Jacob L. Iacób Oulart-The-Ballagh	(27) Siona Nolan S. Ni Nualláin Manager-Boalavogue	(28) Lenny Holohan L. Ni hUallacháin Rathnure	(25) Deirdre Dunne D. Ni Dhoirbhéin Eyre Court	(26) Helena Jacob L. Iacób Oulart-The-Ballagh

Management Team: Denise Cronin, Glen Rovers (Manager); Selectors: Pat Murray, Bishopstown;
Con Malone, Eire Óg; Coach: Jim McCarthy, Glen Rovers/St. Nick's.

Management Team: Stellah Sinnott (Manager);
Alan Aherne (Assistant Manager); Noel Ryan (Selector); Eddie Flynn (Trainer).



CAMOGIE

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR C'SHIP SF

Cork 3-14 (R) vs. Limerick 1-20 (R) 30-14 (R) UO'Donoghue, E.O'Riordan 1-4 each, G.O'Connor, E.O'Sullivan 2-4 each, S.Burns, O.Cotter, E.O'Farrell 1 each, Tipperary 0-10 (R) Grogan 0-5 (4-5), Ryan 0-2, P.Fogarty, C.Hennessy, E.Hayden 0-1 each, Galway 1-13 (U) Gill 1-6 (3-4), V.Curtin 0-3, O.Kilkenny 1-1 (0-1), L.Kavanagh, B.Kerins 0-1 each, Wexford 1-10 (K Kelly 0-5 (5), U.Leacy 1-3, C.Murphy 0-1).

ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE C'SHIP

Cork 2-8 (R) vs. Kerry 1-4 each, M.Browne 0-4, V.White, M.Holohan 0-2 each, Derry 2-4 (M.Aulley 1-1, S.Cassidy 1-0), G.McGonigle 0-2 (1-1), 1-4 (S) Galway 1-11 (T.Ruthledge 1-3, M.Cormey 0-3 (1-1), 1-4 (S) C.Moore, G.Kelly 0-2 each, J.D.Brenn 0-1 each, Kilkenny 1-11 (C.Aylward 1-4 (3), H.Holohan 0-3, A.Fahy 0-2 (1-1), 1-4 (S) J.Reddy 0-1 each).

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR C'SHIP SF

Roscommon 2-10 (A) vs. Kerry 1-3 (1-0), C.Curley 1-3, E.Daly 0-2, K.Holohan 0-1, C.Rodgers 0-1, Armagh 0-5 (M.McGuigan 0-3, C.McSweeney 0-1, J.McMahon 0-1).

Sandra Tannion of Galway is challenged by Wexford's Ursula Jacob

in yesterday's All-Ireland Camogie semi-final at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny. MATT BROWNE / SPORTSFILE

Aug
2008

Rebelettes' goal burst shakes off brave Tipp



Therese O'Callaghan

Nowlan Park

Cork 3-14
Tipperary 0-10

DECISIVE in the end, but while Tipperary battled bravely for 45 minutes, two cracking goals midway through the second-half of this Gala All Ireland senior camogie semi-final ensured Cork their spot in next month's final. They achieved their aim with relative ease during the final quarter, it must be said, as they pulled clear with a third major during the last few seconds.

The Blue and Gold came unstuck once the Rebels maintained that territorial advantage, and despite Tipperary going in two points up at the break, a more focused and determined Cork eventually wore them down before an official attendance of 3,985.

Both teams went into the game minus big names. It was a young and inexperienced Tipp side, but still

Cork manager Denise Cronin admitted they made her life difficult. It was not until a brace of goals from Moloney, on the edge of the square, and Una O'Donoghue, were driven to the net in the 44th and 46th minute, that they finally began to wear them down.

"We were slow to settle and didn't get going in the first half," said Cronin. "We hadn't played a competitive match in four weeks and it told. We came out after the break and once we got the goals we began to play our own game."

Tipperary opened brightly with points from Emily Hayden and Cora Hennessy, but Cork were back on parity following a Rachel Moloney free. It was nip and tuck for the next 10 minutes until Tipperary captain Claire Grogan fired over some wonderful points to push her side ahead 0-7 to 0-5 at the interval. In between, the Blue and Gold full back line of Suzanne Kelly, Mairead Luttrell and Julie Kirwan, and keeper Paula Ryan were immense. And we had an equally good performance from Cork custodian Aoife Murray who made a decisive stop from Tipp danger woman Grogan.

However, it was her superb save 10 minutes after the restart from Jill

Tipperary's Claire Grogan tries to evade the challenge of Cork's Joanne O'Callaghan at Nowlan Park yesterday.

Horan that spurred her colleagues into action. Cork brought on Emer O'Farrell to attack at half time and switched Briege Corkery back to midfield, and suddenly they started to let the ball in long and were rewarded with a four-minute blitz that yielded 2-3 without reply. Wingback Gemma O'Connor then availed of two chances for points, and they were

ahead 2-14 to 0-10 when Orla Cotter's delivery was tipped to the net by late substitute Elaine O'Riordan.

It makes for an interesting final against Galway on September 14 — their only title was in 1996 (they defeated Cork). Following a rip-roaring contest, they edged out champions Wexford yesterday, and after being cruelly denied over the years will start

as favourites. They were the only team to beat Cork in the championship so far this season.

Scorers for Cork: R Moloney 1-6 (0-3 frees, 0-1 45m), U O'Donoghue and E O'Riordan 1-0 each, G O'Connor and E O'Sullivan 0-2 each, O Cotter, S Burns, A O'Regan and E O'Farrell 0-1 each.
Scorers for Tipperary: C Grogan 0-5 (0-2 45m), J Ryan 0-2, E Hayden, C Hennessy and P Fogarty 0-1 each.
CORK: A Murray; L O'Connell, C Foley (Capt), J O'Callaghan; G O'Connor, M O'Connor, S Hayes;

Gill strikes late as Galway break Wexford hearts

Galway 1-13
Wexford 1-10

by Jackie Cahill

JESSICA Gill scored a sensational winning goal deep into stoppage time as Galway advanced to their first All-Ireland senior camogie championship final since 1998.

With almost four additional minutes played at Kilkenny's Nowlan Park, Gill fired home a loose ball from close range to book a September 14 showdown with Cork as champions. Wexford went crashing out.

The Athenry star took her championship tally to an incredible 6-40 with her dramatic match-winner, just as Wexford looked to have salvaged a replay after coming from four points down to draw level.

With three minutes of normal time remaining, Wexford trailed by four points but the Slaneysiders showed true grit as Una Leacy bagged a 58th-minute

goal before Kate Kelly's ninth point of a gripping encounter tied the scores at 1-10 to 0-13.

Wexford had appeals for a free-in waved away as Katrina Parrock was penalised for over carrying in a breathless finish and with Galway's next attack, Gill pounced after Therese Maher's booming delivery created havoc in the Wexford rearguard.

Gill gasped: "It's just great, I can't believe that we're after beating Wexford. I thought it was up, that he was going to blow it when it was level but we got the break and got the goal."

Gill, reflecting on the greatest day of her career to date, added: "There's brilliant work going on with the backroom team and all the girls this year have bonded so well."

Wexford manager Stellah Sinnott, who masterminded a fantastic 2007 success, admitted that she is unsure about her future in charge. She reflected: "We thought

we should have had a free at the other end but instead the ref gave a free for over carrying which was very dubious. But best of luck to Galway. They're a fine strong team and it will be an interesting final."

The sides were level at half time, 0-5 apiece, but Galway looked the livelier side from open play as Wexford were heavily reliant on the free-taking prowess of Kelly.

The Model County managed just 1-2 from play during the entire game as Kelly drilled over eight of her nine points from frees whereas six Galway players were on target from play.

The Tribeswomen, coached by former Galway goalkeeper Liam Donoghue, opened the second half much the stronger as Gill profited from a move from full forward to centre forward.

Her opening point of the second half handed Galway the lead for the first time in the game and four minutes

later, they moved 9-6 clear as Veronica Curtin, Orla Kilkenny and Gill (free) opened up the biggest lead of the game to date.

Wexford were rattled and Kelly inexplicably shot a free wide from the 14m line with seven minutes remaining as Galway moved four clear soon after.

It appeared that there was no way back for Sinnott's charges but after clawing their way to parity, they were cruelly undone by Gill at the death.

Scorers for Galway: J Gill 1-6 (0-4f), V Curtin 0-3, O Kilkenny, T Maher, L Kavanagh & B Kerins 0-1 each.

Scorers for Wexford: K Kelly 0-9 (8f), U Leacy 1-0, C Murphy 0-1.
GALWAY: S Eamer; S Tannion, A Kelly, T Manton; A-Marie Hayes, S Cahalan, N Kilkenny, A Hilary, L Ryan, O Kilkenny, T Maher, V Curtin, M Dunne, J Gill, D Burke.
SUBS: L Kavanagh for Ryan (29m), B Kerins for Burke (h/t).

WEXFORD: M O'Arcy; N Lambert, C O'Loughlin, B Holohan; A O'Connor, M Leacy, D Codd; A Codd, M O'Leary; U Leacy, R-Marie Breen, C Murphy; B Curran, K Kelly, U Jacob.

SUBS: K Parrock for for Curran (39m), B Furlong for A Codd (46m).
Referee: E Browne (Tipperary).



Wexford's Katrina Parrock tries to break away from Galway's Therese Manton in the All-Ireland Camogie Championship semi-final at Nowlan Park. Picture: Caroline



Denise Cronin, Cork manager. Thrilled to be in the final.

Denise is proud of her girls' efforts

HAVING seen it all as a player, Denise Cronin, the former All-Ireland winning Cork captain now in her first year in management at intercounty level, was thrilled with her charges' victory.

"I'm thrilled to be in the final, we had to work hard throughout the game," Denise Cronin said.

"We took the decision to play against the wind in the first half and we were happy with the position we were in when we were turning to play with the wind in the second half.

To be honest, it has been four weeks since our last game and it's hard to get challenge matches when it's at the semi-final stage.

"We had five games in a row in the round-robin series and they were great but then we had a lay-off and it was hard to get going and keep focused.

"At training, you can only play so much backs and forwards but there is nothing like a competitive game to get the eye in, the game going off last week didn't help but we re-grouped and got ourselves right for today."

I put it to Denise that goals were crucial and it was Cork who had the ability to get them.

"Yes, we got the goals at the right time and they were crucial.

"We went ahead and never looked back and we just kept taking our scores.

"I'm delighted for the girls they have worked hard to reach the final and now we must focus on that.

"We will take a look at the next game today and we really don't mind if it's Wexford or Galway we meet in the final."

Cathriona Foley
(Cork captain)

"Tipp are always a tough team to beat and today they really made us earn our victory.

"We were behind at the break by two points but we had the wind advantage in the second half.

"To be honest, it was hard to play against the wind as the ball was hard to judge but in the second half we were able to handle it better.

"Up front, the girls were superb and we got great scores. I am just delighted to be in the final and we are really looking forward to it now.

"Last year, we didn't do ourselves justice and we are determined to go all the way this year and take the title."

Cork utilise

Powerful second half seals win



LINDA MELLERICK

Cork 3-14
Tipperary 0-10

CORK are through to this year's All Ireland senior Camogie final after a powerful second-half display against Tipperary in Nowlan Park yesterday.

A first half which Cork would rather forget saw them enter the dressing room at half time trailing by two points, 0-7 to 0-5.

But the signs were there that Cork would win this game. Two excellent passages of defensive play from Tipperary kept Cork at bay while, at the other end, Tipp never quite threatened as much and it was only a matter of time before Cork found the net.

A number of positional switches up front at the throw-in saw Briege Corkery move from midfield into left corner forward in a direct switch with Orla Cotter. Rachel Moloney moved to full-forward, Amanda O'Regan to right-half and Una O'Donoghue into the centre in a complete re-shuffle of the inside division.

An Emer O'Sullivan point opened the scoring for Cork against a strong breeze. While this was the start Cork sought, they failed to score again from play until the 24th minute.

Overuse of the whistle by Armagh's Frank McDonald kept the game from flowing, assisting both side's inability to settle.

Tipperary's defence were doing excellent work, particularly their full-back line of Suzanne Kelly, Mairead Luttrell and Julie Kirwan.

Points from Emily Hayden and Cora Hennessy gave Tipp a brief lead before two Rachel Moloney frees switched the order again.

Clare Grogan hit her first of four first-half points 16 minutes in, the superb quality of each score epitomising the type of player she is.

Amanda O'Regan was winning a lot of ball around the 65 mark and sending in a good supply.

With 19 minutes on the clock, an Una O'Donoghue pass found Sile Burns in front of the posts. Her strike brought about a brave save from Paula Ryan and inspired Tipp.

Cork brought Briege Corkery out to midfield, where they were struggling. Tipp opened up an 0-5 to 0-3 lead with six minutes to the break.

Orla Cotter and Joanne Ryan swapped points to make it 0-6 to 0-4. Cork's second goal chance came as Cotter drew four players and let the ball into Corkery, who blasted for



Cork's Orla Cotter comes under pressure from Geraldine Kinnane, of Tipperary, during their Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny.

Picture: INPHO/ Caroline Quinn

Player of the Match

RACHEL MOLONEY was Cork's finest player. Scoring 1-6 (1-2 from play), she held her head when Cork had difficult moments and kept the Rebels in contention. Cork's full-back line also did a dependable job.

Score of the Game

IT'S hard to choose between Rachel Moloney's wonderful overhead strike 13 minutes into the second half and Una O'Donoghue's magnificent individual effort just three minutes later. Both strikes were equal.

Turning Point

WITH the game level at eight points apiece 13 minutes into the second half, a three minute purple patch in which Cork scored 2-1 without reply ended the game as a contest.

That proved to be too much for Tipperary to come back from.

Ref Watch

ONCE again Frank McDonald had too much influence on the pace of this game. A plethora of needless frees in the first half and ignoring the advantage rule, referee Frank McDonald of Armagh introduced a stop/start 30 minutes which frustrated the 4,000 strong attendance.

extra gears



Gemma O'Connor, Cork, and Tipperary's, Geraldine Kinnane, battle for the ball during the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final at Nowlan Park.

Picture: INPHO/Caroline Quinn

THREE REASONS WHY CORK WON THE GAME

1 COMPOSURE
This Cork team doesn't panic. They have experienced days like this many a time and know how to handle the situation. Tipperary threw everything at Cork. They were the underdogs and it was always going to be that way. Cork calmly weathered the 45 minute storm, knowing their chances would come.

2 PURPLE PATCH
For three quarters of the game Cork looked as if they were playing in second gear and their supporters waited for them to up the ante. They did so 13 minutes into the second half, scoring 2-1 against their opponents without reply in a three minute spell to underline the gulf in class between the sides.

3 BALANCE
Tipp did themselves proud. But they didn't have the balance throughout that Cork possess. When one considers the quality of players Tipperary have lost over the past few years, it is to their credit that they put up the fight they did. When it came down to it, Tipperary had quality players but just not enough.

goal. Superbly hooked by Julia Kirwan, Tipp were relieved once again. Further points from Grogan and Moloney ended 32 minutes of first-half play.

Emer O'Farrell replaced Linda Dorgan at half-time. Corkery stayed in the centre, O'Regan moved into right corner-forward and O'Farrell went in full.

Tipperary played Trish O'Halloran as an extra player between the half- and full-back lines, as Tipp now faced the wind, leaving Lynda O'Connell free in Cork's defence.

Gemma O'Connor led Cork's fight-back. Wearing her heart on her

sleeve, she burst out of defence and put a single point between the sides with an inspiring strike from 60 metres.

A Moloney 45 and an Emer O'Sullivan point pushed Cork into a point advantage. Philly Fogarty levelled it 11 minutes in.

At that stage it was still very much 'game on' with play flowing end to end. But the next three minutes knocked Tipperary for six as Cork went on a rampage.

Orla Cotter broke out, breaking up a Tipperary attack. Her long delivery travelled towards the edge of the square and the dropping ball was

met with inch-perfect precision by Moloney whose connection rocked the back of the net.

The same player added a free seconds later and before the crowd had time to catch its breath, Una O'Donoghue's excellent individual solo effort saw her strike hit the roof of the net and it was game over.

From there on, the game became mere shooting practice for Cork as Sheila Burns, Moloney, O'Farrell, O'Regan and O'Connor again hit points.

A Clare Grogan 45 and Joanne Ryan point was all Tipperary could offer as their impressive momentum

dwindled.

Cork rightly made use of their panel and introduced a further three substitutes.

The icing on the cake for Cork came on the stroke of normal time as a long Jenny Duffy ball was helped over the line by Elaine O'Riordan, both players having entered play only moments before.

Cork's winning margin didn't reflect Tipperary's contribution and while Cork have areas to address, they are through to the All-Ireland decider where they face Galway, after what was a calm, composed and deserved victory.

Scorers for Cork: R Moloney 1-6 (0-3f, 0-1 45), U O'Donoghue, E O'Riordan 1-0 each, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor 0-2 each, O Cotter, S Burns, E O'Farrell, A O'Regan 0-1 each.

Tipperary: C Grogan 0-5 (0-1f, 0-1 45), J Ryan 0-2, E Hayden, C Hennessy, P Fogarty 0-1 each.

Cork: A Murray, L O'Connell, C Foley, J O'Callaghan, G O'Connor, M O'Connor, S Hayes, B Corkery, L Dorgan, U O'Donoghue, R Moloney, E O'Sullivan, S Burns, A O'Regan, O Cotter. **Subs:** E O'Farrell for L Dorgan (half-time), E O'Riordan for S Burns (55), J Duffy for M O'Connor (58), R Holland for J O'Callaghan (59).

TIPPERARY: P Ryan, S Kelly, M Luttrell, J Kirwan, P Bulfin, T O'Halloran, M Ryan, P Fogarty, J Horan, C Hennessy, E Hayden, J Ryan, G Kinnane, M Morrissey, C Grogan. **Subs:** M Short for M Morrissey (half-time), T Short for G Kinnane (48), M Tynan for J Kirwan (57), S Larkin for J Horan (58).

Referee: Frank McDonald (Armagh).

Gill's goal gives glory to gallant Galway

By MARY NEWMAN

Galway 1-13
Wexford 1-10

CHAMPIONS Wexford were relieved of their title as Galway book their place in the All-Ireland final with a goal deep into injury time from Jessica Gill sending them to Croke Park for the first time since 1998.

The victory was merited as Galway made all the running and the champions struggled to come to terms with their fast, no-nonsense hurling.

It was level at the break, 0-5 apiece, Kate Kelly striking all but one of Wexford's points as Veronica Curtin, Therese Maher and Jessica Gill struck for Galway.

Wexford turned to play with the aid of the strong wind and driving drizzle that arrived in Nolan Park just before throw-in and we waited for the expected onslaught from the champions.

Gill and Kelly swapped points as it remained deadlocked but three on the trot from Veronica Curtin, Orla Kilkenny and Gill saw Galway open up a three-point lead as Wexford struggled to get into the game. With 10 minutes left, Galway still held the initiative as they led by two, uncharacteristically Kate Kelly missed a simple free and it was to prove crucial as Jessica Gill added two to the Galway tally.

Caroline Murphy and Lourda Kavanagh swapped points and with three minutes left, Galway looked to have done enough but the champions rose their game as Una Lacey latched on to a pass from Rosemary Breen to goal, Kate Kelly pointed a free and in a flash it was all square.

With the game now in injury time Wexford came in search of a winner but sub Catriona Parrock was penalised for overcarrying and Galway keeper Susan Eamer drove the resulting free downfield, where she found Therese Maher, who placed a superb ball into the path of Jessica Gill and she sent her first-time ground shot to the net.

Wexford can have little complaints as failed to match the enthusiasm, commitment and determination of Galway, who had excellent displays from Sinead Cahalan and Ann Marie Hayes in defence while up front Jessica Gill, Therese Maher and Veronica Curtin proved too strong.

Scorers for Galway: J Gill 1-6 (0-4f), V Curtin 0-3, O Kilkenny, B Kierins, T Maher and L Kavanagh 0-1 each.

Wexford: K Kelly 0-5 (0-2f), U Lacey 1-6, C Murphy 0-1.

WEXFORD: M Darcy, N Lambert, C O'Loughlin, B Holohan, A O'Connor, M Lacey (c), D Codd, A Codd M O'Leary, U Lacey, R M Breen, C Murphy, B Curran, K Kelly, U Jacob. **Subs:** C Parrock for B Curran, B Furlong for A Codd.

GALWAY: S Eamer, S Tannion, A Kelly, T Manton, AM Hayes, S Cahalan (c), A Hillary, N Kilkenny, L Ryan, O Kilkenny, T Maher, V Curtin, M Quinn, J Gill, D Burke. **Subs:** L Kavanagh for L Ryan, B Kierins for D Burke.

Referee: Eamonn Brown (Tipperary).

GALA INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL

1.00pm **Corcaigh v. Doire**

Réiteoir: Joe Kennedy (An Lú)
Line Umpires: Rita Coen (Gaillimh)
Pat Gannon (An Mhí)



Back Row (l-r): Denise Leahy, Denise Luby, Orna Neville, Jennifer Lynch, Roisin De Faoite, Susanne Lynch, Siobhán Gleeson, Sara Buckley, Leah Weste, Charlotte Kearney, Ursula Day, Maria Walsh, Lucy Hawkes, Julia White, Michelle Browne Front Row (l-r): Gearóidine Kearney, Clodagh Deasy, Evelyn Ranayne, Claire Keoghán, Clodagh Fitzgerald, Marion Jago, Liz Bugler, Tricia Murphy, Maria Maloney, Gillian Harrington, Maria Watson.

Message from Liz Howard, Uachtarán Chumann Camógaíochta na nGael

I am delighted the camogie players and hurlers of Cork, Derry and Tipperary are together in Mullingar today for the Gala Camogie Intermediate semi-final and the Bord Gáis Hurling All Ireland semi-final.

Thank you to Jimmy Dunne and Treasa Rehill of the CCC for approving this fixture for us. Bringing hurling and camogie together, particularly when the same counties are involved, is a great way to promote both games. Thank you to the grounds people

here for their great work in having Cusack Park in top condition for today's games.

Unfortunately I cannot be with you today. Best of luck to the players from Cork, Derry and Tipperary and thank you to all of the backroom teams, administrators, referees and officials that make days like this happen.

Liz Howard Uachtarán,
Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael



Back Row (l-r): Breige Convery (Glen), Katie McAuley (Castledawson), Mary O'Kane (Lavey), Katrina O'Kane (Ballerin), Sinead Cassidy (Ballerin), Aileen Lavery (Greenlough), Jane Carey (Eoghan Rua), Shauna Murphy (Banagher), Oonagh Mullan (Swatragh), Keelin Bradley (Greenlough), Attracta McPeake (Lavey), Karen Keitt (Kilrea), Meabh McGoldrick (Eoghan Rua), Claire Doherty (Slaughtneil). Front Row (l-r): Claire McMullan (Slaughtneil), Ashling Diamond (Bellaghy), Grainne McGoldrick (Eoghan Rua), Sinead McKeever (Banagher), Mary K. McNicholl (Glenullin), Claire O'Kane (Castledawson), Ceara Cushnahan (Lavey), Kate Lavery (Greenlough), Edelie Henry (Lavey), Derbhla McGuigan (Slaughtneil), Ceara Boyle (Lavey).

Aug 2008

Cork and Galway to fight it out for the O'Duffy Cup in Croke Park

Cork and Galway will look horns in the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final on 14 September after coming through their semi-finals with varying degrees of difficulty at Kilkenny's Nowlan Park on Sunday. Last year's beaten finalists Cork proved far too good for Munster rivals Tipperary in the first game of an entertaining double bill, played out in front of some 4,000 spectators. The Rebellets ran out 3-14 to 0-10 winners against the Premier County and will start as favourites against Galway in what will be a repeat of the 1998 decider.

The Tribeswomen last reached the final ten years ago but they will provide stiff opposition for Cork after digging deep to secure a dramatic 1-13 to 1-10 victory against last year's winners Wexford.

Jessica Gill scored a sensational winning goal for Galway, with almost four minutes of stoppage-time played. The Ahereny star took her championship tally to an incredible 6-40 with her dramatic match-winner, just as Wexford looked to have salvaged a replay after coming from four points down to draw level in the closing stages.

With three minutes of normal time remaining, Wexford trailed by four points but the Saneysiders showed true grit as Una Leacy bagged a 58th-minute goal before Kate Kelly's ninth point of a gripping encounter tied the scores at 1-10 to 0-13. A draw looked a certainty but there was a late, late twist in store as Wexford had appeals for a free at the other end waved away before Gill's late strike.

The sides were level at half-time, 0-05 apiece, but Galway looked the livelier side from open play as Wexford were heavily reliant on the free-taking prowess of Kelly.

The Model County managed just 1-02 from play during the entire game as Kelly drilled over eight of her nine points from frees, whereas six Galway players were on target from play.

In the afternoon's opening game, Cork overturned a 0-07 to 0-05 half-time deficit as second half goals from Rachel Moloney, Una O'Donoghue and substitute Elaine O'Riordan helped to secure a comfortable 13-point victory.

Both goalkeepers, Cork's Aoife Murray and Tipp's Paula Ryan, made some good saves throughout but after the sides were level at 0-08 apiece 12 minutes after half-time, the winners soon embarked on a devastating scoring burst.

Moloney scored a superb overhead goal in the 43rd minute, O'Donoghue bombed through for a superb solo effort just three minutes later and O'Riordan touched home the impressive Orla Cotter's lengthy delivery for Cork's third goal in stoppage-time.

Moloney was Cork's leading player with a 1-07 haul on a day when eight players registered scores from play.

All Star Claire Grogan was Tipp's top scorer with five points, including three from play, but John McGrath's charges struggled to live with the pace of Cork's play.



Corcaigh

Dathanna: Dearg is Bán

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1
GILLIAN HARRINGTON
G. Ni hArracháin
(Valley Rovers) | 3
SIOBHÁN GLEESON
S. Ni Ghliasaín
(Éire Óg) | 4
CHRISTINE O'NEILL
C. Ni Néill
(Courcy Rovers) |
| 2
ANN MARIE FIELDING
A. M. Ni Fhicheallaigh
(Barryroe) | 6
LUCEY HAWKES
L. Hawkes
(Valley Rovers) | 7
MARIA WALSH
M. Breathnach
(Ballyhea) |
| 5
LEAH WESTE
L. Weste
(Ballincollig) | 8
MARIE CORKERY
M. Ni Chorcra
(Cloughduv) | 9
JENNIFER LYNCH
S. Ni Loingsigh
(Tracton) |
| 10
MARION JEGOE
M. Jegoe
(Tracton) | 11
MICHELLE BROWN
M. Nic an Bhreithiún
(Mallow) | 12
JULIA WHITE
S. de Faoite
(Douglas) |
| 13
MARIE WATSON
M. Nic Uait
(Milford) | 14
CLAIRE SPELLMAN
C. Ni Spealáin
(St. Finbarrs) | 15
CHARLOTTE KEARNEY
C. Ni Chearnaigh
(Na Piarasigh) |

IONADAÍ

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| (16) DENISE LEAHY
D. Ni Leacha
(St. Catherine's) | (17) BEGINA CURTIN
B. Ni Churtin
(Athlone) | (18) ASHLING THOMPSON
A. Ni Thomáis
(Athlone) | (19) TRISHA MURPHY
T. Ni Mhurchú
(Brimmings) | (20) RACHEL MYERS
R. Ni Mhíir
(St. Finbarrs) | (21) CAROLINE MOTHERWAY
C. Modartha
(Dungannon) | (22) NIAMH DWORTH
N. Ni Dhuilachra
(Brimmings) | (23) MOREEN MULLCANY
M. Ni Mhuilcatháigh
(St. Catherine's) | (24) ROSIE DE FAOITE
R. de Faoite
(Blackrock) | (25) GER COLLINS
G. Ni Cholláin
(Brimmings) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|

ROGHOIRÍ:
Bobby Thompson (Coach),
Sheila Golden, Willie O'Segan,
Kathleen Healy.



Doire

Dathanna: Bán is Dearg

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1
CLAIRE O'KANE
C. Ni Chatháin (Capt.)
(Castledawson) | 3
KATRINA O'KANE
C. Ni Chatháin
(Ballerin) | 4
CEARA CUSHNAHAN
C. Chosnacháin
(Lavey) |
| 2
SINEAD MCKEEVER
S. Nic Iomhair
(Banagher) | 6
JANE CAREY
S. Ni Chiara
(Eoghan Rua) | 7
KATE LAVERTY
C. Ni Laibheartaigh
(Greenlough) |
| 5
DEARBHLA MCGUIGAN
D. Nig Uiginn
(Slaughtneil) | 8
BREIGE CONVERY
B. Nic Ainmhíre
(Glen) | 9
GRÁINNE MCGOLDRICK
G. Nic Gualraic
(Eoghan Rua) |
| 10
KEELIN BRADLEY
C. Ni Bhrolcháin
(Greenlough) | 11
KATIE MCAULEY
C. Nic Amhalai
(Castledawson) | 12
AILEEN LAVERTY
A. Ni Laibheartaigh
(Greenlough) |
| 13
MARY O'KANE
M. Ni Chatháin
(Lavey) | 14
ASHLING DIAMOND
A. Ni Dhiomáin
(Bellaghy) | 15
EDELIE HENRY
E. Nic hÉinri
(Lavey) |

IONADAÍ

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| (16) CEARA BOYLE
C. Ó Bhuail
(Lavey) | (17) MEABH MCGOLDRICK
M. Nic Gualraic
(Eoghan Rua) | (18) ATTRACTA MCKEEVER
A. Nic Peice
(Lavey) | (19) MARY K. MURPHY
M. K. Ni Mhurchú
(Brimmings) | (20) DOONAGH MULLAN
D. Ni Mhuilcáin
(Swatragh) | (21) SHAUNA MURPHY
S. Ni Mhurchú
(Banagher) | (22) KAREN KEITT
C. Ni Chatháin
(Kilrea) | (23) SINEAD CASSIDY
S. Ni Chatháin
(Ballerin) | (24) CLAIRE DOHERTY
C. Ni Doherty
(Slaughtneil) | (25) CLAIRE MCMULLAN
C. Nic Mhuilcáin
(Greenlough) |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|

ROGHOIRÍ:
Fádraig Ó Mianáin, Susan Ó Mianáin,
Melinda Robinson, Maureen McCloy.

GALA ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP Paths to the Semi-Finals

June 1st:	Galway..... 4-18	Limerick..... 1-6
	Kilkenny..... 2-10	Tipperary..... 2-12
	Dublin..... 0-5	Cork..... 1-13
June 22nd:	Wexford..... 0-5	Cork..... 3-6
	Tipperary..... 2-13	Dublin..... 2-9
July 5th:	Galway..... 1-12	Wexford..... 2-4
July 6th:	Cork..... 1-16	Tipperary..... 0-10
July 12th:	Limerick..... 0-5	Tipperary..... 2-22
July 13th:	Wexford..... 3-14	Kilkenny..... 2-4
	Cork..... 0-9	Galway..... 1-9
July 19th:	Cork..... 2-21	Limerick..... 1-5
July 20th:	Wexford..... 3-8	Dublin..... 0-7
	Kilkenny..... 1-13	Galway..... 1-9
July 26th:	Tipperary..... 2-8	Wexford..... 3-8
	Galway..... 3-10	Dublin..... 0-6
July 27th:	Kilkenny..... 0-7	Cork..... 5-11
August 3rd:	Limerick..... 0-4	Wexford..... 7-27
	Tipperary..... 1-14	Galway..... 2-11

	P	W	L	D	Pts
CORK	6	5	1	-	10
GALWAY	6	4	1	1	9
WEXFORD	6	4	2	-	8
TIPPERARY	6	3	2	1	7
KILKENNY	6	3	3	-	6
DUBLIN	6	1	5	-	2
LIMERICK	6	-	6	-	0

TOP 10 CHAMPIONSHIP SCORERS 2008

Name	County	Total Goals	Total Points	Overall Total	From Frees
Jessica Gill	Galway	5	34	49	38
Claire Grogan	Tipperary	2	37	43	24
Rachel Moloney	Cork	1	35	38	21
Una Leacy	Wexford	6	15	33	0
Sinead Millea	Kilkenny	3	21	30	20
Ursula Jacob	Wexford	6	10	28	0
Louise O'Hara	Dublin	1	19	22	17
Kate Kelly	Wexford	0	18	18	11
Eileen O'Brien	Limerick	1	15	18	15
Sheila Burns	Cork	3	9	18	0

Cork
Tipperary3-14
0-10

Cork rout Tipperary for final place

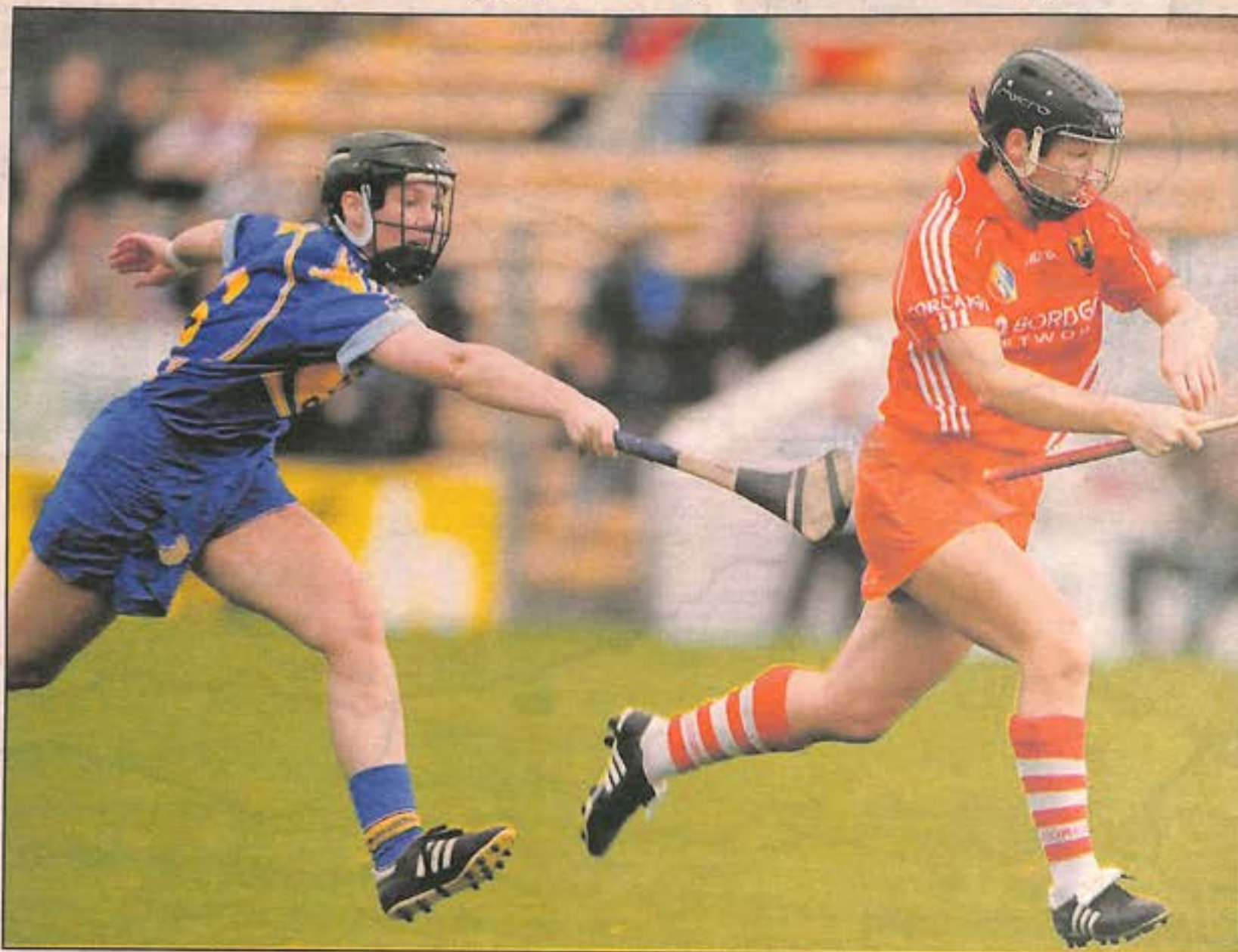
CORK secured their place in the Gala All-Ireland senior final with a superb victory over Tipperary, in Nolan Park, on Sunday last. Playing against the wind, Cork trailed at the break, 0-7 to 0-5, but turned the game around in the second-half. Gemma O'Connor, Rachel Moloney, and Eimear O'Sullivan led the second-half revival, as Cork hit three points within eight minutes of the restart. Philly Fogarty levelled for Tipp, but it was the last time they would come within distance.

Rachel Moloney struck for the game's opening goal, 13 minutes into the second-half, finishing Orla Cotter's long delivery. A minute later, Una O'Donoghue scored a goal, as she took on the Tipp defence with a superb solo run. Now firing on all cylinders, Cork hit points from Sile Burns, Rachel Moloney, Eimear O'Farrell and Amanda O'Regan. Claire Grogan struck one for a struggling Tipp side. Gemma O'Connor stretched the lead to 2-14 to 0-9. Twice the Cork defence stood firm as Tipp tried for a goal. Joanne Ryan pointed for Tipp, but the final say was left to Cork substitute Elaine O'Riordan, who scored a goal as Cork marched on to the final against Galway, who defeated champions Wexford, 1-13 to 1-10.

Cork: A Murray, L O'Connell, C Foley (c), J O'Callaghan, G O'Connor, M O'Connor, S Hayes, O Cotter, L Dorgan, A O'Regan, U O'Donoghue, E O'Sullivan.

Tipperary: P Ryan, S Kelly, M Luttrell, J Kirwin, P Biffin, T O'Halloran, M Ryan, J Ryan, J Horan, C Hennessy, C Grogan, P Fogarty, G Kinnane, E Hayden, M Morrissey. Subs: M Shortt for M Morrissey (h-t), T Shortt for G Kinnane (45), M Tynan for J Kirwin (58). Scorers: C Grogan 0-5 (0-2 45*), J Ryan 0-2, E Hayden, P Fogarty and C Hennessy, 0-1 each.

Referee: Frank MC Donal (Armagh).



Una O'Donoghue gets away from Tipperary's Tishy O'Halloran, during the Gala All-Ireland Camogie semi-final at Nowlan Park. Picture: Matt Browne/Sportsfile

Late Derry goal fails to stop Cork's march

Cork
Derry2-8
2-4

CORK'S intermediate team came from behind to secure a place in the All-Ireland final. Earlier in the season, Derry were the only side to defeat Cork, but, on Saturday last, Cork were triumphant in Cusack Park, Mullingar.

Derry led 1-2 to 0-2 at half-time, but Cork took the lead early in the second-half and held it thereafter. After 14 minutes, Kate McAuley scored a goal, but Michelle Brown and Grainne McGoldrick scored from placed balls as the sides battled for control.

Cork made a determined start to the second-half. Michelle Browne

scored a point and Charlotte Kearney scored a goal. Marie Watson scored a point and Cork were ahead. They stretched it with a Marion Jagoe goal.

With five minutes remaining, substitute Sinead Cassidy scored a Derry goal. Cork didn't panic and responded with points from Julia White and Marie Watson to earn a

place in the final on October 4

■ THE second semi-final, between Galway and Kilkenny, ended 1-11 each.

Cork: G Harrington, A M Fleming, S Gleeson, C O'Neil, R Curtin, L Hawkes, M Walsh; M Corkery, J Lynch; M Jagoe, M Browne, J White; M Watson, C Spellman, C Kearney. Subs: A Thompson for C Spellman (h-t), G Collins for A Thompson (40). Scorers: M

Browne 0-4(f), C Kearney and M Jagoe, 1-0 each, J White and M Watson, 0-2 each.

Derry: C O'Kane, S McKeever, K O'Kane, C Cusack, D McGuigan, J Carey, K Lavery; G McGoldrick, B Convery; K Bradley, K McAuley, A Lavery; M O'Kane, A Diamond, E Henry. Subs: S Cassidy for K Bradley (h-t), M McGoldrick for A Lavery (h-t), C Kilty for B Convery (48). Scorers: K McAuley 1-10 (10-15), S Cassidy 1-0, G McGoldrick, 0-2 (0-145*), 0-10, M McGoldrick 0-1.

Referee: Joe Kennedy (Louth).

Luby's late goal wins it for Glen girls

Glen Rovers
Kilbrittan/ Timoleague3-3
0-11

A LAST minute goal by Denise Luby stole the points for Glen Rovers in the Evening Echo Senior B championship second round tie in Brinny yesterday.

While the victory will do the young Glen Rovers team the power of good, they will be the first to admit that they got out of jail after Kilbrittan failed to make use of their superior possession with a number of second half wides.

Playing against a strong

wind the Glen got the perfect start with a Sinead O'Halloran goal after four minutes. They failed to score again until the 17th as Kilbrittan became dominant around the middle of the park. Winning almost every puck out and in front for every ball, Kilbrittan forced the Glen into giving away frees and the excellent Marion Murphy was only too willing to step up and slot them over from great distance. Eilish O'Sullivan was winning a lot of ball and the Glen just couldn't get the supply into their inside forwards.

By LINDA MELLERICK
Senior B camogie

The switch of Lydia Cunningham and Michelle Hegarty to centre-back and centre-forward respectively settled the Glen a bit and a hugely important goal from Aoife Walsh two minutes into injury time left it level at the break; 0-7 to 2-1.

With the rain teeming down legs became heavy, but both teams battled it out to the end.

The Glen went a point ahead before another Marion Murphy free equalised. Eleven minutes in Kilbrit-

tan blasted wide in front of goal and three further uncharacteristic wides kept the Glen in contention.

With four minutes of normal time remaining Kilbrittan led by two and victory looked to be theirs.

But the Glen's patience paid off when Luby pointed on 29 minutes and a minute into injury time the same player saw her attempt to level the game dip under the crossbar to put the Blackpool side into a two point lead.

Kilbrittan were astounded and threw one more attack at the Glen. Miriam

Deasy pointed but they needed two and time ran out as the Glen rejoiced in a championship victory.

Scorers for Glen Rovers: A Walsh, S O'Halloran, D Luby 1-1 each.

Kilbrittan/ Timoleague: M Murphy 0-8 (0-5 f, 0-3 45), M Deasy 0-2, M Moloney 0-1.

GLEN ROVERS: K Newman, L Kelly, A Guilan, B Walsh; K O'Connell, M Hegarty, Z Buckley, E Riordan, A Keating, S Gallen, L Cunningham, C Shortt; A Walsh, D Luby, S O'Halloran. Subs: S Callanan for A Keating (44m).

KILBRITTAN/ TIMOLEAGUE: A Desmond, E O'Donovan, E O'Regan, M Hayes, V Smith, M Murphy, M O'Sullivan, M Dulles, E O'Sullivan, J Cashman, M Murphy, M Deasy, L O'Callaghan, M Moloney, M Dolard. Subs: S McCarthy for M Dolard (40m).

Ref: Peter Downey (Inniscarra).

Moloney class apart as Rebelettes

Camogie

CORK and Galway will lock horns in the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie championship final on September 14 after coming through their semi-finals with varying degrees of difficulty at Kilkenny's Nowlan Park yesterday.

Last year's beaten finalists Cork proved far too good for Munster rivals Tipperary in the first game of an entertaining double bill, played out in front of some 4,000 spectators.

The Rebelettes ran out 3-14 to 0-10 winners against the Premier County and will start as favourites against Galway in what will be a repeat of the 1998 decider.

The Tribeswomen last reached the final 10 years ago but they will provide stiff opposition for Cork after digging deep to secure a dramatic 1-13 to 1-10 victory against last year's winners Wexford.

Jessica Gill scored a sensational winning goal for Galway, with almost four minutes of stoppage time played.

The Athenry star took her championship tally to an incredible 6-40 with her dramatic match-winner, just as Wexford looked to have salvaged a replay after coming from four points down to draw level in the closing stages.

With three minutes of normal time remaining, Wexford trailed by four points but the Slaneysiders showed true grit as Una Leacy bagged a 58th-minute goal before Kate Kelly's ninth point of a gripping encounter tied the scores at 1-10 to 0-13.

A draw looked a certainty but there was a late, late twist

in store as Wexford had appeals for a free at the other end waved away before Gill's late strike left it 1-13 to 1-10.

The sides were level at half-time - 0-5 apiece - but Galway looked the livelier side from open play as Wexford were heavily reliant on the free-taking prowess of Kelly.

The Model County managed just 1-2 from play during the entire game as Kelly drilled over eight of her nine points from frees whereas six Galway players were on target from play.

In the afternoon's opening game, Cork overturned a 0-7 to

Aug 2008

seal win to set up Galway decider

0-5 half-time deficit as second half goals from Rachel Moloney, Una O'Donoghue and substitute Elaine O'Riordan helped to secure a comfortable 13-point victory.

Both goalkeepers, Cork's Aoife Murray and Tipp's Paula Ryan, made some good saves throughout but after the sides were level at 0-8 apiece 12 minutes after half-time, the winners soon embarked on a devastating scoring burst.

Moloney scored a superb overhead goal in the 43rd minute, O'Donoghue bombed through for a superb solo effort just three minutes later

and O'Riordan touched home the impressive Orla Cotter's lengthy delivery for Cork's third major in stoppage time.

Moloney was Cork's leading player with a 1-7 haul on a day when eight players registered scores from play.

All Star Claire Grogan was Tipp's top scorer with five points, including three from play, but John McGrath's charges struggled to live with the pace of Cork's play.

Meanwhile, Cork must wait for their opponents in the Gala intermediate championship final on October 5 after Kilkenny and Galway drew 1-11

apiece in Saturday's semi-final at Semple Stadium.

Cork ran out 2-8 to 2-4 winners against Derry in Mullingar, having trailed by 1-2 to 0-2 at half-time.

Charlotte Kearney and Marian Jagoe scored Cork's second-half goals as Sinéad Cassidy's late goal added to Katie McAuley's first-half strike for Derry.

In Thurles, Kilkenny came from 1-8 to 1-2 behind at half-time to salvage a September 6 replay with Galway.

Galway's star forward Tara Rutledge and Kilkenny's Claire Aylward traded goals within a

minute before Galway surged clear.

Inspired by the attacking prowess of Hanna Maher and substitutes Shelly Farrell and Michelle Brennan, the Cats clawed their way back into contention and fully deserve their second chance.

Elsewhere, Roscommon ran out comfortable 2-10 to 0-5 winners against Armagh in the Gala Junior semi-final (Nancy Murray Cup). The Rossies will take on Meath in this Sunday's final after Claire Curley and Annette McGeeney scored 1-3 apiece at Drumlane, Cavan, last Saturday.

Scannell is Bishopstown's hero as they win by one point

Bishopstown 0-6
Ballinhassig 1-2

THE accuracy of Maebh Scannell, who struck all-but-one of her side's scores, ensured Bishopstown took the points in this close, Evening Echo senior B championship, second-round clash at Ballincollig.

Bishopstown came into this game

having lost their first game, to Carrigaline, and it was a similar story for Ballinhassig, who lost their first game, to Killeagh. A close opening-half saw Ballinhassig settle early, thanks to a goal from Ann Crowley. Eimear O'Sullivan added a point, as they extended their advantage against a Bishopstown side that had excellent displays from former Cork

senior, Eithne Duggan, who was prominent at centre back. Maebh Scannell opened the Bishopstown account with a point, and, at the break, it was Ballinhassig who led, 1-1 to 0-1.

Sinéad Kelly and Maebh Scannell kept the pressure on Ballinhassig, striking points as Eimear O'Sullivan replied for Ballinhassig. Keeping the

pressure on, Bishopstown drew level, thanks to Maebh Scannell pointing a free and she was, again, to the fore showing her accuracy by pointing a free from a difficult angle.

Ballinhassig battled to draw level, but the Bishopstown defence were in control and they held firm.

Ballinhassig: G O'Callaghan; C Fleming, T Finn, T Holland; L Jordan A O'Riordan, H

Cullinane; E O'Sullivan, M Kelleher; J Cullinane, C Collins, K McCarthy; B Coleman, A Crowley, A O'Brien. Subs: A Burns for B Coleman (50). Scores: A Crowley 1-0, E O'Sullivan 0-2.

Bishopstown: C Healy; R Nunan, A Noone, B Sheehan; J Crowley, E Duggan Enright; J Browne, M Crowley, O Ní Dhonnaille, O Crowley, S Kelly, M O'Brien, L Bowen, M Scannell.

Subs: K Hickey for O Ní Dhonnaille (45) M Egan for M O'Brien (50). Scores: M Scannell 0-5 (0-4f) S. Kelly 0-1.

Referee: John O'Leary (Mallow)

Rockbán survive test from Newcestown

Rockbán 4-9
Newcestown 4-5

A CLOSE call but Rockbán will be relieved their second-half display was enough to annex the points in this Evening Echo Senior B Championship clash with a spirited and determined Newcestown writes MARY NEWMAN.

Newcestown made the better start and led 2-4 to 2-1 at the interval.

Two goals from Colette Desmond and points from Colleen Long and Desmond saw them set the pace as Margaret Howard and Louise Crowley struck Rockbán goals. A much-improved Rockbán set the pace early in the second half and points from Valerie Mulcahy, Elaine Casey and Sile Burns helped them edge ahead.

Continuing to come under pressure, Newcestown were hit by two Rockbán goals, Sile Burns and

Margaret Howard on target, but Newcestown fought back, Therese McCarthy and Colette Desmond grabbing goals to cut the lead to just one point. Again Rockbán hit a flurry of points as they strove to pull away. Therese Howard and Sile Burns extended the lead to five points before Colleen Long pointed for Newcestown as time ran out. It was Rockbán who held their lead but only after a stern test from a spirited Newcestown side.

Scorers for Rockbán: M Howard 2-1, L Crowley 1-0, S Burns 1-4 (0-3f), T Howard 0-2, V Mulcahy 0-1 E Casey 0-1 each.

Newcestown: C Desmond 3-1, C Long 0-4 (0-3f), T McCarthy 1-0.

Rockbán: E Harte; M O'Keefe, S Ryan, M Foley; D Foley C Foley, N Keohane; V Mulcahy, L Crowley; C Conway, T Howard, E Casey; M Howard, S Burns S Coleman.

NEWCESTOWN: L O'Sullivan; F Deasy, A Coughlan, A Holland; A Crowley, F Crowley, H O'Mahony; R Desmond, E Crowley; E O'Mahony, C Long, T McCarthy; G Cronin, E Coomey, C Desmond. **Sub:** M Crowley for A Crowley (52).

Ref: Oliver Webb (Tracton).

Killeagh slight favourites ahead of Carrig tie

TONIGHT
Evening Echo Senior B
Championship
Killeagh v Carrigaline,
Camogie Grounds,
Ringmahon Road, 6.45pm.
Rockbán v Newcestown,
Cloughduv, 6.45pm.

THE honour of playing the first game on the county board's new camogie grounds in Blackrock falls to Killeagh and Carrigaline this evening and Killeagh, with a victory in their first game over Ballinhassig, go into this determined to make it

back-to-back victories.

Carrigaline got their campaign off to the perfect start with a win over Bishopstown but had to give way to Valley Rovers in their second game.

A victory for either would set them up nicely with two games to go, Killeagh, backed by intercounty player Mary O'Connor, Angela Walsh, Claire Keohane and Carmel Deane, are one of the sides tipped to go all the way and Carrigaline will be mindful of this.

In both of their games to

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie preview

date, Carrigaline have had big performances from Laura Thompson who has been notching up the scores and Killeagh will need to keep a close eye on the lively corner-forward.

On balance, Killeagh will probably go in as slight favourites but Carrigaline will give them a severe test.

The second game this evening has Rockbán in action

against Newcestown.

Last year, the sides met at the same stage, where Newcestown recorded a tremendous victory and they will be determined to prove this time out that this was no fluke.

In the first game of the series, they lost out to Éire Óg and they will be hoping to bounce back from this. Colette Desmond, Colleen Long and Hilda O'Mahony are among the players who will drive Newcestown forward but they face a strong Rockbán side that con-

tains Cork senior captain Cathriona Foley, Sile Burns, Elaine Harte, Louise Crowley and Claire Conway.

In their opening game, they overpowered Kilbrittain/Timo-league and, on form, they will be the ones most likely to advance from section B to the semi-final stages.

However, Newcestown, renowned for their championship performances, will have other ideas as they bid to get their own challenge for a place in the final stages underway.

Aug. 2008

Camogie All-Ireland Senior Semi-Final -

No Joy as Tipp Lose to Cork

Cork ...3-14 Tipperary ...0-10

Tipperary camogie is still trying to recover from the loss of so many key players who shot the county to the pinnacle of the sport in the early years of the decade.

And that's not surprising when you take players of the quality of Una O'Dwyer, Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor, Therese Brophy, Angie McDermott, Noelle Kennedy, Deirdre Hughes and Emer McDonnell out of the equation.

That's a lot of hurling talent to replace and Tipp haven't done it yet.

Now for the second successive year they have gone out of the championship at the semi-final stage to Cork.

The final scoreline hardly does their performance justice following an encouraging first half after which they led by two points but the second half collapse has an all too familiar ring to it.

It happened earlier in the campaign in Cork and the signs looked ominous again midway through the second half when Cork scored their first goal.

In the final seventeen minutes of the game Cork outscored Tipperary 3-6 to 0-2 with only one of those Tipp points from play.

Captain Claire Grogan, Joanne Ryan, Emily Hayden and Cora Hennessy did all that could be asked of them but when a Tipp goal was needed the absence of such poachers as a Hughes or

McDonnell was sorely missed.

Ironically the first real goal chance fell to Tipp but when it wasn't taken the game swung in Cork's direction.

It came ten minutes into the second half with Cork just a point ahead, 0-8 to 0-7. Jill Horan dashed through the centre to win possession and with only Aoife Murray to beat in the Cork goal, Horan didn't strike the ball cleanly enough and Murray pulled off a great save.

Philly Fogarty pulled Tipp level two minutes later but within a minute Horan's miss became more costly when Rachel Moloney connected with a high Orla Cotter ball in to tap to the net past Paula Ryan.

Ryan made a series of superb saves in the Tipp goal but had no chance with Moloney's shot and was also faultless three minutes later when Una O'Donoghue wrapped up the game for Cork with a stunning goal after a great run through the Tipp defence.

Tipp boss John McGrath was disappointed with the result, especially as the second half mirrored the game between the sides earlier in the championship in Ballinacollig.

The Borrisoleigh man felt that his side would have learned from that defeat. "We thought the girls were prepared for this and knew what to expect and that the heads wouldn't drop when Cork got a few scores. But



Tipperary Senior Camogie Team who bowed out of the quest for All-Ireland honours at the hands of Cork on Sunday last in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny. This group of girls gave tremendous enjoyment and commitment throughout the year. Photo Rose Mannion.

they have been losing to them for a few years now and in the last ten minutes a few of the girls kept it going but some of them just gave up the ghost".

The former All Ireland u-21 medal winner with Tipperary in 1985 wanted Tipp to be still in the game with ten minutes to go but felt that when Cork got two goals in the space of three minutes that the game was 'done and dusted'.

"We wanted to stay in the game as long as we could and make Cork worry but it didn't materialise. We cannot prepare on the training

ground for some things that happen during a game and the players have to go and perform to the best of their ability. And they did that for forty five minutes but once the goals went in it was over".

It was a different story in the first half when Tipp used the wind to their advantage and turned around at half time 0-7 to 0-5 ahead.

Tipp looked sharp and focussed with Mairead Luttrell and Tishy O'Halloran dominant at the heart of the defence, Joanne Ryan and Jill Horan busy at midfield and Cashel clubmates Cora

Hennessy and Claire Grogan sharp upfront.

The sides were level three times in the first quarter - Emily Hayden in the 4th minute took a Joanne Ryan pass to cancel out Cork's opener from Emer O'Sullivan a minute earlier; Hayden then turned provider to set up Hennessy for the Tipp lead in the 7th minute and by the 11th it was level again thanks to a Rachel Moloney free. Another Moloney free restored the Cork lead and following strong Tipp pressure Grogan levelled matters again in the 16th minute.

Goalie Paula Ryan saved Tipp with a great save from Sheila Burns before Tipp took a two point lead - Grogan pointed a 45 after her own shot was saved by Murray in the Cork goal and then the Cashel star hit a superb point from play.

Orla Cotter hit an immediate reply for Cork but Joanne Ryan picked up a poor Cork clearance to restore the two point lead in the 26th minute.

Another wonder point from Grogan on the touchline extended the lead to three, 0-7 to 0-4, two minutes before the break but Moloney brought it back to two at the half time whistle.

Tipp's second half woes began early and within eight minutes their two point lead had become a one point deficit with Cork scores from Gemma O'Connor, a Moloney 45 and O'Sullivan.

The momentum now was very much with last year's beaten All Ireland finalists

and the one chance that Tipp had to halt it - with Jill Horan's goal opportunity - wasn't taken.

While Philly Fogarty did tie up the scores in the 12th minute of the half, Tipp were to score just two more points for the remainder of the game.

A goal was going to be crucial and when it came to Cork from the hurley of the outstanding Rachel Moloney, it spelt the end for Tipp. Another Moloney point from a free and Una O'Donoghue's great goal in the space of two minutes just confirmed it.

A Grogan point from a 45 ten minutes from the end was a mere interruption to a string of Cork scores from Burns, Moloney, sub Emer O'Farrell, O'Sullivan and Mary O'Connor. Joanne Ryan hit a point three minutes from the end but Cork rubbed salt in the Tipp wounds with their third goal from another sub Elaine O'Riordan into added time.

It was a disappointing end to the campaign for Tipp after some promising displays earlier in the campaign. Of particular concern was the way the challenge wilted after the first Cork goal and the body language suggested there was no back after that.

Keeper Paula Ryan may have been beaten three times but the Toomevara player saved at least three more and was a solid last line of defence. Suzanne Kelly settled well after a few shaky moments early on and Mairead Luttrell and Tishy

O'Halloran hurled well at the heart of the defence.

Claire Grogan was outstanding in the first half but her influence waned in the second as the supply of ball dried up. Philly Fogarty was slow to make her mark but improved as the game progressed while Cora Hennessy, Emily Hayden and Joanne Ryan worked tirelessly throughout.

Outstanding for Cork who now meet Galway in the final were Gemma O'Connor, Brieghe Corkery, Rachel Moloney and Orla Cotter.

Cork - Aoife Murray, Linda O'Connell, Catriona Foley, Joanne O'Callaghan, Gemma O'Connor 0-2; Mary O'Connor, Sara Hayes, Brieghe Corkery, Linda Dorgan, Una O'Donoghue 1-0; Rachel Moloney 1-7; Emer O'Sullivan 0-2; Sheila Burns 0-1; Amanda O'Regan; Orla Cotter 0-1. Subs - Emer O'Farrell 0-1 for Dorgan; Elaine O'Riordan 1-0 Burns; Jenny Duffy for Mary O'Connor; Rosarie Holland for O'Callaghan.

Tipperary - Paula Ryan, Suzanne Kelly, Mairead Luttrell, Julie Kirwin, Paula Bulfin, Tishy O'Halloran, Mary Ryan, Joanne Ryan 0-2; Jill Horan, Cora Hennessy 0-1; Claire Grogan 0-5; Philly Fogarty 0-1; Geraldine Kinnane, Emily Hayden 0-1; Mairead Morrissey. Subs - Michelle Shortt for Morrissey; Therese Shortt for Kinnane; Sabrina Larkin for Horan, Maria Tynan for Kirwin.

Referee - Frank McDonald (Armagh)



Paula Bulfin gets her shot in as Rachel Moloney tries to prevent clearance in the All-Ireland Semi-Final. Photo Rose Mannion.

Aug. 2008

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE SEMI-FINAL

Pictures by
Paddy Delaney



■ The Wexford squad before Sunday's defeat. Back row (from left): Siona Nolan, Evelyn Quigley, Karen Atkinson, Ciara Storey, Mag Kelly, Kate Kelly, Caroline Murphy, Louise Codd, Bridget Curran. Middle row (from left): Aine Codd, Ursula Jacob, Rose-Marie Breen, Noeleen Lambert, Deirdre Codd, Catherine O'Loughlin, Bróna Furlong, Jean Hayden, Mags D'Arcy, Aoife O'Connor. Front row (from left): Mary Leacy (capt.), Lenny Holohan, Una Leacy, Colleen Atkinson, Bernie Holohan, Claire O'Connor, Michelle O'Leary, Katrina Parrock, Helena Jacob.



■ Aoife O'Connor sinks to her knees at the end.



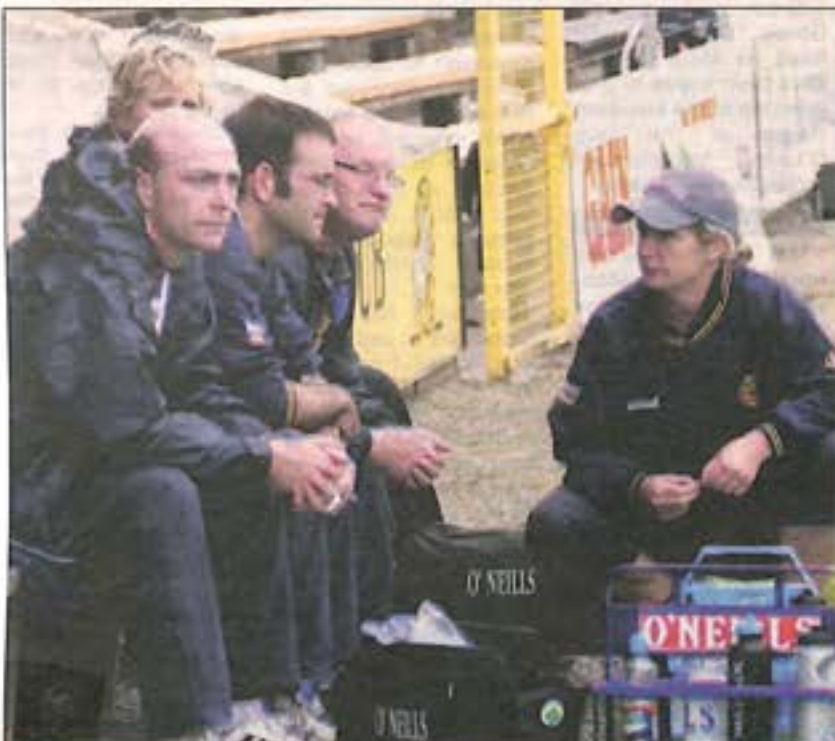
■ Mary Leacy is pursued by Veronica Curtin.



■ Michelle O'Leary comes under pressure.



■ Corner-back Noeleen Lambert about to clear her lines.



■ Manager Stellah Sinnott discusses a move with fellow mentors Alan Aherne and Noel Ryan, with physical therapist Paul Harrington in the foreground.



■ Bróna Furlong gathers possession near the end as Therese Maher moves in.



■ Referee Eamonn Browne offers a handshake to Una Leacy after Sunday's semi-final.

Aug. 2008

CAMOGIE HEARTBREAK FOR WEXFORD IN ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

Champs suffer crushing blow

Galway 1-13, Wexford 0-10: The unbridled joy which greeted last year's Gala All-Ireland Senior camogie championship success was replaced by the pain of a crushing late defeat in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny, on Sunday last when Wexford lost their crown to Galway in a pulsating semi-final thanks to a last-gasp goal.

Sport's cruel side made an unwanted visit to the holders' camp as the westerners showed that their early-season promise was no flash in the pan by advancing to the decider for the first time since 1998. In the cold light of day, it has to be said that Galway played the better camogie for the most part and are deserving finalists, just as Wexford had fully merited their win over the same opponents at the same stage last year.

However, the Slaneysiders went down fighting, showing the true hallmark of champions as they came from four points down to equalise in the last minute of normal time.

When Veronica Curtin picked out substitute Lourda Kavanagh with a sweet pass and Galway went 0-13 to 0-9 up in the 57th minute, it was hard to see Wexford getting back into it.

However, exactly 60 seconds later Rose-Marie Breen, now at left corner-forward, made a fine catch and sent a long handpass past the last defender, with Una Leacy racing on to the sliothar and sweeping it to the net.

Just 22 seconds of normal time were left when Leacy won an Ursula Jacob cross and was unceremoniously taken out of it by Ann-Marie Hayes. She was treated for nearly two minutes before Kate Kelly displayed a cool head to fine over the equaliser, and the least Wexford hoped for was a second chance and an opportunity to do themselves justice in a replay.

Referee Eamonn Browne had earlier indicated three minutes of added time, but he also took that Leacy injury into account and added on a further two-plus when many expected him to call a halt.

Whatever about the rights or wrongs of his timing, Wexford fans in the 4,000 crowd had good reason to be aggrieved when he penalised substitute Katrina Parrock for over-carrying when she appeared to be clearly fouled as Wexford launched their final attack.

What followed was extremely hard to take for all involved. Therese Maher collected the ball and sent in a dangerous delivery which broke in the square, and the championship's top scorer, Jessica Gill, was on hand to steer it to the net.

It was an awful way to surrender a title, and it will take players and management alike some time to recover from such a devastating blow.

Having said that, the team should be proud of the manner in which they refused to die, even when things were clearly going against them at various stages.

The fact of the matter is that this group has been on the road without a break since November, 2006, when they made a conscious decision to give everything they had towards bridging a 32-year gap and winning the All-Ireland title.

After that was achieved last Sep-



JOY AND DESPAIR: Therese Maher celebrates as Mags D'Arcy and Bernie Holohan endure a different emotion.

tember, the players proved themselves great ambassadors for the county as they answered every call to bring the cup to overjoyed Wexford people in various parts of Ireland and further afield.

This non-stop effort took a huge mental and physical toll, and perhaps it all caught up with them on Sunday last. The important thing to note is that there is still a lot left in this group of players, and the expected break from now until January will do them the world of good as they will return refreshed, reinvigorated, and ready to have another attempt at winning what is one of the toughest championships on the G.A.A. scene.

Galway won the toss and had first use of the wind, but Wexford got off the mark first in the fourth minute when Bridget Curran's hurl was held and Kate Kelly fired over the free.

The latter doubled her tally shortly afterwards, taking a short free to Rose-Marie Breen whose effort was blocked, but the clearance went straight to Kelly and she picked off what proved to be her sole point from play.

Una Leacy struck the post with another effort for a point before Veronica Curtin latched on to a Mags D'Arcy clearance and opened Galway's account after nine minutes.

Wexford responded swiftly though, as Aine Codd won a Una Leacy cross and was fouled, with Kelly making it 0-3 to 0-1 from the resultant free.

A quickly-taken placed ball by Jessica Gill set up Therese Maher for a Galway point near the end of the first quarter, and a late challenge on Caroline Murphy after she cleared the sliothar left the midfielder in serious discomfort.

An x-ray later revealed that her

thumb was broken, but she played through the pain barrier and refused to let her colleagues down - a true reflection of one of the finest sports-women to ever don a Wexford jersey.

While Wexford were finding it nigh on impossible to pick off scores from play, Kate Kelly kept the scoreboard ticking over after 20 minutes when she punished a Galway defender for catching the sliothar three times under pressure from Ursula Jacob (0-4 to 0-2).

The Connacht county continued to clip at their heels though, with Jessica Gill firing a fine point over her shoulder before it took a timely hook by Bernie Holohan to steer Deirdre Burke's effort wide.

Another foul on Aine Codd enabled Kelly to make it 0-5 to 0-3 and, while Wexford had a let-off when Gill hit the post from a free, the sharpshooter quickly made up for that miss before Veronica Curtin equalised in added time.

Una Leacy had been off target from a good point chance moments earlier, while Wexford's second wide of the half was registered by Kate Kelly deep into added time.

The first ten minutes of the second-half were always going to be crucial, with the challengers only on level terms as they prepared to face the elements. It was at this stage that they fell away last year, but they had clearly learned the lessons and put in the hard work as they had Wexford on the back foot by the 37th minute.

After Gill - now at left half-forward - and Kelly swapped points from frees, Galway hit three points in as many minutes from Veronica Curtin, Orla Kilkenny after a brilliant solo run by Niamh Kilkenny, and another Gill free (0-9 to 0-6).

Bridget Curran then suffered a

dead leg in a collision which led to the arrival of Katrina Parrock at corner-forward, while Rose-Marie Breen moved to the edge of the square in a direct swap with Una Leacy.

While Leacy fired over a wide, a foul on Parrock meant that Kelly reduced arrears once again in the 42nd minute. A brilliant Brenda Kerins point gave Galway a huge lift though, before Bróna Furlong came on at midfield and Michelle O'Leary moved to left half-forward in place of Aine Codd.

Galway managed to clear their lines from a dangerous Furlong cross before Kate Kelly made it 0-10 to 0-8 from a 49th-minute free after being fouled close to the right-hand sideline.

Caroline Murphy shot wide while Una Leacy sent another effort into the goalie's hands, with Rose-Marie Breen winning a free after catching

a Deirdre Codd line ball, moments after swapping places with Ursula Jacob.

Kate Kelly shot wide when everyone expected her to score, but it was only a rare glitch from a player who has inspired Wexford on so many occasions and will continue to do so for a long time to come.

After Lourda Kavanagh shot a Galway wide, the game started to slip away from Wexford when Gill hit a brilliant point from play before landing a free to make it 0-12 to 0-8 with just under five minutes of normal time to go.

A Bróna Furlong flick then found Caroline Murphy who finally took the scoring burden off Kate Kelly with a fine point, but Lourda Kavanagh replied quickly before that late drama.

The Wexford mentors and players knew at the start of the year that retaining the title would be an even bigger 'ask' than winning it in the first place last season. That's the nature of the beast, and Galway will find that out for themselves if they do manage to upset Cork in the final on September 14.

For the moment though, nobody involved with the losers - either on the field or on the sidelines - should make any rash decisions. They are entitled to a break after devoting themselves so much to an amateur pastime for nearly two years flat.

And while it didn't work out the way they wanted it to on Sunday, the players need reminding that one loss at this stage of the year doesn't turn them into a bad team. Roll on 2009, because the Wexford camogie show is far from over.

Wexford: Mags D'Arcy; Noleen Lambert, Catherine O'Loughlin, Bernie Holohan; Aoife O'Connor, Mary Leacy (capt.), Deirdre Codd; Caroline Murphy (0-1), Michelle O'Leary; Kate Kelly (0-9, 8 frees), Rose-Marie Breen, Aine Codd; Bridget Curran, Una Leacy (1-0), Ursula Jacob. Subs. - Katrina Parrock for Curran, inj.; Bróna Furlong for A. Codd, also Helena Jacob, Siona Nolan, Lenny Holohan, Claire O'Connor, Louise Codd, Karen Atkinson, Evelyn Quigley, Jean Hayden, Clara Storey, Colleen Atkinson.

Galway: Susan Eamer; Sandra Tannion, Ailbhe Kelly, Therese Manton; Ann-Marie Hayes, Sinéad Cahalan (capt.), Niamh Kilkenny; Aine Hillary, Lorraine Ryan; Orla Kilkenny (0-1), Therese Maher (0-1), Veronica Curtin (0-3); Deirdre Burke, Jessica Gill (1-6, 0-4 frees), Molly Dunne. Subs. - Lourda Kavanagh (0-1) for Ryan, Brenda Kerins (0-1) for Burke.

Referee: Eamonn Browne (Tipperary).



Caroline Murphy and Kate Kelly in hot pursuit near the end on Sunday.

Aug 2008

Gala All-Ireland Camogie semi final

Tipp's road to Croker cruelly foiled

Gala All-Ireland Camogie Semi-Final



Cork 3-14 Tipperary 0-10



Report by Gerry Slevin at Nowlan Park
Photographs by Rose Mannion

It is said that scorelines never lie and while there is no denying the fact that Cork are most deserving Gala All-Ireland senior camogie championship finalists, that hefty 13-point winning margin in no way reflects Tipp's contribution to Sunday's first semi final in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny.

Ahead at half time (0-7 to 0-5) and still in the game 12 minutes later when a Philly Fogarty point stopped what appeared to be a Cork takeover following three quick points on resumption of play, Tipp saw their hopes of making it to Croke Park on final day cruelly foiled in a four minute blistering spell that yielded a massive 2-3. With it was a definite farewell to any ambition of adding to the five All-Ireland titles gleaned since 1999.

There was no way back after that. Tipp heads dropped and Cork went on to add a further four points, responded to meagrely with Claire Grogan (45) and Joanne Ryan points, before Cork's final nail was hammered home just on full time, a long Orla Cotter delivery was added to and finished over the line by substitute Elaine O'Riordan.

Though one might question the legality of two Cork goals from the perspective of where the scorer was when connecting, there can be no denying Cork's entitlement to showcase their

undoubted talents on the September 14th final day. And yet Tipp were well in contention throughout the first half, giving as good as they got and deriving immense inspiration from some brilliantly executed points from Claire Grogan. The teams were level three times in the opening quarter, Tipp having a breeze advantage. It wasn't an advantage that was altogether availed of, however, and some wild shooting saw the wides tally mount to seven by half time. A feature of that first half, apart from Claire Grogan's fantastic point scoring, was the solidity of the defence, especially the inner line of Suzanne Kelly, Mairead Luttrell and Julie Kirwan with Paula Ryan behind them very alert. A save from Sile Burns 13 minutes into the match after Una O'Donoghue had soloed through and delivered the perfect pass was top-drawer stuff.

As it turned out Tipp didn't do enough in that first half to make things difficult for Cork thereafter but, no doubt, a dual incident ten minutes into the second half went a long way towards changing the course of the match. As expected, Cork stormed into that second half and had drawn level after seven minutes. They went ahead a minute later and when it seemed that they were poised to apply the killer blow Paula Ryan came

to the rescue again with another brilliant save that saw Tipp move back into attack immediately. Jill Horan was put through and as she raced goal wards her goal attempt was foiled by a fine save from Aoife Murray. A certain goal saved at one end; another missed at the other end. Had Jill's strike been harder, or, perhaps, had she advanced a few steps farther Tipp might well have seen themselves take an advantage to boost considerably their hopes for the remainder of the match. Philly Fogarty did follow up with a point to bring parity for the fifth time in the hour but, alas, before Tipp scored again Cork would have achieved 2-3, the match was as good as over.

Essential to Tipp's cause was denying Cork a goal. Majors in both the Munster final and in the All-Ireland round robin match had proved to be so crucial to the end result and on Sunday the same was to be the case again. Orla Cotter's long delivery right into the Tipp square was added to by Rachel Moloney, her overhead flick connecting. Was she in the square? The Tipp defenders certainly thought so but the goal stood. Cork had now got the score Tipp did not want them to get and they began to build on it, ruthlessly. A Rachel Moloney point from a free; an Una O'Donoghue goal, her delivery giving Paula Ryan no chance as she soloed through and sent a bullet-like shot past her; points from Sile Burns and Rachel Moloney. A 0-8 each score line had moved efficiently and effectively to 2-11 to 0-8 in a matter of minutes. Game over.

As the Cork onslaught



Joanne Ryan of Tipperary is challenged by Cork's Emer O'Sullivan in Sunday's Gala All-Ireland semi-final.

continued, Tipp could reply only with a Claire Grogan point from a 45 and another from Joanne Ryan whose attempt at a goal with time running out saw her shot zoom over rather than under the crossbar. Nor were Cork finished yet, what was now a 10-point deficit, added to when another long Orla Cotter delivery saw sub Elaine O'Riordan finish it off, again questions as to where she was when the ball reached her.

It was a disillusioned and disappointed Tipp side that greeted the final whistle. Having fared so well in the first half without, at the same time, consolidating their position when more scores might have been notched, they found that final quarter to be a bridge too far, the more assured Cork side, with greater flair, cohesion and scoring know-how triumphing deservedly in the end.

Disappointment and dejection was written all over the faces of players and management. What they had set out to achieve had been inexorably snatched from them and despite their very best efforts they had come up short against their greatest rivals to whom they were conceding for the third time this season. Interestingly too the margin of defeat was

increased by four points each time. In the Munster final it was a five-point defeat (2-11 to 0-12), in the round robin it was nine (1-16 to 0-10) and it moved up to thirteen points on Sunday. Cork indeed have become Tipp's nemesis and the graph has definitely turned from what it was in the earlier years of this decade.

Despite conceding 3-14 the Tipp defence came out of this match with plenty of credit and this applied especially to the inside line as well as to goalkeeper Paula Ryan. Mairead Luttrell had her best game to date at full back and both Suzanne Kelly and Julie Kirwan beside her were equally sound. Paula Ryan, an All-Star nominee a year ago, is surely well in line to claim the honour this time around following a fine season that culminated with another brave and steady performance on Sunday. The half line wasn't as secure as in other matches, the speed and penetrative qualities of their immediate opponents very difficult to curb. Farther out Tipp struggled at midfield and in attack, again, a lack of consistency was very evident. Joanne Ryan and Cora Hennessy had some good moments in seeking to complement Claire Grogan's work rate and scoring effi-

ciency but, as has been the case all year, the attack as a unit lacked that scoring know-how so essential in achieving victory.

Match Digest

Scorers: Cork: R. Moloney 1-6 (3 frees, 1 45), U. O'Donoghue and E. O'Riordan 1-0 each, E. O'Sullivan, and G. O'Connor 0-2 each, S. Burns, E. O'Farrell, O. Cotter, A. O'Regan 0-1 each.

Tipperary: C. Grogan 0-5 (2 45's), J. Ryan 0-2, E. Hayden, P. Fogarty and C. Hennessy 0-1 each.

Tipp had seven first half wides and none in the second half, Cork having four in each half. Tipp were awarded six frees in each half, Cork's six in the second half added to ten in the first. Tipp also forced a 45 in each half - both scored, Cork forcing one in the second half which was also scored.

Cork: Aoife Murray, Linda O'Connell, Caltriona Foley (captain), Joanne O'Callaghan, Gemma O'Connor, Mary O'Connor, Sara Hayes, Orla Cotter, Linda Dorgan, Amanda O'Regan, Una O'Donoghue, Emer O'Sullivan, Sheila Burns, Rachel Moloney, Brieghe Corkery. Subs: Eimear O'Farrell for L. Dorgan, Elaine O'Riordan for S. Burns, Jenny Duffy for M. O'Connor, Rosalie Holland for J. O'Callaghan.

Tipperary: Paula Ryan (Toomevara), Suzanne Kelly (Toomevara), Mairead Luttrell (Sliavenamon), Julie Kirwan (Moneygall), Paula Bullin (Cashel), Trish O'Halloran (Duharra), Mary Ryan (Moneygall), Jill Horan (Cashel), Joanne Ryan (Drom-Inch), Cora Hennessy (Cashel), Claire Grogan (Cashel) captain, Philly Fogarty (Cashel), Geraldine Kinane (Drom-Inch), Emily Hayden (Cashel), Mairead Morrissey (Cashel). Subs: Michelle Shortt (Drom-Inch) for M. Morrissey, Therese Shortt (Drom-Inch) for G. Kinane, Maria Tynan (Toomevara) for J. Kirwan, Sabrina Larkin (Shannon Rovers) for J. Horan.

Referee: Frank McDonald (Armagh)



Tipperary's Claire Grogan blocks this shot from Amanda O'Regan of Cork in the Gala All-Ireland semi-final on Sunday.

Fitting contest to open grounds

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

Killeagh	1-10
Carrigaline	3-4

THIS was a fitting contest to mark the opening of the new camogie grounds in Ringmahon, Blackrock, and certainly it did justice to the splendid facility the board have provided for the camogie players of Cork.

The excellent playing surface lent itself to a good game and both sides had huge praise for the facility after the game which ended all square.

A close opening half saw the sides deadlocked after the 30 minutes. Laura Thompson's goal edged Carrigaline ahead after Killeagh's Angela Walsh and Liz Kelly had pointed in reply to points from Deirdre O'Leary opening score.

Stephanie Beausang and Claire Keohane had Killeagh back in front, before Patti O'Keefe pointed to level matters on the stroke of half-time.

Two Claire Keohane pointed frees gave Killeagh the edge on the restart and when Mary O'Connor fired home a goal Carrigaline looked to be in trouble.

Inside seven minutes, Carrigaline were in front, goals from Maria Moran had Patti O'Keefe giving them a one-point lead.

Angela Walsh had Killeagh level with two minutes remaining but Laura Thompson looked to have done enough for Carrigaline when she pointed a free as the game entered injury time.

But Killeagh were not to be denied, Noelle O'Donovan striking the equaliser deep into injury time to ensure her side a share of the spoils.

Scorers for Killeagh: A Walsh 0-4, C Keohane 0-3 (0-2F), M O'Connor 1-0, S Beausang, L Kelly, N O'Donovan 0-Teach.

Carrigaline: L Thompson 1-2, P O'Keefe 1-1, M Moran 1-0, D O'Leary 0-1.

KILLEAGH: C Deane, M Smiddy, C Walsh, S Smiddy, M O'Connor, K Kelleher, E O'Neill, L O'Connor, AM Walsh, A Walsh, C Keohane, S Beausang, L Kelly, N O'Donovan, K Walsh. **Sub:** K Rohan for K Kelleher (half-time).

CARRIGALINE: A Kiely, J Kiernan, J Foster, A Collins, S Coster, M Moran, A Smyth, Jacqui O'Keefe, G O'Keefe, Joanne O'Keefe, D O'Leary, G Harrington, P O'Keefe, L Thompson, G Harrington. **Subs:** E Egan for C O'Keefe (40), C O'Connell for G Harrington (50).

Ref: Colette O'Mahony (St Finbarr's).

Determined Bishopstown see off brave Ballinhassig

Bishopstown	0-6
Ballinhassig	1-2

A DETERMINED second half performance and the accuracy of Maebh Scannell, who struck all but one of their scores, helped Bishopstown bounce back to record a victory in this Evening Echo Senior B second round clash in Ballincollig, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Bishopstown came into this tie having lost out in their first game to Carrigaline whilst it was a similar story for Ballinhassig who lost out in their first game to Killeagh.

Both sides battled it out to gain the upper hand in a close opening half. A goal from Ann Crowley helped settle Ballinhassig and when Eimear O'Sullivan added a point they extended their advantage. Bishopstown kept in touch with a point as Maebh Scannell opened their account, but Ballinhassig led 1-1 to 0-1 at the break.

Sinead Kelly and Maebh Scannell kept the pressure on with Bishopstown points as Eimear O'Sullivan replied for Ballinhassig. Bishopstown drew level thanks to a Maebh Scannell pointed free and keeping the pressure on Ballinhassig they hit the front as Scannell again showed her accuracy pointing a free from difficult angle.

Ballinhassig battled to draw level but the Bishopstown defence held firm.

Scorers for Bishopstown: M Scannell 0-5 (0-4F), S Kelly 0-1.

Ballinhassig: A Crowley 1-0, E O'Sullivan 0-2, G O'Callaghan, C Fleming, T Finn, T Holland, L Jordan, A O'Riordan, H Cullinane, E O'Sullivan, M Kelleher, J Cullinane, C Collins, K McCarthy, B Coleman, A Crowley, A O'Brien.

Subs: A Burns for B Coleman (50).

BISHOPSTOWN: C Healy, R Nunan, A Noone, B Sheehan, J Crowley, E Duggan, Enright, J Browne, M Crowley, O Ni Dhonnail, O Crowley, S Kelly, M O'Brien, L Bowen, M Scannell.

Subs: K Hickey for O Ni Dhonnail (45), M Egan for M O'Brien (50).

Referee: John O'Leary (Mallow).

Aoife's late goal gives Eire Og win

Eire Og	2-5
Kilbrittain/Timoleague	1-6

A LATE goal saw Eire Og take the points in this Evening Echo Senior B Championship game in Enniskeane after they came from behind, writes MARY NEWMAN.

They led at the interval, 1-4 to 0-5, Margaret O'Herlihy on target with all their scores the goal coming midway through.

Kilbrittain's Marion Murphy was on target with three frees while Miriam Deasy and Eiblish O'Regan keep them in touch.

Mary Murphy edged Kilbrittain ahead with a goal early and then Marion Murphy pointed. Eire Og worked hard, O'Herlihy narrowed the gap and Aoife McCarthy's goal with five minutes left proved decisive.

Scorers for Eire Og: M O'Herlihy 1-5 (0-2F), A McCarthy 1-0.

K/T: Mary Murphy 1-0, Marion Murphy 0-4 (0-3F), M Deasy, E O'Regan 0-1 each.

EIRE OG: M Gleeson, C O'Connor, S Gleeson, L Murphy, C McCarthy, K McCarthy, E Kelleher, D McAuliffe, C Meeney, A McCarthy, A McKenna, LM O'Mahony, R Murray, C O'Keefe, M O'Herlihy. **Sub:** A McCarthy for D McAuliffe (50).

KILBRITTAIN/TIMOLEAGUE: A Desmond, E O'Donovan, A Foley, M Hayes, V Smith, Marion Murphy, D O'Sullivan, M Delea, Eiblish O'Sullivan, J O'Regan, M Moloney, J Cashman, E O'Regan, Mary Murphy, M Deasy. **Subs:** M O'Sullivan for E O'Donovan (20), M Doherty for J Cashman (40), A O'Sullivan for M Deasy (55, inj).

Referee: Peter Downey (Inniscahill).



Tipp's Claire Grogan takes a quick look up as she prepares to shoot despite the attentions of Orla Cotter Cork when the sides met in the All Ireland Senior Camogie Semi-Final on Sunday last. Photo Rose Mannion.

Below: Suzanne Kelly, Tipperary. Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship, Tipperary v Wexford, Sempie Stadium, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.



Galway's Veronica Curtin in action against Deirdre Codd of Wexford in Sunday's Gala All-Ireland Camogie semi-final, at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny.

Davy's first shot at All-Ireland glory

It's a very busy time if you're Davy Fitzgerald, but he wouldn't have it any other way. Aside from preparing Waterford for their first All-Ireland final in 45 years he's keeping goal for his beloved Sixmilebridge and involved with Clare's Under 18 camogie starlets. **Ronan Judge reports.**

DAVY Fitzgerald laughs when reminded that the Kilkenny team Clare face in the All-Ireland camogie minor final are going for three in a row. But, rest assured, he is deadly serious about stopping them. His words too maybe hint at the mindset Fitzgerald is trying to shape in Waterford as the county's senior hurlers embark on a similar mission to Clare's camogie players.

"We'll be hoping for a big turn out. It's massive. They would be big time underdogs," says Fitzgerald. "I'd say Kilkenny will probably think that all they have to do is turn up, the same as the hurling probably. I'm sure these girls will fight and give it everything they have. If they turn up the same way as they have done for the past few games, we'll give it to them alright and you never know what might happen."

It's Friday and sunny Gurteen is the latest stop in Fitzgerald's busy schedule. The next day he will line out in goal for his club Sixmilebridge in a vital championship encounter against Tubber. Then it's back to the south-east and training with Waterford.

Next Sunday, he'll be on the line as Clare bid to win their first ever All-Ireland minor camogie title.

The three-time all-star is doing everything he can to stay focused.

"It's pretty busy times, but the most important thing is that I've got to stay focused on these two or three things. I won't be doing anything else," he says. "My time is my own for the next week or two, which is good. I've just got to keep focused on what's comes ahead of me. I've plenty of time at night to be thinking about various teams and matches."

Fitzgerald came on board as the team's trainer at the start of the year. He believes if Clare play with the same hunger that has got them this far, they are in with a serious chance of winning.

"To be actually contesting a minor final is incredible. If you'd said it at the start of the year, these girls

wouldn't have dreamt about it. But hard work and applying themselves means that they're now competing."

He acknowledges the challenge posed by a talented Kilkenny side.

"I know Kilkenny will be a massive obstacle. I think they beat them very well in the Under 16s two years ago. They beat them by more than 27 points. But maybe these girls are capable of anything. They are capable

of putting in a really good performance and that might be enough."

Fitzgerald has been involved with three teams this year that have reached national finals. But after the disappointment of seeing his Limerick IT side lose the Fitzgibbon Final to Waterford IT, Fitzgerald is hoping his year can end on a high note.

"It's a been a good year alright. I lost the first one, and I'd like to win

the next two if I could. It's great to be in the All-Irelands but you want to be winning them as well. I'm looking forward to the next two weeks and it won't be for the lack of effort that we'll be wanting to win them."

And after the joyous scenes that greeted the Déise's win over Tipperary in the All-Ireland semi final, what is the mood like in Waterford?

"Everyone knows down in Water-

ford, that Kilkenny will be big time favourites and that we have a slight auld chance", he says. "In saying that, it's a two horse race and if we keep improving the way we have been improving, you'd never know."

Above: Eamon O'Loughlin, Davy Fitzgerald, Kevin Halpin and Fintan McNamara at camogie training in Gurteen on Friday. Eamon Ward



Name: Aoife Griffin
Age: 17
Club: Clarecastle



Name: Aine McNamara
Age: 17
Club: Sixmilebridge



Name: Mary Clune
Age: 18
Club: Clooney



Name: Louise Woods
Age: 16
Club: St. Joseph's



Name: Michelle Caulfield
Age: 18
Club: Truagh



Name: Rachel Whelan
Age: 17
Club: Sixmilebridge



Name: Jacqueline Woods
Age: 18
Club: St. Joseph's



Name: Sinead O'Halloran
Age: 18
Club: Kilmaley



Name: Aisling Hannon
Age: 17
Club: Clooney



Name: Roisin McMahon
Age: 17
Club: Newmarket-on-Fergus



Name: Niamh Martin
Age: 17
Club: St. Joseph's



Name: AnneMarie McMahon
Age: 17
Club: Kilmara



Name: Eileen Glynn
Age: 17
Club: Killnena



Name: Jennifer Kelly
Age: 15
Club: Newmarket-on-Fergus

Strong Clare hearts can prevail

Eoin Brennan

THE Clare Minor camogie team's rise to the top certainly cannot be labelled as an overnight success. Far from it, as this team and their management have been working together for four years now and the fruits of their labour have finally paid off. Familiarity and consistency have been this squad's foundation and the friendship and understanding amongst the players is the main reason manager Fintan McNamara feels why this side have risen through the ranks.

"It's been a culmination of a lot of hard work. We have been working with these girls for four years now. We first got them together at Under 14 level and we brought them up along. They have been coming so close, two years ago they got to the All-Ireland semi-final and thankfully this year they made the breakthrough to the All-Ireland. They have always stuck together, they have become great friends and it's a huge help when the players are so close. It's like a club team at the moment which is great."

This is Clare's first All-Ireland Minor final appearance which is testament to the work done by McNamara and his management team of Maura Sheedy, Eamon O'Loughlin, Kevin

Halpin and Davy Fitzgerald. Nevertheless, Clare have vast experience in their side and can boast five players who started the All-Ireland Junior semi-final against Laois earlier this month and eight in total of the Junior panel. That experience should stand to them on Sunday but with Kilkenny going for three-in-a-row, McNamara realises that it won't be an easy task.

"We got to see Kilkenny after our semi-final the last day and they were impressive. We met them two years ago in the All-Ireland Under 16 semi-final and they gave us a nice beating but these girls have got better over the last two years and tactically we have a gameplan to beat Kilkenny and hopefully it will work on the day."

And if they can achieve that feat, he is in no doubt as to the impact of such a major title on all levels of camogie in the county.

"It would be a major boost to win an All-Ireland at this level. This is the A level where you are meeting the best players in the country and to win a title would be a major thing for Clare. We certainly have the talent coming through and at the moment we are up alongside the Tipperys, Corks and Kilkennys in terms of underage talent so to win on Sunday would really confirm the county's progression."



Kate Lynch and teammates at training in Gurteen on Friday evening. Eamon Ward

Roseingrave is Clare's captain fantastic

Eoin Brennan

AT only eighteen, Clare minor captain Carina Roseingrave already has a sizeable list of honours and achievements that most veterans of the game would severely envy. Munster inter-county Intermediate and Minor, County and Munster senior club, county and provincial schools titles as well as underage club medals of every grade.

If that wasn't enough, there is even a Munster schools soccer and a ladies

football schools county title thrown in for good measure.

Still, for a player of such undoubted talent, an All-Ireland medal still eludes her and the fact that this is her last opportunity to win a medal at this grade, Roseingrave is doubly determined to add it to the list.

"It would mean the world to me, absolutely everything to get an All-Ireland medal with this group of girls, who are all great friends."

"A Munster medal is a fair achievement but if we could go one step fur-

ther and do what no other team in the county has done before, it would be brilliant."

"I'm very proud to be captain of Clare's first minor All-Ireland team. It's a great achievement and now I can't wait really because it's never happened in Clare that we have been in an All-Ireland final but we are going to give it a go."

She also has the added experience of playing in last year's All-Ireland Junior final, a heartbreaking occasion for all involved but with another

All-Ireland Junior final appearance to come in the middle of September, the future is certainly bright for Clare camogie.

However, Kilkenny are bidding for their third successive title and having played them previously, she realises that Clare are up against it.

"Kilkenny were definitely the side to beat all year. We played them two years ago in an All-Ireland semi-final and they stopped us in our tracks so they will be very strong and are a very confident side."

"We will have to get at them early and hard and hope for the best. If we can do it, it would be a great boost. I do the summer camps so a lot of kids would be talking about it so if we did bring home the All-Ireland, it would boost the game even further in Clare and more kids would want to play camogie."

Even for all her stack of medals, winning this one would be her biggest achievement yet.



Name: Susan Vaughan
Age: 18
Club: Ogonnelloe



Name: Sarah Reidy
Age: 17
Club: Kilmaley



Name: Kate Lynch
Age: 17
Club: Kilkishen



Name: Carol O'Leary
Age: 17
Club: Newmarket-on-Fergus



Name: Aileen O'Shea
Age: 16
Club: Sixmilebridge



Name: Chloe Morey
Age: 15
Club: Sixmilebridge



Name: Carol Kaiser
Age: 17
Club: Newmarket-on-Fergus



Name: Niamh Corry
Age: 16
Club: Sixmilebridge



Name: Eimear Contidine
Age: 17
Club: Kilmaley



Name: Aine O'Brien
Age: 18
Club: Newmarket-on-Fergus



Name: Shonagh Enright
Age: 17
Club: Kilmaley



Name: Stephanie Moloney
Age: 18
Club: Broadford



Name: Roisin O'Brien
Age: 17
Club: Ogonnelloe



Name: Carina Roseingrave (capt)
Age: 18
Club: Kilmona

Final heartbreak for the Banner

Kilkenny 3-15 - Clare 1-07

at Athy, County Kildare

Eoin Brennan

HOW to stop Kilkenny? That is the interminable dilemma that has confounded many counties over the years and on Sunday they again demonstrated why they are still the benchmark at every level in both hurling and camogie to win their third successive minor A title.

In contrast, Clare were competing in only their first ever final which is a feat in itself as the county continues its emergence as a force in the code. But Kilkenny's experience and all-round slicker teamwork combined with a number of internal failings ensured that the Banner's dream ended here.

The players will be the first to admit that they failed to reach the heights of previous performances and really they were so dominant in their earlier rounds that they perhaps were unsure how to react when sternly tested by the Cats. Nerves were inevitable considering the occasion and the large, colourful Clare support, who braved the three hour journey to Athy and mainly manned the grassy hill on the town side.

Tactically, Clare also played somewhat into the hands of Kilkenny who had undoubtedly done their homework. Clare utilised the same tactic of bringing out Aoife Griffin from corner-forward in order to leave space for Clare's biggest threat Carina Roseingrave to run into, just as they had done in the semi-final against Tipperary. However, as Kilkenny got on top early on, Griffin and later Roisin O'Brien were brought back to sweep around the half-back line, leaving an extra defender to double up on Roseingrave and it suited Kilkenny perfectly as they built up a substantial early lead.

In addition, Clare were left bewildered at times by the refereeing of Rosemary Hughes-Merry who repeatedly punished the Banner for very marginal offences and Kilkenny took full advantage of those placed balls to heap further misery on Clare. Furthermore, full-forward Carina Roseingrave was repeatedly fouled, predominantly on her way to goal but no cards were produced over the hour.

In saying that, even if Clare had played to their potential and had received a bit of luck, they would still have earned it to trouble Kilkenny who were simply in unplayable form on Sunday. Their touch was perfect, their fielding right out of the top drawer and the movement and fluidity of the forward line was a joy to watch. A prime example of this came after only six minutes with the score 0-2 to 0-1 to Kilkenny after Stephanie Moloney had opened the scoring for Clare.

Aisling Dunphy fielded a Clare puck-out and in a handpassing move involving all six forwards, Kilkenny moved the ball from the left wing to the right, catching Clare ball watching and Michelle Quilty picked out the unmarked Michelle Farrell in space outside the square who made no mistake.



In truth, Kilkenny got the type of start Clare needed if they were to disrupt the champions but the Cats continued in the same vein until the break with Katie Power and Michelle Quilty doing most of the damage as they led by 1-8 to 0-3 at the break. Still, considering the wind and the amount of possession Kilkenny had in that first half, the game could have been over by the interval only for Clare goalkeeper Susan Vaughan who was quick off her line to smother two first half efforts from the Cats that appeared certain goals.

Despite having an extra defender, Clare were not winning many puck-outs and indeed they only crossed the halfway line occasionally in that first half which starved the forwards of any supply. When they did manage to breach the Kilkenny half-back line, Carina Roseingrave - despite constant attention - excelled on scraps

and earned Clare three first half frees, two of which were converted by Shónagh Enright.

Clare emerged for the second period with renewed vigor and after Enright and Quilty swapped frees and Goalkeeper Vaughan had made another crucial block and clearance, they finally secured a much needed goal in the 36th minute. It was a swift move started by Aine O'Brien who played a high ball into the full-forward line and when Roisin O'Brien broke it, Roseingrave did the rest by soloing through and handpassing to the net.

Now there were only five points between the sides but Clare were rocked on their heels only four minutes later when Kilkenny again employed an overlap move that eventually fell to Claire Phelan at the edge of the square who kicked to the net. Clare fought on and Carina Roseingrave, Stephanie Moloney and Shónagh En-

right all added points in the following ten minutes but each time Kilkenny cancelled it out at the other end.

As the minutes ticked away, Clare's heads inevitably dropped and Kilkenny finished the job, scoring 1-4 without reply which glossed up the scoreline but flattered them considerably overall.

Clare were inevitably disappointed but the fact that 22 of the squad are still underage next year will give them major confidence.

As Kilkenny proved, there is no substitute for experience and Clare will certainly have learned from competing in their first ever final. Not much consolation now but surely beneficial for the future.

Above:
Clare's Aine O'Brien battles for possession against Aisling Dunphy, Kilkenny. SPORTSFILE

➤ Match Details

Kilkenny Emma Staunton (7), Leanne Fennelly (7), Ann-Marie Walsh (6), Roisin Byrne (7), Mairéa Nolan (7), Edwina Keane (8), Nicola Butler (7), Aisling Dunphy (8), Anna Farrell (8) (0-1), Denise Gaule (7) (0-1), Katie Power (8) (0-3), Claire Phelan (6) (1-1), Michelle Farrell (7) (1-2), Marie Dargan (7) (0-1), Michelle Quilty (8) (1-6 4f)
Subs Sinead Long (6) for Gaule, Ruth Bergen for Byrne, Clara Lyng for Butler, Georgina Cullen for Farrell

Clare Susan Vaughan (8), Sarah Reidy (6), Kate Lynch (8), Carol O'Leary (7), Aileen O'Shea (7), Roisin McMahon (7), Carol Kaiser (7), Niamh Corry (7), Chloe Morrey (7), Aine O'Brien (6), Shónagh Enright (7) (0-4 4f), Stephanie Moloney (7) (0-2), Aoife Griffin (6), Carina Roseingrave (8) (1-1), Roisin O'Brien (7) **Subs** Niamh Martin (7) for Reidy, Eimear Cosidine (7) for R. O'Brien (7), Mary Clune (6) for A. O'Brien, Louise Woods (6) for Griffin

Player of the Game
Katie Power (Kilkenny)

Match Official
Rosemary Hughes-Merry (Monaghan)

Minor camogie marvels make it a treble

Trevor Spillane

DAVY Fitzgerald may have led Waterford to an All-Ireland final in hurling. But when it comes to coaching camogie he's no match for Kilkenny's Ted Browne and Brendan Williams.

The joint managers should be called the dynamic duo after masterminding the county's drive to three minor 'A' camogie All-Irelands in a row.

The Cats completed their hat-trick in Athy on Sunday with an attacking performance that, when combined with a rock-solid defence, was way too much for Clare to bear.

Although Clare did open the scoring, Stephanie Moloney shooting the first point after just two minutes, they were overwhelmed by a Kilkenny forward line which quickly clicked into gear.

Following two Michelle Quilty points - the second from a free - Kilkenny raised the green flag for the first time with just eight minutes on the clock.

Excellent team-work

The goal owed as much to a good finish as it did the



Kilkenny 8-13



Clare 1-7

The scorers

Kilkenny - Michelle Quilty (1-6, 0-5 frees); Shelly Farrell (1-2); Claire Phelan (1-1, 0-1 free); Katie Power (0-3); Anna Farrell, Denise Gaule, Marie Dargan (0-1 each). **Clare** - Carina Roseingrave (1-1); Shonagh Enright (0-4, all frees); Stephanie Moloney (0-2).

excellent team-work that created it. The move started with midfielder Aisling Dunphy, passed through the hands of Denise Gaule, Anna Farrell, Katie Power and Michelle Quilty, before Shelly Farrell drilled the sliotar past goalkeeper Susan Vaughan.

Clare looked stunned,

leaking more points to Quilty and Claire Phelan, but had Vaughan to thank for not falling even further behind. The goalkeeper was quick off the mark, stopping a close range Marie Dargan shot midway through the half.

The one-way traffic continued, Katie Power picking

off a point from distance, before Shonagh Enright ended a 17-minute barren spell with Clare's second point of the game. That was quickly wiped out though, Power firing over another minor score after a good clearance from defence by Edwina Keane, who was cleaning up at centre-back.

More scores

The half didn't get any better for the Munster girls after that. Although Enright added a free to her team's tally in injury-time, Kilkenny had already helped themselves to more scores. A point apiece for corner-forwards Shelly Farrell and Quilty meant the Cats had an eight point cushion at the break (1-8 to 0-3).

Clare were also first off the mark in the second half, but this time their efforts bought greater reward. Following another Enright free captain Carina Roseingrave gave her side a glimmer of hope when she burrowed through the Kilkenny backline, pausing only to kick the sliotar past netminder Emma Staunton.

Rather than rattle Kilkenny, the goal only served to rile them up even more. They hit back in perfect fashion on 40 minutes,

Claire Phelan pouncing to sweep home the loose ball after Marie Dargan's pointed effort came down off the post.

The Banner girls did come back with two points in as many minutes, but even by then they were being forced out of the game, the Kilkenny backs and midfield putting the squeeze on their opponents.

As well as a strong defence, the Cats also showed excellent link-up play when on the attack. Captain Anna Farrell was one such player to profit, skilfully taking a pass from Claire Phelan on her hurley before slotting over a good point with ten minutes to go.

Winning lead

The excellent handling continued, as both Shelly Farrell and Katie Power added the finishing touches to well-worked team moves to extend Kilkenny's winning lead. They weren't finished yet though, Michelle Quilty goaling from close range after Marie Dargan's shot was pushed back out. Coupled with points from Quilty and Dargan, that late salvo was enough to see Kilkenny complete their incredible treble.



The Kilkenny squad who won the All-Ireland minor A camogie championship final in Athy, Co. Kildare.

Pictures: Paul Mohan/SPORTSFILE.

It wasn't only the title that went Kilkenny's way. Edwina Keane was named Player of the Match for her excellent display at centre-back.

The St Martin's player, usually a forward, gave a solid display in the heart of the defence.

Others to shine for Kilkenny were sisters Anna and Shelly Farrell, Aisling Dunphy and Roisin Byrne. Clare had good performers

in Roisin McMahon, Aoife Griffin and Carina Roseingrave.

The teams
Kilkenny - E. Staunton (Paulstown), L. Fennelly (Mullinavat), A.M. Walsh (St Martin's), R. Byrne (Clara), M. Nolan (St Lachtain's), E. Keane (St Martin's), N. Butler (St Brigid's), A. Dunphy (St Brigid's), A. Farrell (Thomastown, capt), D.

Gaule (Windgap), K. Power (Piltown), C. Phelan (Lisdowney), S. Farrell (Thomastown), M. Dargan (St Martin's), M. Quilty (Mullinavat). Subs: S. Long (Piltown) for Gaule, 57 mins; G. Culleton (Piltown) for M. Farrell, C. Lyng (Rower-Inistioge) for Butler, C. Shiel (O'Loughlin Gaels) for Phelan, R. Bergin (Clara) for Byrne, all 60 mins.

Clare - S. Vaughan, S. Reidy, K. Lynch, C. O'Leary, C. Kaiser, R. McMahon, A. O'Shea, C. Morey, N. Corry, S. Moloney, S. Enright, A. O'Brien, R. O'Brien, C. Roseingrave, A. Griffin. Subs: N. Martin for Reidy, 28 mins; E. Considine for R. O'Brien, 38 mins; M. Clune for A. O'Brien, 51 mins; L. Woods for Griffin, 57 mins. Referee - R. Merry-Hughes (Monaghan).



Roisin Byrne, Kilkenny, in action against Carina Roseingrave, Clare, All-Ireland Minor A Championship Final, Clare v Kilkenny, Geraldine Park, Athy, Co. Kildare. Picture credit: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

Minors joy turns to intermediate woe

Trevor Spillane

ENTHUSIASTIC celebrations have left Kilkenny looking for a goalkeeper prior to Saturday's intermediate camogie All-Ireland semi-final replay.

In an accidental fall following the minor team's victory over Clare last Sunday, goalkeeper Emma Staunton injured her knee. Now, manager Ann Downey has been left hunting for a replacement ahead of the return clash with Galway in Nenagh (throw-in 2.30pm).

"You could do without any sort of injury coming up to a game, but you'd never expect to have your goalkeeper get injured," the camogie boss told the 'People'. "After Sunday's game Emma went to Waterford and had her knee X-rayed. However, they can't do anything with it for the next ten days as there is some swelling.

Big problem

"It's a big problem for us," she added.

"It's the worst position on the field to have an injury, especially as we don't have another goalkeeper in the panel.

"At the beginning of the year we had Slobhan Murphy in goal, but she went to America after the first game against Wexford," continued Downey. "Emma came in after that and since then we've never looked at bringing in anyone else. We spoke about who could go in during a game, in case anything happened to our keeper then, but hopefully we'll have a solution for the weekend.

"We have someone coming in to training this week," the manager said. "Hopefully that will work out, but at the minute we're putting out the feelers to see who we can get before the game."

Kilkenny secured a replay with a fighting display in the final quarter to draw (1-11 apiece) with Galway in Thurles a fortnight ago. Michelle Brennan got the decisive point as the Cats recovered from a slow start to get another bite at the cherry.

Other than the injury to Staunton,

preparations have gone well for the Cats.

Tough game

"It will be a tough game, but I don't think the girls will play like the last day," was Downey's firm verdict. "We didn't start very well. Maybe it had something to do with playing in Thurles in front of television cameras, something a young team wouldn't have been used to, but in fairness they got to grips with it in the second half.

"The girls knew they hadn't played well and were capable of doing better, and I think they will be more up for it this time. Galway have some excellent forwards, and they'll know that they can't give them as any space - everyone has to tighten up.

"Hopefully we can turn things round and be ready to play for up to 70 minutes - that's what we'll have to do if we are to beat Galway," she added. "Their senior team are already in the All-Ireland final, so the intermediates will be looking to join them there. It's going to be a battle, but

we've trained hard since the last day, put in some tough sessions, so we'll be ready for the challenge.

The Kilkenny intermediate camogie panel to play Galway in Nenagh on Saturday is made up of: Aine Fahey (Emeralds, Urlingford), Ann-Marie Phelan (Windgap), Bronagh Neary (St Brigid's, Ballycallan), Claire Aylward (Mullinavat), Claire Ryan (Urlingford), Colette Dorman (Paulstown), Elaine O'Shea (Windgap), Grace Dunphy (St Brigid's, Ballycallan), Hannah Maher (St Martin's, Muckalee), Jenny Reddy (Thomastown), Laura Kavanagh (Emeralds), Lynda Cotterell (Tullagher), Lisa Phelan (Windgap), Lucinda Gahan (Mullinavat), Mariga Nolan (St Lachtain's), Sinead Brennan (Thomastown, captain), Sinead Long (Piltown), Emma Staunton (Paulstown), Michelle Brennan (Paulstown), Leanne Fennelly (Mullinavat), Alison Walsh (Windgap), Michelle Farrell (Thomastown), Sinead Kelly (Blacks & Whites).

Eager Galway stay on track for title glory

Improving intermediate camogie side come close to surprising Kilkenny in All-Ireland semi-final

Galway 1-11
Kilkenny 1-11

DARREN KELLY
IN SEMPLE STADIUM

FOR the second time this season, the Cats and the Tribeswomen couldn't be separated and Stephen Glennon's intermediate camogie side showed on Saturday that they weren't in the semi-finals just to make up the numbers.

Both teams had numerous changes from their line-outs in the 3-8 apiece draw in Kilmanagh at the group stage, but it was Kilkenny this time who had to fight back for a share of the spoils. Indeed, Ann Downey's side showed why they were pre-match favourites as they stormed back into this encounter and after equalising with two minutes to go, they had chances to win it.

Galway had crept into the knockout stages in fourth place and despite the group game result, their opponents were overwhelming favourites. Poor starts in some of their early outings had been their undoing and they needed to begin well and take this game to Kilkenny.

In front of the live television cameras, Galway certainly put on an exhibition in the first half with Martina Harkin rolling back the years with a super first half performance and minor captain Tara Rutledge causing prob-

lems up front, proving she is a star for the future.

Hanna Maher opened the scoring for Kilkenny on four minutes before Harkin started the move for Galway's reply with Caroline Murray and Martina Conroy involved in setting up Catherine Moran for their opening score. Then on seven minutes, a fantastic flowing move involving seven players saw Rutledge hit the net to put Galway in control.

Harkin began proceedings again as play moved through Aisling Hobbins, Murray, Conroy, Julie Brien and Gemma Kelly before Rutledge's strike hit off the inside of Elaine O'Shea's leg. Their control suffered a setback two minutes later when Bronagh Neary's delivery saw Claire Aylward get inside Darelle Coen for Kilkenny's equalising strike and this game had certainly come to life.

On other occasions this young Galway side may have panicked or lost confidence, but they were certainly a more focused unit here. With eight changes from the earlier meeting between these sides, the Tribeswomen played in the first half with a belief that they could make an All-Ireland final with Cork.

Harkin was stopping everything in defence and Rutledge was continuing to make an impact. The young Portumna player got her second score with a white flag on 10 minutes before being involved in

setting up two further points for Kelly and Moran.

Even though Aylward pulled back a score for Kilkenny, Rutledge got another and with Conroy adding three more points from placed balls, Galway went in at half-time with a commanding 1-8 to 1-2 advantage.

While her side were struggling to cope with their opponents, Kilkenny manager Downey didn't sit back to admire, bringing on Leanne Fennelly and Sinead Kelly during the first half to try and settle her team down. But it was the introduction of Thomastown's Shelly Farrell at half-time that would swing this game back in the Cats' favour.

Within six minutes of the restart, Maher, Farrell and Aylward had reduced arrears to three and after Elaine O'Sullivan scored for Galway, Farrell and Maher added two more and Kilkenny now only trailed by 1-9 to 1-7.

But Galway had a response as Helen Campbell saved from Farrell, in between scores from Brien and Rutledge to restore a four point advantage with 14 minutes left, but the Tribeswomen wouldn't score again in this contest.

Aine Fahey took a point from a penalty before adding one from play. Then Aylward scored a free before substitute Michelle Brennan split the posts for the equaliser just six minutes after coming on.

Kilkenny continued to apply the pressure and Fennelly missed a chance to win it but the Galway girls held on and will go to battle again with the Cats on September 6th in Tullamore. Colette Dormer, Sinead Brennan and Lisa Phelan did well for Kilkenny in defence while Hanna Maher, Claire Aylward and half-time substitute Sinead Farrell were their top performers up front.

It was a positive performance from Galway, but there is still a long way to go to improve ahead of the replay. Lots of space was conceded in the middle third of the field that allowed Kilkenny back into this encounter and many big name players didn't have their most productive day in camogie.

Martina Harkin was the outstanding performer in the first half and she was well supported by goalkeeper Helen Campbell, Alice Poniard at full back and Aisling Hobbins on the wing while Tara Rutledge was in fantastic form in attack, scoring 1-3 along with setting up numerous other scores.

The general viewpoint before these semi-finals was that Galway was the weakest link behind the big three of Cork, Derry and Kilkenny. The Cats may talk about complacency on their part but this is twice they haven't managed to defeat the Tribeswomen.

While Ann Downey made the necessary switches when required, the fact is this



Galway defender Aisling Hobbins is chased by Kilkenny's Lucinda Gahan during Saturday's All-Ireland intermediate camogie semi-final at Nowlan Park.



Galway's Julie Brien comes under pressure from Kilkenny's Ann Marie Phelan at Semple Stadium on Saturday.

encouraging performance came despite many Galway players letting this game pass them by. Another hard working effort from all 15 could see a showdown with the

Rebelettes in a second All-Ireland final this season.

Galway: H. Campbell, D. Coen, A. Poniard, M. Harkin, C. Kileen, S. Keane, A. Hobbins, C. Murray (c), P. Kenny, J. Brien (0-1), M. Conroy (0-3, two frees).

Kilkenny: E. Staunton (0-1), G. Kelly (0-1), T. Rutledge (1-3). Subs: C. Staunton for Moran (44 mins), C. Conroy for O'Sullivan.

Kilkenny: E. Staunton; S. Long, E. O'Shea, S. Brennan; L. Phelan, C. Dormer, A-M Phelan; J. Reddy, C. Ryan;

L. Kavanagh, L. Gahan, H. Maher (0-5); B. Neary; A. Fahey (0-2, 0-1 pen), C. Aylward (1-3, three frees). Subs: L. Fennelly for Long (10 mins), S. Kelly for Ryan (27 mins), S. Farrell (0-2) for Neary (HT), M. Brennan (0-1) for Kavanagh (52 mins).

Referee: A. Lagrue (Kildare)

Aug. 2008

Gill's late goal floors champs in thrilling tie

Galway set up All-Ireland camogie showdown with Cork thanks to stirring semi-final effort

Galway 1-13
Wexford 1-10

STEPHEN GLENNON
AT NOWLAN PARK

A JESSICA Gill goal four minutes into injury-time secured Galway a dramatic victory over reigning champions Wexford in a pulsating All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny last Sunday.

With the sides tied at 0-13 to 1-10 - after Wexford had staged a late rally, scoring 1-1, to wipe out Galway's four-point advantage - the Tribeswomen looked to be clinging on to their championship ambitions in the dying moments of the contest.

However, with the signalled injury-time already lapsed, a long delivery from the outstanding Therese Maher was broken by the wily Molly Dunne. For an instant, time stood still before Athenry's Gill emerged from the haze and with a quick flick of the wrist sent the ball crashing to the back of the Wexford net to set up an All-Ireland final showdown with Cork on September 14.

In many respects, Galway were due this rub of the green. Since the county's one and only All-Ireland victory in '96, they have suffered heartache after heartache, including defeat in their last All-Ireland final appearance all of ten years ago.

Now, though, they are back in the big-time and going on Sunday's second half display, they are entitled to harbour genuine hopes of securing the Duffy Cup on the second weekend of September.

Indeed, Galway appear to be a side transformed this year and hats off to the management trio of Damien Coleman, Anne Broderick and Liam Donoghue for their fresh and professional approach. They have certainly helped this group of players maximise their undoubted talent throughout the championship and the players, themselves, have definitely



Lourda Kavanagh and Ailbhe Kelly celebrate after Galway's All-Ireland semi-final victory over Wexford on Sunday.

responded.

Susan Earner was solid, once again, between the posts last Sunday, while the full-back line of Sandra Tannion, Ailbhe Kelly and Therese Manton arguably gave their best display of the year.

Full-back Kelly may feel she should have got a flick to the sliotar to deny Una Leacy and Wexford their late goal in injury-time, but the truth of the matter is that they held the opposition's full-forward line scoreless from play for almost 60 minutes.

In the half-backline, Anne Marie Hayes continues to be the Tribeswomen's most consistent performer, submitting another fearless performance, while captain Sinead Cahalan proved a leader among leaders with another impressive display in the centre back berth.

Aine Hillary - deployed to wing back to tie up sharpshooter Kate Kelly - hurled well, while teenager Niamh Kilkenny underlined her growing status in the game with yet another dashing showing when moved into the midfield sector.

The half-forward line can also be well happy with their offering. Centre-forward Therese Maher flitted between the attack, midfield and even defence throughout

and hurled ball with an intensity one has come to expect.

On the flanks, All-Star Veronica Curtin and Orla Kilkenny also worked hard, chipping in with three points and one point respectively, while Jessica Gill undoubtedly played her best camogie of the match when moved into this sector. Gill finished with a personal tally of 1-6, 0-4 frees.

Of the other forwards, Molly Dunne toiled diligently over the 60 minutes plus, while substitutes Lourda Kavanagh and Brenda Kerins also impressed when introduced, with both finding the target.

Indeed, Galway now look to have the strength and depth which any team needs to compete successfully at this level and it would appear the management face a number of selection headaches heading into the decider.

For it is also worth noting that dual players Sarah Noone and Catriona Cormican were not used on Sunday, as they had played in the ladies' footballers' energy absorbing joust with Cork the previous evening. They will also be pushing hard for game time in the All-Ireland decider over the coming weeks.

As for last Sunday, Galway

had started tentatively enough, with their initial play steeped with nervousness. Their handling was jittery, while their combination play was a little unsure.

Consequently, despite having the wind at their backs in the first half, Galway failed to secure the lead by the break, with the score tied at 0-5 apiece. Gill (2), Curtin (2) and Maher were the Galway providers during this period, while Kate Kelly, now operating on the '40, was the scorer-in-chief for the Model County, registering all of her outfit's points.

Galway, though, came out a team transformed in the second half, outscoring their opponents by four points to one in the opening six minutes. Firstly, Gill and Kelly traded frees, before Curtin, Orla Kilkenny and Gill (free) nudged the Westerners into a 0-9 to 0-6 lead.

With the contest hitting higher and higher intensity levels, the exchanges became tighter and tenser. Kelly reduced the arrears to two, but a cracking point from Kerins - after a super delivery down the wing by Maher - edged Galway into a three-point lead again.

Kelly responded for the umpteenth time for Wexford, converting a free, but two points from Gill (one free) gave Galway a four-point advantage heading into the final six minutes. Caroline Murphy, then, took up the mantle from Kelly - who had contributed all of the champions' scores up to this - when tallying a fine point on 55 minutes, but this was quickly cancelled out by Kavanagh, following a smart delivery from Curtin. Time almost up, four points to the good, it seemed Galway were home and hosed.

However, something stirred in Wexford. A Murphy delivery ran in behind the Galway defence and while it looked like Ailbhe Kelly would get a touch to knock it out of harm's way, Una Leacy snuck in to force the sliotar beyond Earner on 58 min-



Galway's Veronica Curtin looks in control of this situation against Wexford's Deirdre Codd in the All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final at Nowlan Park on Saturday.

utes.

Wexford then pressed for the equaliser and they got it. Leacy was fouled approximately 30 yards from goal and Kelly supplied the finish to the placed ball to level matters in the first minute of injury-time.

True to their title, Wexford subsequently pushed on for the winner, but brave defend-

ing by the Galway backs, in particular a wonderful block by Therese Manton on substitute Katrina Parrock, kept the All-Ireland champions at bay.

In turn, Galway launched their final assault, when that long ball from Maher was knocked to ground by Dunne, and Gill was on hand to steer it home for a famous

victory. Game, set and match.

For many years, Galway have been stalled at the toll bridge on the N6 to Croke. Well, they have paid their dues. The barrier has been raised. Now, it's open road all the way to Jones' Road and, hopefully, those famed succinct steps of the Hogan Stand.

Galway: S. Earner, S. Tannion, A. Kelly, T.

Manton; A.M. Hayes, S. Cahalan, N. Kilkenny; A. Hillary, L. Ryan, O. Kilkenny (0-1), T. Maher (0-1), V. Curtin (0-3), M. Dunne, J. Gill (1-6, 0-4 frees), D. Burke. Subs: L. Kavanagh (0-1) for Ryan (28 mins.); B. Kerins (0-1) for D. Burke (16/17). Wexford: M. D'Arcy; N. Lambert, C. O'Loughlin, B. Holohan; A. O'Connor, M. Leacy, D. Codd; A. Codd, M. O'Leary; U. Leacy (1-0), R. M'Brien, C. Murphy (0-1); B. Curran, K. Kelly (0-8, 0-8 frees), U. Jacob. Subs: K. Parrock for Curran (38 mins.); B. Furlong for A. Codd (45 mins.).

Referee: E. Browne (Tipperary).

Positive approach stands Galway in good stead

STEPHEN GLENNON

THE groundsman at Nowlan Park was in a tizzy. Here, there and everywhere, the maroon and white herd were trampling on his hallowed turf. His pride and joy. There they were, with their big, broad, brimming smiles. He was coming to the end of his tether.

They say patience is a virtue, but such a virtue was in short supply at the Kilkenny venue last Sunday. For while the groundsman was dealing in minutes, little did he realise that Galway camogie has been trading in time segments of far greater portions. If only he had known how long Galway camogie had waited for this moment.

Galway's last gasp victory over reigning All-Ireland champions Wexford in a pulsating semi-final was like loosening the release valve on a nuclear sub. The emotion, oh the emotion, was unbridled, and for those euphoric post-match minutes, every man, woman and child clad in the colour of the Tribes forgot their troubles and rejoiced in a sweet, sweet victory.

For this was the day. The day when a decade of semi-final disappointments were laid to rest. The day when Galway's senior ambassadors qualified for their first tilt in over a decade at the O'Duffy Cup. The day when Galway camogie finally rose from the ashes of heartbreaks and heartaches, when the embers were rekindled, before the fire, and the passion, was finally set ablaze.

"I am just ecstatic," beamed coach Damien Coleman. "We knew we had the capabilities and potential to get where we are, but the reality is that it is very hard to go and do it on any given day,



Galway defender Sandra Tannion clears her lines despite the attentions of Wexford's Ursula Jacob in last Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final at Nowlan Park.

especially against the All-Ireland champions.

"We had Wexford beaten already in the championship, so that was like waking up a sleeping giant. So we knew it would take only an extraordinary performance to get us to an All-Ireland final, and thankfully the girls came good in the second half."

That said, in the first period, at the end of which the sides were tied at 0-5 apiece, the omens did not look good for a wind-assisted Galway. Coleman believed, however, that the Tribeswomen had suffered from nothing more than a lit-

tle stage fright.

"When you have expectancy in the squad it adds extra pressures," continued the Portumna man. "And we do expect to win these games now. We told everyone (at half-time) that there was a half hour to go at it and that All-Ireland semi-finals don't need to be won pretty. So we went at it, wholeheartedly, one hundred percent. Thank God all the physical fitness stood to us, all the technical and tactical work stood to us, and that the mental fitness really came through for us at the finish."

Yet, in the dying minutes, it

really was touch and go for Galway. Having seen their four-point lead wiped out, it took a Jessica Gill goal deep into injury time to book the Westerners place in September's decider. Coleman attributed the 1-13 to 1-10 win to positive thinking.

"We banned negativity all year," said the coach. "We didn't allow any person to be negative any night at training and we carried that into the matches as well. Nobody is allowed to say anything that is not positive to another player. And that all just stands to you. "When you think that just

one score is going to separate you and the opposition in the first round of the championship or that one score is going to be the difference of being in an All-Ireland final or not, you have to have everything positive. It really worked out for us.

"When the ball hit the net, I jumped up on somebody, whoever was nearest to me. I think he was a Wexford lad for a finish and he wasn't a bit impressed. We have not been in this situation, though, in Galway senior camogie for 10 or 12 years.

"These girls have gone now

where a generation of camogie players, a decade of camogie players, have not been before. They are in an All-Ireland final. We will keep our feet on the ground and we will work hard from here on in."

Anne Broderick, who is part of the three-person management team alongside Coleman and former Galway hurler Liam Donoghue, took particular pleasure in the victory. An All-Ireland medal winner with Galway in '96, the former player lined out for the county in its last All-Ireland final appearance, a defeat to Cork, back in '98.

"It was an absolute brilliant win today. I definitely thought the ref (Eamon Browne) was going to blow it for a draw game, and he didn't, fair play to him. We love you Eamon!" chuckled the delighted selector.

"Fair play to Molly Dunne and Jessie (Gill) though. Molly set it up really and Jessie flicked it in. It really was unbelievable. We are now playing Cork in the final and I really think we can do it this year."

One of those who played through some of the torments, failures and disappointments of the last decade, no one more than Broderick realised just what their semi-final victory on Sunday meant to Galway camogie.

"It means so much," said the Davitts woman. "After the match, so many of the '96 team were out congratulating us and I mean the County Board, supporters and everyone were just so happy. Just to get over this hurdle it has been so hard in previous years and I think this means a lot to people. It has been too long for Galway camogie and I can't understand it, because the players are there."

Meanwhile, captain Sinead Cahalan said it was a combination of factors which

brought about Sunday's semi-final success - from the commitment the players made back in January right through to the professional approach took by the management and the squad to Sunday's game.

"There is something special about this year as well. There is a different morale, a bond between the girls. We have just 25, so it is a fairly tight knit panel. I couldn't exactly put my finger on one thing; it is just a combination of a lot of different things.

"I think it is also that we don't want another year to pass us by, no matter what happens," said the Mullagh stalwart. "There is just a pure

and savage hunger this year."

Whatever the reason or reasons behind the team's impressive campaign so far, they are now only 60 minutes plus away from claiming only a second ever All-Ireland senior title for the county. Headquarters beckon.

"We are so delighted to be heading to Croke Park. We said at the beginning of our year that there were eight steps in our journey and we have seven steps fully completed. We are at step eight now and we are going to do everything we possibly can to win that All-Ireland. It is all we want now," insisted Cahalan.

Gala All Ireland title goes to Meath
Second half surge secures spoils for Meath women on September 2008

Five second-half goals did the trick as Meath got the better of Roscommon by the narrowest margin in the All-Ireland Junior B camogie final at O'Duffy's, County Carlow on Sunday afternoon.

Meath 0-10
Roscommon 1-4

The outcome left John Davis' charges in possession of the Nancy Murray Cup and hopes for defeat to Laois in last year's decider.

Meath were in a spot of bother when trailing by the minimum margin, 0-5 to 1-3, at half-time but with Jane Dolan leading the way in attack they outscored Roscommon, whom they had defeated earlier in the year in the Division 4 league decider.

The efforts of Caroline Connaughton in the Roscommon goals prevented Meath from raising a couple of green flags after the restart while the winners' defence held firm against a late onslaught from the Connacht side.

Meath's defence third period free increased the Roscommon lead in the 35th minute before a Dolan effort from play and a long distance free from team captain Aileen Donnelly sealed up the scores for third and penultimate time.

Meath's Frances Lynch and Roscommon's most potent attacker Annette McKeown exchanged scores before Dolan's fourth point saw the Royal County side regain the upper hand in the 50th minute.

Dolann Lynch doubled Meath's advantage in the 57th minute, but in a prolonged spell of stoppage time a series of Roscommon raids only yielded a white flag for Clare Curry.

Player of the match Gold Day and skipper Donnelly as well as Margara Sheehy and full-back Laura Donegan all made telling contributions as the Meath defence held firm to become the third winners of this competition.

Playing towards the action and at this important home Camogie venue, Meath were quick off the mark and a brace of Sinéad Hickman points left them 0-4 to 0-1 to the good after 15 minutes.

Defensive stalwart Aileen Donnelly secured the score to the Meath net and gave a 1-2 to 0-4 after 22 minutes.

Elizabeth Lynch's first point quickly levelled matters.

However, Roscommon finished the half on the up with Higgins landing a 27th minute free to give her side a slender internal advantage. Meath started the second-half exchanges by 0-5 to 0-3 and took forward to playing championship camogie at a higher pace next year.

Meath - E. Higgins, M. Sheehy, L. Donegan, K. West, E. Day, A. Donnelly (0-1, free), L. Donoghue, A. H. Ryan, L. Flynn, E. O'Leary, F. Lynch (0-1), S. Hickman (0-2), E. Lynch (0-2), J. Dolan (0-4, 2 frees), S. Heenan, S. O'S - A. Keogh for Hickman (35 mins).

Roscommon - C. Connaughton, E. Farrell, N. Connolly, S. O'Leary, C. O'Brien, D. Kelly, C. Morris, C. Ryan, K. Higgins (0-1, free), C. Moran, A. McKeown (0-1), F. Lennon, E. Day, F. Connel (1-0), C. Curry (0-2), S. O'S - R. Fallon for Connel (half-time), C. Rogers for Day (47 mins).

Referee - P. Walsh (Wexford).
In other news, hosts Tyrone emerged victorious from a junior size which took place on Sunday.

The final hands delivered Windsor in the final of a competition which also featured Carlow and Monaghan.

Aug 2008

Big chance for Milford

To make semis would be a great feat for Douglas girls



Regina Curtin has been a superb performer for Milford.

TOMORROW
Evening Echo Senior County
Championship quarter-final,
Muskerry v Milford,
Killavullen, 3pm

BACK to club action this weekend as the *Evening Echo* Senior Championship resumes and what better game to get the weekend off to a start than the meeting of county champions Muskerry and Milford.

This eagerly-awaited clash is one which will bring a big crowd to Killavullen and certainly it has the makings of an exciting contest.

Milford have been inactive since their opening round game on June 29 when they recorded an impressive victory over Courcy Rovers, their tally of 35 points had followers pencilling them in as likely champions.

When the draws were made for round three, they could not have got harder opposition than the county title holders, but the challenge is one they will relish as they bid to

By **MARY NEWMAN**

Camogie

topple the Muskerry girls from their throne.

Milford have enjoyed huge success at underage level, taking every title from U12 to minor, while they have also impressively captured adult titles from junior B to senior B, but still the big one has eluded them.

Defeated in the county final of 2005 by Carrigdhoun, Milford have battled hard to reach the same level since and they would dearly love to add a coveted senior title to their list of achievements.

Many feel their chance may have passed but their display last time leads us to believe there is plenty in the tank.

They have superb performers in Regina Curtin, Elaine O'Riordan, the Watson sisters Maire and Elmeir, while younger players Sarah Sexton and Rebecca Finn have slotted into the senior set-up.

Without doubt, they have been one of the county's most successful underage clubs but

still they strive to turn it into a senior crown.

Down through the years mentors, such as Leila Long and Ann Watson have continued to produce excellent underage players and maybe their time has come to make the big leap forward.

Reports are that Anna Geary is available following a stint studying abroad and she will be a huge asset to the defence if named.

One of Cork's finest defenders, Geary's stint abroad on study duties robbed the Cork senior team of an excellent performer and her return will be a huge boost to her club.

Muskerry were crowned champions last season for the first time in 72 years and so far in this campaign they have performed well.

They came through the divisional section of the championship, defeating Imokilly before they finally shook off the challenge posed by Carrigdhoun in a tight contest before going on to defeat Barryroe in round two.

Backboned by players from

Ballincollig, Éire Óg, Rockbawn and Grenagh, they can call on intercounty players Síle Burns, Cathriona Foley, Linda Dorgan, Margaret O'Herlihy, Slobhán Gleeson, Denise Cronin and Leah Weste.

Divisional sides have traditionally found it hard to get organised but this is not the case with Muskerry, who gathered together an impressive side last season. Con Malone and Dan Joe Foley are shrewd mentors with the side and they will leave no stones unturned.

The champions have strength in depth and this will stand to them, however Milford have plenty of power and they will not be deterred at meeting the champions this one will go down to the wire and come 4.30pm on Saturday we could well be looking at the eventual champions.

Muskerry, with two good games under their belts, are well organised but Milford know that for them, it is possibly now or never and one feels that their hour may just have arrived.

SUNDAY

Evening Echo Senior
Camogie quarter-final,
Douglas v St Catherine's,
Sarsfields, 12.15pm

DOUGLAS and St Catherine's square up in the quarter final of this year's championship in Sarsfields on Sunday, writes **LINDA MELLERICK**.

There was a possibility that club games would be postponed this weekend due to Cork's success last Saturday in the All-Ireland semi-final but, with a Munster deadline to be reached and Cork facing another year without provincial inclusion, the games had to go ahead.

The Cork mentors will be keeping their fingers crossed that Amanda O'Regan and Orla Cotter walk away injury-free.

O'Regan and Cotter, however, won't be holding back. Both players are indispensable and won't let their clubs down.

In this, their first year at the top, Douglas had a nice baptism of fire with a 1-17 to 1-4 victory over Aghabullogue in round one. This hurdled them to round three, which is, in effect, the quarter-finals.

Douglas's fantastic success at underage has borne fruition and it is great to witness clubs progress from winning national Féile titles to participating in the quarter-finals of the Cork senior championship. Douglas epitomise the grassroots success story.

Can they go one further?

It was their second-half performance against Aghabullogue which saw them propel to victory. Enjoying a 0-5 to 0-1 interval lead,

Douglas dictated the early exchanges in the second half and stretched their lead to nine points.

Aghabullogue threw everything at the city side as they refused to wilt but strong Douglas's defending held them at bay.

Julia White, Katrina Mackey and the O'Donovans, Aileen and Jenny, sealed Douglas's victory with a late rally.

1-17 is good scoring on any day. Douglas's ability to pick off points is impressive. Cork U16 Katrina Mackey, Julia White, Marie Harkin and the O'Donovan's will absorb a lot of St Catherine's efforts.

St Catherine's have also made tremendous strides in this, their second season in the top flight, and are to be respected at senior level. They had a marvellous morale boosting victory over favourites Cloughduv in round one thanks to an injury-time Deirdre Twomey goal.

Twelve months ago, St Catherine's suffered a heavy defeat to the same opponents (0-10 to 3-14) but swung the pendulum this time around and will surely face Douglas with confidence at a premium.

Orla Cotter and Denise and Deirdre Twomey are the big names to watch out for and Douglas will have to be tight at the back to cope with the flighty Twomeys.

It's a big game for both clubs. Advancement to the semi-finals would be huge, in particular for Douglas in their debut season.

This one is hard to call. Expect it to go down to the wire.



Julia White, an important player for Douglas.

Aug. 2008

Garvan to get the better of Inniscarra

SUNDAY
Evening Echo Senior
Championship quarter-final,
Ballygarvan v Inniscarra,
Brinny 6.15pm

BOTH sides come into this tie via different routes, Ballygarvan lost out to St Finbarr's in a close opening round game where three point separated the sides at the final whistle *writes* MARY NEWMAN.

However, they regrouped to defeat Courcey Rovers in a back-door clash where they had to battle hard to gain control, but battle they did and they are here on merit.

Inniscarra recorded a superb victory over Barryroe in round one and were pleased to have negotiated their opening round safely.

With a place up for grabs in the semi-final they will be going all out to repeat the performance of the first round.

Both clubs have worked hard to establish themselves at senior level in a bid to take their first senior county title, Inniscarra have enjoyed huge underage success, taking Cork Féile na nGael titles as well as underage crowns and they are striving to build their senior team around these players.

Against Barryroe they had tremendous displays from their younger brigade, Cork U16s Katie O'Mahony and Joanne Casey showed maturity beyond their years, confidently striking vital scores while Cork minor Niamh Dilworth was also prominent, as was goalkeeper Sinéad Ni Riain, who made crucial saves at vital stages denying Barryroe on at least three occasions.

They will also welcome back Rena Buckley to their line-out, Rena has been abroad for three months but she did figure in their meeting with Barryroe and she is hugely influential with the younger players.

Ballygarvan will also feature several young players in their line-out and they, like Inniscarra, have enjoyed plenty underage success.

Lorraine Browne, Christina Murphy and Aisling Byrne are among the younger brigade who have featured in their championship games to date and they have slotted in well with experienced players of the calibre of Emer Dillon, Nora Hallinane, Catriona Kelly and Deirdre Daly, who have all given tremendous service to Ballygarvan over the years.

In their clash with St Finbarr's, Catriona Kelly was inspirational, contributing five points to their tally and she drove her side on with a superb performance.

Ballygarvan will look to Kelly for another big game as they strive to over come Inniscarra.

Both clubs would dearly love a place in the semi-final and a tilt at either Muskerry or Milford.

Inniscarra are a spirited side that will not give up without a fight but, given Ballygarvan's experience at this level, they get the nod.



Gemma O'Connor will be trying to help Barrs regain their title this year.

Barrs get the nod to make it to semis

SUNDAY
Evening Echo Senior
Championship quarter-final,
St Finbarr's v Cloughduv,
Brinny, 4.30pm

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie

LAST YEAR, the sides met at semi-final stage with St Finbarr's coming out on top with six points to spare and down through the years these sides have built up a keen rivalry meeting on several occasions.

Cloughduv last tasted success in 2005, Barrs were champions in 2006, so it promises to be an exciting clash as they renew rivalry once again.

St Finbarr's lost their county titles to Muskerry in last year final and they will be determined to regain control this year.

In their opening game they had a close call, having to hold off the stiff challenge posed by Ballygarvan but they held their nerve to carve out a

three-point victory.

Cork senior players Gemma O'Connor and Lynda O'Connell are big players for them and they are ably assisted by Jenny Duffy who is also a member of the Cork squad.

Former intercounty player Vivienne Harris is enjoying her role in their forward line and she will cause problems for the Cloughduv as will Rachel Myers, Orla O'Sullivan and Valerie Maher while younger player Niamh Cooke is performing well in her first season on the senior team.

Cloughduv are experienced championship campaigners, two years ago they relinquished their title at the semi-final stage to Imokilly and they also know what is required to take ultimate honours, they are the holders of three senior county titles and have been there before.

They are a strong side backed by four of the Cork senior side, goalkeeper Aoife Murray, Briege Corkery, Joanne O'Callaghan and Una O'Donoghue, while Marie Corkery is on the county Intermediate side.

All are hugely experienced players and when you add in players such as Emma and Eva Dunne and Sinéad Buckley and the strength of Cloughduv is very evident.

Cloughduv lost out in their opening game to St Catherine's to a last-minute goal but they bounced back to record a back-door victory over neighbours Aghabullogue.

On Sunday the midfield battle could have a huge bearing.

Against Aghabullogue, Briege Corkery and Jean Lucey were by far the dominant force and St Finbarr's will need to close this duo down, if they are allowed a free role they hold the potential to cause problems.

Gemma O'Connor is the a big performer for the Barrs, it remains to

be seen if she lines out in the middle of the park or if the Barrs will free her up to take up a role in attack.

They have lots of options, with players such as Orla O'Sullivan performing superbly on their junior team in recent outings, it won't come as a surprise to see her amongst their starting 15.

It's hard to call a winner, two points separated the sides in 2006, St Finbarrs had six to spare last year.

Aoife Murray minds the net for Cloughduv and she will be hard to pass, likewise Ellen Clifford for the Barrs, every score will be crucial.

Cloughduv will be out to reverse last year's result but the Barrs, driven on by Gemma O'Connor could have too much strength.

A close one is on the cards, don't rule out a draw, but a very tentative nod after much deliberations goes to the city girls to keep their challenge on course and stay in contention for title number two.

WELL, Cork and Galway have made it to the final hurdle.

Tipperary probably never really believed they would get there this year if they are honest, but they put up a tremendous fight for 43 minutes last Saturday and for this they deserve great credit.

On top of previous big-name retirements, the Premier lost Emer McDonnell, one of the country's most respected forwards, Una O'Dwyer, a formidable full-back, and Sinead Nealon, a defender of quality, this season.

Cork's purple patch in which they scored 2-2 without reply was an incredible shifting of gears which would have held its own in Formula 1.

An excellent overhead strike for goal from Rachel Moloney, a free from the same player, a magnificent goal from Una O'Donoghue and a Sile Burns point put an insurmountable gap between the sides.

Rachel Moloney is having a great championship season. Outside of her work ethic on the pitch, she has been deadly accurate from placed balls (0-25) and has contributed an impressive 2-16 from play.

She has recaptured the form which saw her claim an All-Star in 2005.

Orla Cotter also had a fine game. Now in her third season, where she has grown significantly in stature, the consistency in her play is commendable. She works very hard, delivers intelligent ball in and is very capable of bounding forward from midfield/half-forward and taking her own scores.

Another player who has rarely grabbed the headlines or the plaudits since her introduction this season to the senior panel is St Finbarr's Lynda O'Connell.

Lynda was on the senior panel in 2005. Not really figuring, she withdrew in 2006 to concentrate on the senior B team, where she held a pivotal role.

The B team won the All-Ireland title in 2006. Lynda became captain in 2007 but the team lost the final after a replay to Limerick.

Invited back onto the senior panel for the 2008 season, Lynda took up the offer. She has figured in all of Cork's league and championship games to date.

Last Saturday, O'Connell had one of her best games. A lot of ball went down her wing and, while one might rarely see fancy clearances and she may never stand head and shoulders above the rest, Lynda did a good job.

Her opponents aren't getting anything easy and her no nonsense, stubborn style of play can be worth its weight in gold.

So it's Galway that Cork face on September 14. I'm going to contradict myself here because I have two opinions on Galway.

Cork can beat a hungry Galway



Tipperary's Claire Grogan in action against Catriona Foley of Cork during the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final last weekend.



Tipperary's Geraldine Kinnane in action against Gemma O'Connor of Cork in Nowlan Park last Sunday.



Linda Mellerick

One, from a Cork point of view, is that they are going to be harder to beat than Wexford. Two, I have reservations as to how good Galway truly are. Their hunger impressed me, so too did their passion. Their defence, midfield and forwards did too in parts.

The fact that six of their players, including two substitutes, got on the scoresheet is a strong factor. However Wexford were very poor; they scored only 1-2 from play (the goal in injury time) in the entire game and no matter how good the Galway defence may or may not have been, that is an appalling return in an All-Ireland semi-final.

And yet Wexford could have stolen this game at the finish. Four points down with three minutes remaining on the clock, they levelled it. Well into injury time, it was Wexford who were attacking. A rather harsh free for overcarrying saw the free out end up in a goal for Galway.

Wexford were very poor all year. For a very young team to experience the incredible celebrations that followed their All-Ireland triumph last September it was bound to have an impact. They celebrated well into 2008 and never really came back down to earth. Despite losing earlier rounds, Wexford possibly still didn't believe the day

would come that they would be knocked out. The majority of this team have never experienced an All-Ireland defeat. They still haven't as such but the All-Ireland semi-final loss will hurt them Sunday fortnight when they realise that it could have been them out in Croke Park.

I felt that Wexford might have turned it around these past few weeks but they didn't and the truth is, it just isn't possible. You can't decide six months into a season that you all of a sudden feel like winning and expect to switch it on.

Galway made their intentions clear very early on and the difference in who wanted it most was evident last Sunday.

It's 10 years since Galway have been in an All-Ireland final. And boy are they hungry! Despite my impression of last Saturday, this All-Ireland will be difficult to win. But win it we can.

ST CATHERINE'S

Minor league/championship

Our U18 team played host to Valley Rovers on Sunday morning last in their third game of this round robin championship.

The Innishannon side proved too strong for what is a very young St. Catherine's team.

We made a bright start to the game, scoring 1-1 in the opening five minutes. At Valley Rovers dominated the remainder of the half to lead by 4-3 to 1-5 at half-time.

Our girls tried their hardest in the second half but could not turn things around and Valleys ran out deserving winners.

Team: A Hartnett; E Murphy, C Clancy, F Feeney; S Barry, A O'Keefe, N O'Donoghue; J Hurley, A Collins; R O'Callaghan, F Cotter, L Burnster; K England, F Neville, M Galvin.

Sub: A Hurley for M Galvin.

Scorers: Finola Neville 1-1, Fiona Cotter 0-6 (0-2f).

Senior county championship

Our senior team is scheduled to play Douglas in the second round of this

competition tomorrow (Sunday) in Riverstown at 12.15pm.

Inetercounty players

Well done to Cork senior and intermediate camogie teams who defeated Tipperary and Derry respectively over the weekend and earned themselves a place in this year's All-Ireland finals.

Well done to Orla Cotter, who lined out with Cork's senior team, and to Denise Leahy, Orna Neville and Noreen Mulcahy, who are all on Cork's Intermediate panel.

ST FINBARR'S

St Finbarr's junior side has collected maximum points from the two games that they have played in the Cork junior B shield.

In their first outing, they scored a 1-11 to 1-6 win over Glen Rovers at Togh.

Orla O'Sullivan was the top forward on view and finished with a personal tally of 1-6, which included some delightful points. Ellen Crowley was a dominant figure in midfield and sent a steady supply of ball to the attack. Susan Ken-

nefick, Jenny Coughlan and Ciara Sargent contributed to the victory.

Forced to take the field against Aghabullogue short five of the team which fielded against Glen Rovers including Orla O'Sullivan and Ellen Crowley, the Barrs rose to the challenge and collected a brace of valuable points.

Triona Fitzpatrick led the charge with two well-taken goals. Shirley Burns and Sarah Browner secured victory with a goal apiece. Barbara Ann Corcoran tapped over two points while Heather Morgan struck a fine point from the wing.

Valerie Hostford, Katie Leisk, Chloe O'Sullivan, Ciara Sargent and Claire Harrington stood out all through the match.

Congratulations to the Barrs girls who helped Cork reach All-Ireland finals over the weekend. Gemma O'Connor, Linda O'Connell and Jenny Duffy had a significant input in Cork's win over Tipperary in the senior semi-final.

Claire Spellman and Rachel Myers

travelled back from Mullingar with a win over Derry and a place in the All-Ireland intermediate final.

Calling all club members to plan now for your trip to Dublin on September 14 to support the Barrs' girls in their effort to bring the O'Duffy Cup back.

GLEN ROVERS

Our junior team lost out in a close contest played in Coachford on Thursday last, the final scoreline of 0-5 to 0-4 did not do justice to the efforts of a young side who lost out by the narrowest of margins. Our opponents hit all but one of the scores from frees while we showed plenty of skill from play with Barbara Kenefick and Nicole O'Brien very much to the fore, certainly the final score line did not do justice to the tremendous display from all of our girls well done to everyone.

U16 championship games

A busy few days ahead for both of our U16 teams, who contest championship games.

First into the arena are our second

U16 side, who play host to Banteer on Saturday. Throw in is at 6.30pm, anybody attending the game is asked to park their cars in the lower car park.

On Tuesday night next, our first U16 team meet Ballygarvan in their championship opening game, this will take place in Glen Rovers at 6.30pm, players are asked to meet for both games at 5.15pm. The first team are asked to note that they are meeting for training on Monday at 6pm sharp.

Congratulations to Cork on reaching the All-Ireland final and to Denise Cronin Jim Mc Carthy and their fellow selectors on the display of their charges.

Underage activities resume

A reminder to all our young players from U12 down to U6 that Sunday morning training resumes this weekend at usual time of 11.45am and continues Tuesday at 5.45pm. Looking forward to seeing everybody back this week.

Club shop

A reminder that the club shop now has a full range of jerseys, hoodies and club tops for sale. It is open on Mondays and Fridays at 7.30pm.

Compiled by Mary Newman

CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

Aug. 2008

Dillon drives Ballygarvan into semi final stages

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

Ballygarvan 2-14
Inniscarra 1-3

THE second game on the double-bill at Brinny last evening was a one-sided affair.

Ballygarvan, spearheaded by former Cork senior Emer Dillon, who struck some magnificent points from all angles, powered their way past a young Inniscarra side to book their spot in the semi-final of the *Evening Echo* Senior County Championship.

The signs were ominous from the early stages as the more experienced Ballygarvan raced into an early lead, Catriona Kelly's point after just two minutes was quickly followed by a further five as Emer Dillon and Suzanne Lynch added their names to the score sheet.

By the 19th minute, Catriona Kelly had fired home a goal but Inniscarra battled away and the score they needed came five minutes from the break when Margaret Noelle O'Sullivan finished to the net.

Inniscarra came in search of more but strong defending from a well-disciplined Ballygarvan defence gave them no way through, Katie O'Mahony and Emer Dillon swapped points as Ballygarvan led 1-9 to 1-1 at the interval.

Emma Kingston had an Inniscarra point inside four minutes of the restart but they failed to up their game as Ballygarvan settled quickly into a second half pattern that was similar to the first.

Their defence was well in control over a physically-light Inniscarra attack that failed to make any real headway, at midfield they held control while in attack they continued to dominate. Catriona Kelly showed her accuracy, pointing a free 13 minutes into the half before the Inniscarra defence stood firm against a penalty shot with Aine Ni Riain blocking on the line. Ballygarvan wrapped the game up as a contest when Lorraine Browne finished to the net.

Suzanne Lynch and Niamh Dilworth exchanged points but, finishing with a flourish, Emer Dillon and Catriona Kelly added points to ensure their semi-final spot against St Finbarr's was guaranteed.

Scorers for Ballygarvan: C Kelly 1-5 (0-3), 0-2 (45), E Dillon 0-7, L Browne 1-0, S Lynch 0-2.

Inniscarra: MN O'Sullivan 1-0, K O'Mahony, E Kingston, N Dilworth 0-1 each.

BALLYGARVAN: A O'Neill; M Hallinane, A Moynihan, SA O'Halloran; J Browne, S O'Donovan, N Hallinane; V Browne, L Browne; A Murphy, E Dillon, C Kelly (capt); D Daly, A Browne, S Lynch.

Subs: C Murphy for A Browne (43), A Byrne for L Browne (54).

INNISCARRA: A Ni Riain; R McCarthy (c), C O'Brien, M Buckley, T Murphy, R Buckley, K Jones; E Kingston, N Dilworth; M Cosgrave, MN O'Sullivan, A Kavanagh; K O'Mahony, L Hayes, J Casey.

Subs: M O'Connell for M Cosgrave (23), G Desmond for MN O'Sullivan (45), A O'Keefe for M Buckley (50).

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers)



Muskerry's Alanna McKenna reaching high for the ball during the *Evening Echo* Senior Camogie County Championship quarter-final against Milford in Killavullen.

Picture: Richard Mills.

Burns propels the champions forward

Muskerry 3-13
Milford 1-12

By MARY NEWMAN

In Killavullen

MILFORD were latest to fall under the bandwagon of county champions Muskerry on its way to the last four of the *Evening Echo* senior county championship.

This had been pencilled in to be one of the games of the championship but if failed to live up to expectations.

The champions were simply too strong for the club side.

They battled hard but with Sile Burns striking 10 points from places balls and a goal from play, Milford simply had no reply.

Early indications suggested that Milford were going to trouble Muskerry but once the champions got to grips with the situation they weathered the storm and dealt confidently with Milford.

Goals proved vital, and Muskerry grabbed three of them.

The first was scrambled over the line after Valerie Mulcahy's attempt struck the upright and bounced back into play.

The second was a long-range effort for a point which deceived everybody to nestle in the top corner of the net.

The third came two minutes into the second half and gave Muskerry a vital cushion, quashing any Milford revival.

The signs were good for Milford — they struck four points in as many minutes to sneak into an early lead after Margaret Howard finished Mulcahy's attempt to the back of the net.

A fortuitous long-distance goal from Sile Burns eight minutes in gave Muskerry a lead they never relinquished.

From here to half-time they registered seven points while in between Milford struck three as they wasted several chances striking six wides to Muskerry's one.

Through the opening half Elaine O'Riordan was to the fore for Milford, proving a hand full for the Muskerry defence.

Anna Geary and Emer Watson worked tirelessly to get Milford into the game but they met strident resistance from a Muskerry side led by excellent performers Linda Dorgan, Elaine Casey and, of course, Burns.

Milford began the second half well and again it was Elaine O'Riordan who led the way, firing over a point inside a minute of the restart to narrow Muskerry's lead to five points.

Sile Burns had it back to six with a pointed free.

Three minutes into the half the Milford defence stood by as Muskerry put the game beyond their reach.

They allowed Elaine Casey waltz from midfield to the edge of the



Muskerry's Linda Dorgan getting the ball away from a Milford challenge.

Picture: Richard Mills.

square before finishing to the net for the game's third goal.

Burns and Emer Watson traded points and Milford again tried to up their game and won a penalty but Emer Watson's attempt was save on the line by Elaine Harte.

Muskerry opened up an eight-point advantage but Emer Watson's goal brought Milford within five points and when the same player pointed a free with 10 minutes remaining they were left with a chance.

Sensing a new urgency in Milford, Muskerry upped their game and with Catriona Foley now able for Elaine O'Riordan, and with Linda Dorgan excellent in midfield, Muskerry were in control.

Beginning to run out of steam, Milford conceded two frees which

Sile Burns slotted over.

And with Denise Cronin adding a late point, the champions were cruising into the semi-finals at the final whistle.

Scorers for Muskerry: S Burns 1-10 (0-9), 0-1 (45), E Casey 1-1, M Howard 1-0, L Dorgan 0-1 each.

Milford: E Watson 1-0 (0-5), 0-1 (45), C O'Gorman, S O'Flynn, E O'Riordan 0-1 each.

MUSKERRY: E Harte (Rockban); L Weste (Ballincollig); S Gleeson (Eire Og); K Mc Carthy (Eire Og); L Murphy (Eire Og); C Foley (Rockban); M O'Donoghue (Ballincollig); L Dorgan (Glenagh); D Cronin (Ballincollig); E Casey (Rockban); A Mc Kenna (Eire Og); V Mulcahy (Rockban); M Howard (Rockban); S Burns (Rockban) (capt.); M O'Herlihy (Eire Og). **Subs:** T Howard (Rockban) for M Howard (Rockban).

MILFORD: C Galvin; L Healy; R Curtin; D O'Reilly (capt.); A Watson; R Finn; A Geary; S Sexton; A Thompson; C O'Gorman; E O'Riordan; M Watson; S O'Flynn; E Watson; J Sheehy. **Subs:** L O'Flynn for J Sheehy (half-time), M Geary for C O'Gorman (58).

Barrs stay on course for final

St Finbarr's 2-13
Cloughduv 1-9

ST FINBARR'S remain on course for their third county final appearance in three years after defeating Cloughduv in the quarter-final of the Cork County Senior Camogie championship in Brinny yesterday.

Withstanding an early Cloughduv onslaught, St Finbarr's weathered the storm to record a winning margin of seven points.

A very heavy shower before the game led to a slippery surface. Cloughduv played with the wind advantage and made full use of it in the opening 20 minutes.

Ber Maher and Breige Corkery swapped points in the opening two. Cloughduv settled best in general play. Joanne O'Callaghan cleared good ball from centre-back, Orla McCarthy doing likewise.

With Jean Lucey and Marie Corkery winning the midfield battle, Brieger Corkery, lining out at full-forward, received an ample supply.

And she caused havoc! All Brieger needed was a bit of space to gain momentum and she took on the Barrs defence.

With the game sitting at two points apiece 13 minutes in, Corkery did just that. Drawing the entire back six, her flick inside to the unmarked Claire O'Donoghue was whipped first-time to the net.

Cloughduv were flying and should have had more scores on the board but poor passing up front and taking the wrong option cost them.

Nineteen minutes in, the score stood at 1-3 to 0-3 as Viv Harris and Corkery points cancelled each other out.

The turning point came a minute later as two St Finbarr's goals within 60 seconds saw Cloughduv's hard work nullified.

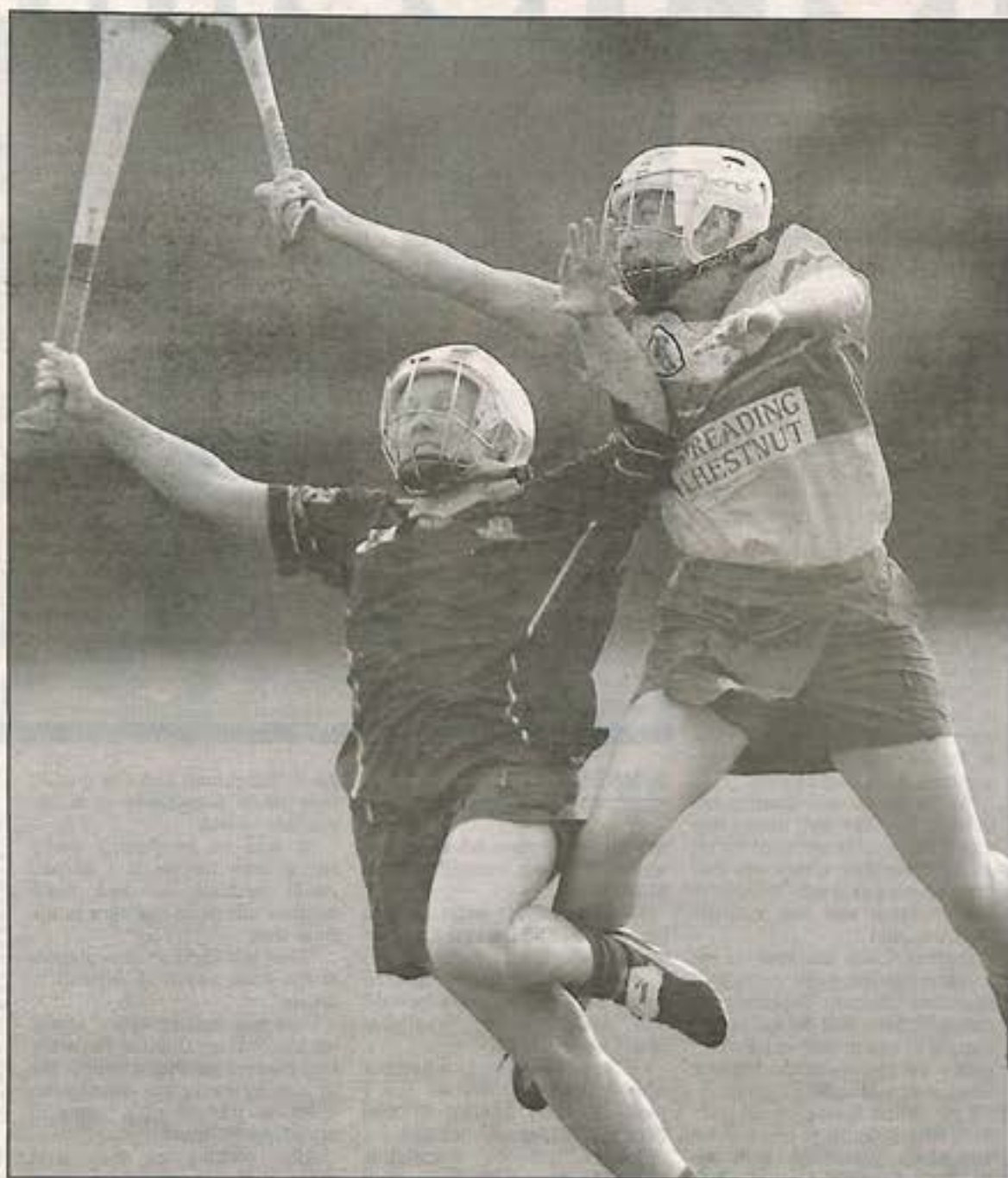
Harris, who was becoming more involved, won a sideline ball in. Her inch-perfect pass to Orla O'Sullivan saw her one-on-one with Aoife Murray and O'Sullivan confidently blasted to the net.

Harris was also involved in goal number two as she brought the ball to the edge of the square and Valerie Maher seemed to get the final touch in the scramble.

The final six minutes of the half saw four points, two apiece, and it finished with St Finbarr's leading 2-5 to 1-5.

The Barrs were the happier team at the break. For Cloughduv, trailing after such a momentous effort and heading out to face the wind, it must have been disheartening.

However, they piled on the pressure again in the opening five minutes with Jean Lucey leading the riot. But, by this time, the Barrs were in their stride and from here on, never really looked as if



St Finbarr's Bernardine Maher clashing with Cloughduv's Jean Lucey during their Evening Echo Senior Camogie County Championship quarter-final in Brinny.

Picture: Richard Mills.

By LINDA MELLERICK

Cork County Senior Camogie

they were going to lose this game.

Cloughduv could only manage a point from play in the second half as Lynda O'Connell and Jenny Duffy were excellent in defence.

Gemma O'Connor grew stronger as the game wore on and Viv Harris and Orla O'Sullivan continued to trouble up front.

With 10 minutes remaining the Barr's still only led by four, 2-9 to 1-8, as Cloughduv worked tirelessly. The tough encounter saw many stoppages, including one nasty gash to Joanne O'Callaghan, who managed to play on.

Claire Spellman, Harris (two), and O'Connor pushed the city side into a commanding lead, an Una O'Donoghue free the only response as eight additional minutes were played.

And so St Finbarr's march on to the semi-finals, edging one step closer to the title they won two seasons ago.

Scorers for St Finbarr's: V Harris 0-6 (0-3f), O O'Sullivan 1-2, V Maher 1-0, B Maher, N Goulding, J Duffy, C Spellman, G O'Connor 0-1 each.

Cloughduv: U O'Donoghue 0-4f, C O'Donoghue 1-0, B Corkery, J Lucey 0-2 each, S Buckley 0-1.

ST FINBARR'S: E Clifford, C Myers, M McCarthy, T Doyle, C Barrett, J Duffy, L O'Connell, G O'Connor, B Maher, R Myers, N Goulding, V Harris, V Maher, O O'Sullivan, N Cooke.

Subs: C Spellman for C Barrett (44), N Varlen for V Maher (55).

CLOUGHDUV: A Murray, G O'Sullivan, S Corkery, E Dunne, O McCarthy, J O'Callaghan, A Barry Murphy, M Corkery, J Lucey, U O'Donoghue, E Dunne, M Lucey, C O'Donoghue, B Corkery, S Buckley.

Referee: Oliver Webb (Tracton).

Hurley goal means sides must do it all over again

By LINDA MELLERICK

Camogie

St Catherine's 1-11
Douglas 0-14

THE PREDICTION that this game would go down to the wire rang through as Douglas and St Catherine's served up an excellent county championship quarter-final at Riverstown yesterday.

A goal by sub Jill Hurley four minutes into injury time gave Catherine's a second chance, proving once again that the game isn't over until the final whistle.

In perfect conditions, this game will go down as one of the season's finest. When Maria Harkin struck to give Douglas a four-point lead with four minutes left, you could forgive the city side for feeling their fairytale season was going to march on.

But Catherine's refused to wilt and their resilient pressure in the final eight minutes was justly rewarded as they live to fight another day.

It was fast and skilful from the start. Douglas began like seasoned campaigners. Maria Harkin and Julia White were magnificent and they dominated play around the middle of the field.

Three points in quick succession from Harkin, White and Katrina Mackey settled Douglas. It was eight minutes before Catherine's scored, an Orla Cotter free.

Further points from Eileen Morgan and Harkin in the 10th and 12th minutes gave Douglas a truly dream start.

St Catherine's initially didn't figure at all. Slow to get into their rhythm, they found themselves at sixes and sevens.

Eventually they made progress. Orla Cotter made some sublime catches around the middle and drove forward while their defence were starting to close down Douglas. Nóirín Mulcahy at full-back stood tall during this period.

Douglas led at the break 0-7 to 0-4 but, considering their superiority, it wasn't reflected on the scoreboard.

A powerful opening three minutes of the second half saw St Catherine's draw level as Neville and Cotter (two frees) struck.

Two minutes later, Douglas had the right to feel aggrieved when Barry Day failed to allow them advantage as Moira O'Donovan stood in front of goal. They had to settle for a point from the free.

It was tit for tat up to the 45th minute as Douglas led 0-10 to 0-9. They went two up, Catherine's pulled one back. Within two minutes Douglas hit over three, leading by four with four minutes remaining. It looked over for Catherine's.

An inspirational score from Cotter from almost 80 metres brought a goal between the sides. Injury time threw Catherine's a lifeline when Denise Twomey won possession in the corner and hit it across.

The ball fell to substitute Hurley and she pulled to the back of the net. It was a grand finale to a great game and both teams have to do it all over again.

Scorers for St Catherine's: O Cotter 0-5 (0-4f), J Hurley 1-0, F Neville 0-2, L Higgins, D Twomey, D Twomey, M O'Keefe 0-1 each.

Douglas: J White 0-5, A O'Regan (0-3f), M Harkin 0-3 each, K Mackey 0-2 (0-1f), E Morgan 0-1.

ST CATHERINE'S: D Leahy, F Noonan, N Mulcahy, H Lane, Y O'Neill, L Power, O Neville, O Cotter, F Cotter, M O'Keefe, M Daly, Deirdre Twomey, F Neville, L Higgins, Denise Twomey. **Subs:** J Hurley for M Daly (39), T Fitzpatrick for L Higgins (49).

DOUGLAS: J Kavanagh, S O'Regan, L O'Regan, F McSweeney, H O'Connor, A O'Regan, P Mackey, H O'Mahony, K Mackey, J White, M Harkin, A O'Donovan, E Jordan, M O'Donovan, E Morgan. **Subs:** J O'Donovan for H O'Connor (11), S Long for S O'Regan (53).

Referee: Barry Day (Aghada).



St Finbarr's Maria McCarthy gets the ball away as she is challenged by Cloughduv's Sinead Buckley.

Picture: Richard Mills.



Kilkenny - National League Champions 2008. Back row: Sinead Brennan, Linda Cottrell, Bronagh Neary, Sinead Long, Marie Dargan, Lucinda Gahan, Anna Farrell, Edwina Keane, Hanah Maher, Mariga Nolan, Elaine O'Shea. Middle row: Claire Aylward, Grace Dunphy, Lisa Phelan, Claire Ryan, Brigid Mullally, Julie Ann Woodcock, Elaine Aylward, Colette Dormer, Keeva Fennelly, Catherine Doherty, Kelly-Ann Cottrell, Cathriona Ryan, Jackie Frisby, Laura Kavanagh. Front row: Siobhan Murphy, Amy Butler, Emer Lyng, Sinead Millea, Michelle Quilty, Katie Power, Lizzy Lyng, Aoife Neary, Aine Fahy, Ann Dalton.



Captain's Mary Coady, left, Carlow and Aileen Donegan, Meath, with Referee Pat Walsh at the Gala All-Ireland Junior Championship - Nancy Murray Cup Semi-Finals, Meath v Carlow, Naomh Peregrine, Blakestown, Co. Dublin.



The Lucan Sarsfields U-14 Féile na nGael, Camogie Division 1 Champions, 2008. Back row: Ciara Sheehan, Grace Mulherne, Rachel Kenny, Niamh Williams, Ailise Dowling, Lucy Mulligan, Gráinne Rochford, Laura Morrissey, Sarah Courtney (Vice-capt.), Ailis O'Grady, Siobhan Grimes, Tara Keenan, Laura Murtagh (Capt). Front row: Lyndsey Jordan, Claire Rigney, Ailbhe Ryan, Aoife Dorrill, Sarah Muldoon, Ann-Marie Courtney, Orla Beagan, Kate Whyte, Shannon Clarke, Alison Twomey.

Valleys go in as slight favourites

TONIGHT
Evening Echo

Senior B Championship,
Bishopstown v Valley Rovers,
Ballinora, 6.45pm.

BISHOPSTOWN, boosted by their victory over Ballinhassig in their second game in the round-robin series, take on Valley Rovers this evening in Ballinora.

Ballinora recorded a victory over Carrigaline in their first game in the series.

Bishopstown did not get a great start as they lost to Carrigaline but showed spirit to defeat Ballinhassig. For that tie they welcomed back Ciara Enright to their lineout and with Eithne Duggan, Ciara Healy, also in their line out they have three hugely experienced performers.

Valley Rovers, defeated in the last two finals, had to be at their best to hold off Carrigaline.

They are a well-balance side with Cork intermediate player Lucy Hawkes influential and she is assisted by Liz Bugler, Clodagh Deasy and Ena Coughlan.

To date all game in this senior B championship have been very competitive and Valleys are slight favourites but Bishopstown are more than capable of winning.

Honours even after late score for 'Town

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

Bishopstown
Valley Rovers

0-7

0-7

HONOURS even in this Evening Echo Senior B championship round robin series game at Ballinora last evening.

With both defences on top the game was always going to be low scoring and indeed it was the centre back on either side that stood head and shoulders above the rest.

Veteran campaigner Eithne Duggan showed she hasn't lost her touch as she dominated and played a pivotal role for Bishopstown while Lucy Hawkes did like wise for Valley Rovers.

Valley's look to have it sewn up entering the finals seconds but a never say die attitude saw Bishopstown earn them selves a draw thanks to Orla Ní Dhomhnaill's last gap point.

Bishopstown set the trend of the game and led at the break 0-4 to 0-2, Maebh Scannell again the main threat up front for the city girls as she annexed all of their first half points, Liz Bugler on target twice for Valley Rovers.

Substitute Clare Duggan pointed to cut the deficit from the throw but Maebh Scannell replied to restore Bishopstown's lead to two. With Mary Ann Hawkes superb at midfield, ably assisted by the excellent Clodagh Deasy at left-half back Valley Rovers began to gain the upper hand and hit four points without reply as they opened up a two point lead.

With four minutes remaining Maebh Scannell struck Bishopstown's second score of the half and as Valley's again threatened they were left off the hook before they swept up the field in a last ditched effort to get something out of the game. The Valley's defence looked to have weathered the storm as they cleared under pressure but Ní Dhomhnaill won possession and shot straight between the posts to give Bishopstown a share of the spoils after a low scoring but highly entertaining hour's camogie.

Scorers for Bishopstown: M Scannell 0-6 (0-2f), O Ní Dhomhnaill 0-1.

Valley Rovers: M A Hawkes 0-3(f), L Bugler 0-2, C Duggan, C Deasy 0-1 each.

BISHOPSTOWN: C Healy; R Nunan, A Noone, B Sheehan; J Crowley, E Duggan, C Enright; J Browne (c), M Crowley, S Kelly, L Bohan, E Foyle; M Scannell, O Ní Dhomhnaill, M O'Brien.

Subs: M Egan for M O'Brien (26), K Hickey for L Bohan (44), L Flood for S Kelly (55), S Kelly for K Hickey (60 inj).

VALLEY ROVERS: G Harrington; A O'Callaghan, A M Murphy, E Coughlan; E Foley, L Hawkes, C Deasy; S O'Shea, M A Hawkes; L Bugler, M Cottrell, J Hawkes; A Coughlan, E O'Mahony, M Ford.

Subs: C Duggan for A Coughlan (34), C Foley for E Foley (44).

Referee: Colette O'Mahony (St. Finbarr's).

SARSFIELDS HARD WORK PAYS OFF

Dublin GAA club Lucan Sarsfields has one of the biggest memberships in the country to look after with over 1,500 players on the books from underage to adult level and 2008 has proved a huge success so far.

This year, saw the club win the National Feile camogie title for the first time in their history, while the county under-14 feile division one camogie title as well as the division two feile hurling title and manager of the camogie side Martina Twomey spoke to Hogan Stand about the success and how the club manages to cater for such a massive number of players.

Like all clubs, Lucan Sarsfields place a great emphasis on their underage structure and they have certainly reaped the benefits of the hard work in recent years.

As one of the oldest GAA clubs in the country, Sarsfields cater for teams in hurling, football, camogie and ladies football at all grades right from under-8's up.

The club went forth and represented the county in the All-Ireland Feile in Freshford and Portlaoise on June 20th - 22nd having lifted the Division One title in early May.

Martina stressed that the hard work and dedication shown by the girls throughout the campaign was second to none as they put in a huge effort to win the title in emphatic fashion. "Last year, we won the division two final and we knew we could do well in the division one campaign this year. The girls are just fantastic. They are so dedicated and their

interest in the game is immense. They won on sheer commitment," said Martina.

"The fact that the girls trained on St Stephen's Day and New Year's Day just proves the dedication they displayed and we said at the time that they were probably the only team in the country out training on those particular days."

Martina along with Liam Ryan, Eoghan Williams and Dave Keenan were in charge of the victorious side, which in fact was their first title at this level in their 122 year history.

"To be the first side in the club to win that title is a massive achievement and I'm so proud of the players, while Liam, Eoghan and Dave also played their part," said Martina modestly.

The under-14 manager admitted that with so many teams to cater for, it was important to have plenty of help and she revealed that they club was fortunate on that front.

"From under-16 down, we have 13 camogie teams and all these have to be looked after. A lot of the parents do get involved which is great, but we could always do with more help."

"There are 22 players on the under-14 squad and it can take a lot of work looking after such big numbers, although they are well mannered girls that are interested in playing."

The county division one campaign



Lucan Sarsfields camogie squad celebrate their Feile win in Portlaoise



Lucan Sarsfields, All-Ireland Feile Division 1 camogie winners 2008

Both sides had given everything on the way to the final and it was obvious that the exertions of the previous two days had caught up with the girls on both teams. The first half was a tame affair as Mullagh lead by a solitary point at the interval, however, the second half was to be a much livelier affair.

With 15 minutes remaining, Sarsfields had drawn level when Lynsey Jordan pointed a long range free before the impressive Ali Twomey scored an excellent goal.

Mullagh battled bravely to get a much needed goal, but when Tara Keenan fired over an equalising point late on, it was to be the Dublin side's day and history was made. The final score was 2-3 to 1-2.

"The girls were magnificent on the day. All the hard work had paid off and it's just an amazing achievement and one that is still sinking in even now."

For the record the victorious Lucan Sarsfields squad that captured the All-Ireland Feile Division One camogie title was: Orla Beagan, Shannon Clarke, Annemarie Courtney, Sarah Courtney, Aoife Dorrill, Ailise Dowling, Siobhan Grimes, Lynsey Jordan, Tara Keenan, Rachael Kenny, Laura Morrissey, Sarah Muldoon, Grace Mulhern, Lucy Mulligan, Laura Murtagh, Ailish O'Grady, Claire Rigney, Grainne Rochford, Ailbhe Ryan, Ciara Sheehan, Alison Twomey, Kate Whyte, Niamh Williams.



A lone piper leads Lucan and Oliver Plunketts out for the Dublin final



Lucan Sarsfields do a lap of honour at Croke Park

AUG 2008

SEPT. 2008



The Gala sponsored camogie trophies

CAMOGIE world

CORK AND GALWAY INTO THE FINAL

By Jackie Cahill.

Cork and Galway will lock horns in the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie championship final on September 14 after coming through their semi-finals with varying degrees of difficulty at Kilkenny's Nowlan Park.

Last year's beaten finalists Cork proved far too good for Munster rivals Tipperary in the first game of an entertaining double bill, played out in front of some 4,000 spectators.

The Rebelettes ran out 3-14 to 0-10 winners against the Premier County and will start as favourites against Galway in what will be a repeat of the 1998 decider.

The Tribeswomen last reached the final ten years ago but they will provide stiff opposition for Cork after digging deep to secure a dramatic 1-13 to 1-10 victory against last year's winners Wexford.

Jessica Gill scored a sensational winning goal for Galway, with almost four minutes of stoppage time played.

The Athenry star took her championship tally to an incredible 6-40 with her dramatic match-winner, just as Wexford looked to have salvaged a replay after coming from four points down to draw level in the closing stages.

With three minutes of normal time remaining, Wexford trailed by four points but the Slaneysiders showed true grit as Una Leacy bagged a 58th-minute goal before Kate Kelly's ninth point of a gripping encounter tied the scores at 1-10 to 0-13.

A draw looked a certainty but there was a late, late twist in store as Wexford had appeals for a free at the other end waved away before Gill's late strike.

The sides were level at half-time, 0-5 apiece, but Galway looked the livelier side from open play as Wexford were heavily reliant on the free-taking prowess of Kelly. The Model County managed just 1-2 from play during the entire game as Kelly drilled over eight of her nine points from frees whereas six Galway players were on target from play.

In the afternoon's opening game, Cork overturned a 0-7 to 0-5 half-time deficit as second half goals from Rachel Moloney, Una O'Donoghue and substitute Elaine O'Riordan helped to secure a comfortable 13-point victory.

Both goalkeepers, Cork's Aoife Murray



Action from the All-Ireland semi-final involving Galway and Wexford

and Tipp's Paula Ryan, made some good saves throughout but after the sides were level at 0-8 apiece 12 minutes after half-time, the winners soon embarked on a devastating scoring burst.

Moloney scored a superb overhead goal in the 43rd minute, O'Donoghue bombed through for a superb solo effort just three minutes later and O'Riordan touched home the impressive Orla Cotter's lengthy delivery for Cork's third major in stoppage time.

Moloney was Cork's leading player with a 1-7 haul on a day when eight players registered scores from play.

Allstar Claire Grogan was Tipp's top scorer with five points, including three from play, but John McGrath's charges struggled to live with the pace of Cork's play.

Gala All-Ireland senior camogie championship semi-final details:

Scorers for Galway: J Gill 1-6 (0-4f), V Curtin 0-3, O Kilkenny, T Maher, L Kavanagh & B Kerins 0-1 each.

Scorers for Wexford: K Kelly 0-9 (8f), U Leacy 1-0, C Murphy 0-1.

Galway - S Earner, S Tannon, A Kelly, T Mantony, A-Marie Hayes, S Cahalan, N Kilkenny, A Hillary, L Ryan, O Kilkenny, T Maher, V Curtin, M Dunne, J Gill, D Burke. SUBS: L Kavanagh for Ryan (29m), B Kerins for Burke (h/t).

Wexford - M D'Arcy; N Lambert, C O'Loughlin, B Holohan; A O'Connor, M Leacy, D Codd; A Codd, M O'Leary; U Leacy, R-Marie Breen, C Murphy; B Curran, K Kelly, U Jacob. SUBS: K Parrock for Curran (39m), B Furlong for A Codd (46m).

Referee: Eamonn Browne (Tipperary).

Scorers for Cork: R Moloney 1-7 (0-3f, 0-1 45), U O'Donoghue & E O'Riordan 1-0 each, G O'Connor & E O'Sullivan 0-2 each, S Burns, O Cotter & E O'Farrell 0-1 each.

Scorers for Tipperary: C Grogan 0-5 (2 45s), J Ryan 0-2, P Fogarty, C Hennessy & E Hayden 0-1 each.

Cork - A Murray; L O'Connell, C Foley, J O'Callaghan; G O'Connor, M O'Connor, S Hayes; O Cotter, L Dorgan; A O'Regan, U O'Donoghue, E O'Sullivan; S Burns, R Moloney, B Corkery. SUBS: E O'Farrell for Dorgan (h/t), E O'Riordan for Burns (57m), J Duffy for O'Connor (59m), R Holland for O'Callaghan (60m).

Tipperary - P Ryan; S Kelly, M Luttrell, J Kirwin; P Bulfin, T O'Halloran, M Ryan; J Horan, J Ryan; C Hennessy, C Grogan, P Fogarty; G Kinnane, E Hayden, M Morrissey. SUBS: M Shortt for Morrissey (h/t), T Shortt for Kinnane (48m), M Tynan for Kirwin (58m), S Larkin for Horan (59m).

Referee: Frank McDonald (Armagh).

Group roundup

SENIOR B

Exciting games in the round robin series of the Evening Echo Senior B Championship in section A we had Valley Rovers and Bishopstown ending all square as did Carrigaline and Killeagh but their were wins for Bishopstown over Ballinhassig, Valley Rovers got the upper hand on Carrigaline after Carrigaline had defeated Bishopstown, Killeagh had a good victory over Ballinhassig.

In section B Eire Og record two victories defeating Newcestown and Kilbrittan Timoleague, Rockban had two wins as they defeated Kilbrittan and Newcestown. Glen Rovers had a win over Kilbrittan. Still all very much to play for in the game to come in this championship

hunt by Ballincollig who have victories over Fr O Neills, Blackrock, and Watergrashill. Fr O Neills had wins over Ballyhea, Blackrock, and Ballyhea while Blackrock defeated Watergrashill.

Wins in Section B for Newtownshandrum over Mallow and Enniskeane, Clonakilty defeated Tracton Enniskeane and Mallow, Tracton are going well with wins over Newtownshandrum, Enniskeane, and Mallow.

JUNIOR B

In the Evening Echo Junior B Championship its Brian Dillon's through to meet Grenagh in the semi-finals with Douglas awaiting the winner of this clash in the final.

JUNIOR C

Ballinscarty and Castlemagner recorded a draw while Blarney and Castle Lyons are down to meet in the second semi-final.

JUNIOR A

In section A Sarsfields set the pace with wins over Ballyhea, Watergrashill, Fr O Neills and Blackrock and they are joined in the



Galway minor captain David Burke with his sister Deirdre, who will be hoping for All-Ireland glory of her own next Sunday in the camogie final against Cork. Photo: Lorraine O'Sullivan

Gala Camogie All Ireland Senior & Junior Finals

Bord Gais GAA Hurling U-21 All Ireland Final



CROKE PARK
SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2008

12 noon Gala Camogie All Ireland Junior Final: Clare v Offaly
2.00 pm Bord Gais GAA Hurling U21 All Ireland Final: Kilkenny v Tipperary
4.00 pm Gala Camogie All Ireland Senior Final: Cork v Galway



Gala
Your local market

ADMISSION PRICES

Adult: €25 • Student/OAP: €10 • Juveniles: €5
GROUP PASSES
Juveniles €5 • 1 Adult free per group of 10 juveniles
Additional adult tickets €25

For further ticket info see www.camogie.ie



SEPT 2008

CLUB NOTES

ST FINBARR'S

Well done to our senior team who scored a seven-point win over Cloughduv in the quarter-final of the Cork Senior Championship. Orla O'Sullivan marked her return with a valuable 1-2. She teamed up delightfully with Vivienne Harris, who added six points.

Lynnda O'Connell worked her socks off, Gemma O'Connor wore number fourteen on her back but covered every square inch of the pitch defending and attacking. Jenny Duffy picked up loose ball and delivered lengthy clearances. Trish Doyle, Ben Maher and Niamh Cooke made a worthwhile contribution.

The team is now through to the semi-final. However, no further matches will take place until after the All-Ireland final. The intervening weeks will give Derek and Johnny an opportunity to bring the side up another notch which will be necessary to reach the final.

ST CATHERINE'S

Senior championship

On Sunday we travelled to Riverstown to take on Douglas in the quarter-final of the senior championship. Douglas were to open the brighter and had established a three-point lead after five minutes. Scores were shared equally from there to half-time with both sides adding four points. Three down at half-time having played against the breeze one felt that we could still win. We opened the second half brighter and had levelled by the third minute, however Douglas re-established their half-time lead with the next three scores. Points were exchanged over the next 15 minutes but when Douglas increased their lead to four points with five minutes remaining it looked as if it was slipping away.

Orla Cotter pointed a long strike from the middle of the field to bring us to within striking distance and when an inviting cross from Denise Twomey fell to Jill Hurley she made no mistake when striking home to level. We were behind all through this game but showed great character in the end to come back and equalise. The replay is likely to be in three weeks time on September 21.

Team: D Leahy, F Noonan, N Mulcahy, H Lane, Y O'Neill, L Power, O Neville, O Cotter (capt), F Cotter, M O'Keefe, M Daly, Deirdre Twomey, F Neville, L Higgins, Denise Twomey. **Subs:** J Hurley, T Fitzpatrick, S Noonan, D Mulcahy, A O'Keefe, K Higgins, A Fitzgerald, A Mangan, M Mulcahy, C Hurley.

Scorers: Jill Hurley 2-0, O Cotter 0-5 (0-4), F Neville 0-2, L Higgins, Deirdre Twomey, Denise Twomey, Maeva O'Keefe 0-1 each.

U16 C Championship

Our U16 team is scheduled to play Douglas B on Saturday at 6.30pm in Douglas.

U11 Inokilly League

Our U11 team has been busy in this competition recently, recording wins over Castleons, Ballinacorra and Bride Rovers and losing to Killeagh and Dungourney.

Panel: L Hartnett, E Roche, M Leahy-Teahan, M Walsh, Emer O'Brien (capt), A Mulcahy, N Coughlan, L Hayes, A Hurley, C Hayes, M Draper, B O'Keefe, S Corcoran, A O'Keefe, E Walsh, E O'Keefe, S Mellerick.

Bus to All-Ireland final

The All-Ireland final take place on Sunday, September 14 in Croke Park. It is planned to run a bus as we have done in previous years. Anybody interested in travelling please contact Ann Galvin (058-59271) or Sarah England (058-59289) before next weekend, Sept 6.

KILLEAGH

Our senior team took to the field again on Wednesday last and our opponents were Carrigaline. The new pitch at Mahon was in great condition and a credit to the board. The half-time score was Killeagh 0-6 Carrigaline 1-3. The second half saw Claire point a 45 and a free and Mary O'Connor net a goal. That gave us a five-point lead but just when we thought we were cruising Carrigaline had two goals. The clock was ticking and we were a point down. Angela Walsh took control from the back line and levelled the game, more pressure with another point from Carrigaline. Thankfully Noelle O'Donovan took her score and the whistle saw us finish level.

Underage

On Wednesday last, Vera's U13s took on Sars, Killeagh had to win this to be in with a chance of qualifying for the semi-final. Being underdogs seemed to suit Killeagh and they came out fighting and had a good victory over Sars. The Killeagh Panel was: E Terry, N Farrell, AM Geary, E Benaim, C Daly, Z McEvoy, L McEvoy, C Motherway, H Looney, L O'Neill, C O'Connor, O Daly, A Daly, T Kruschel, K Manning, H Lane.

The following night our U11s played St Catherine's. This is a young St Catherine's team and they were no match for Killeagh. The panel was: G Stephenov, D Hennessy, C Motherway, K Mulcahy, L McEvoy, N Farrell, K Kelly-O'Mahony, A Benaim, S Landers, H Looney, G Hickey, R Geary.

On Monday, August 25 our U11s played Dungourney. We got off to a slow start, but eventually Killeagh got into gear and notched up a good win. Two nights later the same team played Ballinacorra, Killeagh were now at full strength and ran out easy winners.

We now have U10 parish leagues every Tuesday at 4.15pm and U12 training continues every Friday evening at five.

We would like to wish Mary O'Connor and Cork the best in the All-Ireland. The club plans to take a bus to the final, see posters or contact Deirdre Coleman (086-2836459) or Dolores Benaim (087-6011190).

Well done to all the girls who played over the weekend with Cork.

BALLINHASSIG

Ballinhassig travelled to Courcy Rovers to play them in the SE U9 final. Cliona Coughlan started the scoring for Ballinhassig with a great goal and followed that with a hat-trick of goals putting Ballinhassig well in the lead. The backbone of Leah Cullinane, Maggie O'Brien and Rachel Reardon kept Courcy Rovers to a



Linda Mellerick

THE memory of 1996 has no doubt crept into the minds of Denise Cronin and Mary O'Connor this past week.

It will linger there, however unwelcome, for the next two weeks.

They are the only two survivors of the panel which lost to Galway in a shock All-Ireland final defeat.

Despite the talk beforehand about being cautious in our approach to meeting Galway in the final, deep down overconfidence had set in.

Of course you'll always deny it had. You'll talk about respecting the opposition and taking nothing for granted but I think most players will admit that, psychologically, no matter how hard you try, you just don't build yourself up as much as you would against a team who has hurt you.

Our 15-point win over Galway three months prior to that September day meant that we didn't look upon Galway as the enemy.

At 5pm that afternoon, we would have given anything for another chance, because God were we hurting now! The game gave no indication of what was to come in the early stages.

Sandie Fitzgibbon, Eithne Duggan, Mary O'Connor and Lynn Dunlea settled into the action and the scoreboard read 1-9 to 0-4 in favour of Cork with four minutes to half-time.

But, as regularly happens when the losing team gets a goal just before the break, it not only narrows the gap but inspires them.

Denise Gilligan took on Paula Goggins and slotted the ball past goalkeeper Kathleen Costine. It proved a turning point.

Within three minutes of the second half, the sides were level. Sharon Glynn delivered a long ball in. Once again, Gilligan was the tormentor. Sprinting on to the ball, she pulled first-time to the net.

It was only when Martina Harkin hit a third goal that the Cork selectors realised we were in trouble and it was going to take a supreme effort to pull this one off. Galway were on a roll and Cork just couldn't switch it on.

Present Cork manager Denise Cronin was diverted from wing-forward to wing-back to seal a trouble spot. Stephanie Dunlea, Miriam



Denise Cronin in action against Galway in the 1996 All-Ireland final, a game she is not likely to forget easily.

Memories of '96 still haunt Cork

Deasy and Irene O'Keefe came on.

Lynn Dunlea and Sharon Glynn swapped points. Kathleen Costine and Galway keeper Louise Curry each brought off great saves. Cork sought desperately to close the gap.

Galway played cute. Rather than allow us to advance on goal, they committed fouls further out. And we had a very poor day on the free-scoring front! Opportunities that on another day would have sailed over went wide.

Dympna Maher sent the Galway supporters wild with Galway's fourth goal. Lynn pointed a couple of frees to narrow the gap. The Cork attack just never got going. The Westerners went on to take the title on a 4-8 to 1-15 scoreline.

That defeat really hurt. And just like Wexford 12 months ago, the scenes at the final whistle from Galway were euphoric. It was their first and last All-Ireland senior title.

Interestingly, there are also just two remaining in the Galway set-up

from 12 years ago: Anne Broderick as a selector and Veronica Curtin as a very dangerous left-half-forward.

As I said previously, you only respect those on the field of play who have hurt you in the past.

Our pain was still very raw in 1997 and even '98.

We met Galway in the final for the second and third years in a row. These times we made no mistake.

It wasn't easy. Galway were a stronger, better outfit. Winning an All-Ireland has a massive positive effect and teams grow so much in many ways.

Taking a grip in '97 from the outset, we managed to hold the lead to the final whistle. For a few minutes, the ghost of '96 almost came back to haunt us.

Leading by six points at half-time, Gilligan again deceived Cork goalkeeper Cora Keohane.

The Galway attack gained momentum. Eithne was very dependable at full-back and Denise Cronin, Sandy and Mags Finn excelled in

the half-back line.

We had restored a seven-point advantage when Veronica Curtin connected magnificently to send the ball to the net.

Lynn Dunlea grabbed the puck-out and pointed, which was the perfect response.

Our defence played as if their lives depended on it in those final few minutes. Galway's Therese Maher shot for glory but Cora made a spectacular save.

Cork held out for a 0-15 to 2-5 victory.

In miserable conditions and another game not for the faint-hearted we took the title for the second time in three years in '98.

Irene O'Keefe's two magnificent first-half goals and Lynn Dunlea's nine points from 10 frees were some of the highlights in a great win.

That three years were an emotional rollercoaster.

Denise Cronin and Mary O'Connor, I've no doubt, remember them well.

goal, while Kelsey Flynn dominated midfield as Ballinhassig ran out convincing winners.

Panel: M O'Brien, J Harrington, K Flynn, E Keating, L McCarthy, G O'Leary, A Crowley, C Coughlan, L Cullinane, N O'Driscoll, R Reardon, C Murray, O McCarthy, A Casey, N Sheehan, J Butler.

U12 D final

Our second U12 team travelled to Coachford last Saturday to play Sarsfields in the D county final. We started strongly and scored the first goal within five minutes, a combined effort from Diane Jordan and Kate Bohane. Our second goal came from Kate Bohane. After much interchange of play Noreen Kiely managed to get another goal. Ballinhassig dominated the remainder of the half with Rebecca Moynihan scoring a point from free and Kate Cullinane scoring the fourth goal. At the break we led 4-1 to 0-0. Again Ballinhassig dominated in the second half. Sarsfields tried their hardest but could not turn things around. We also missed several scoring chances which left the second half scoreless.

Scorers: D Jordan, K Bohane, N Kiely, K Cullinane 1-0 each, R Moynihan 0-1.

Panel: EK Galvin, M Tyers, E Reardon, C O'Sullivan, K Reynolds, K Walsh (capt), M O'Brien, K Bohane, K Flynn, D Jordan, R Moynihan, K Cullinane, N Kiely, G Collins, S

Mahon. **Sub:** E Crowley.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Emer O'Sullivan, who was on the Cork team. As Emer is the first club player to play a senior final with Cork, the club would like as many supporters as possible to go. Both boys and girls can go but children eight years and under must be accompanied. As the club needs to book buses ASAP, please contact Maggie Collins or Ann Dorney.

BALLINORA

The U12 C final, Ballinora v Sliabh Rua, was the third meeting between these teams, with one win each. Caoimhe O'Keefe started with two frees for Ballinora, but just before half-time Sliabh Rua scored a goal to make it 1-0 to 0-2. The second half started with each team giving their all. Ballinora's Karen Lane scored a goal and then she added another as it finished Ballinora 2-2 Sliabh Rua 1-0.

FR O'NEILL'S

U8 and U10

We played Killeagh in a practice match recently, great improvement by all our budding camogie players! Their training for this season came to a close with a fun day which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Indoor training will be starting for this group before Christmas.

U11 Inokilly League

Fr O'Neill's 5-0 Carrigrohilly 0-0, scorers: A

Bernard 2-0, S O'Sullivan, A Millerick, E O'Keefe 1-0 each.

Fr O'Neill's 8-3 Youghal 0-0, scorers: K Cullinane 3-3, R Dunne 3-0, S Hayes, A Dunne 1-0 each. They now proceed to the U11 East Cork semi-final, time and date to be finalised.

U13 parish league is now in progress, teams on display at school or noticeboard at pitch, matches will run September 3, 10, 17, with semi-finals and final played at a later date, if unable to attend please contact Mary Kenefick at 087-7957962.

Junior A championship

We played Sars recently, the girls played with gusto and led at half-time, 1-3 to 0-1. In the second half, Sars came back strongly and levelled Sars got the winning point in the last puck of the game, devastating for the girls the final score, Fr O'Neill's 1-8 Sarsfields 2-6.

Team: L Hayes, M Harrington, L Sweetman, F Wiggins, Y Murphy, C Madden, C Day, S Harrington, C McGrath, S Kearney, G Kearney, V O'Sullivan, N Aherne, C Phelan, U Day.

Subs: E Swayne, K Aherne, K Harrington.

Scorers: G Kearney 0-6, N Aherne 1-1, K Aherne 0-1.

Saturday, September 13 will see 16 of the senior panel travel to Dublin to represent the club in the All Ireland seven-a-side competition at Kilmacud Crokes.

GLEN ROVERS

Disappointment for our U16 girls as they both lost out narrowly last week.

Our second U16 side turned in a splendid performance before losing narrowly to Banteer. The lead changed hands as both teams battled it out, however a goal from Banteer saw them take the lead and despite pressure we failed to grab the vital score.

Our first U16 team came up against a strong Ballygarvan side who, having been re graded from the higher grade for championship, had far too much strength, all over the pitch our girls gave it their all but the strength and experience of having performed in a higher grade was evident as our opponents ran out convincing winners.

It's upwards and onwards as both teams look forward to the county league semi-finals having come through in their respective groups.

U14 Our U14s will contest the league semi-final on September 20 against Valley Rovers.

Senior and minor

Our minor and senior teams will be busy have plenty of championship games to play, on Friday next our senior team meet Newcestown at 6.30pm at a venue to be announced.

Compiled by Mary Newman

SEPT 2008

History not weighing on bullish Cahalan



Therese O'Callaghan

SINEAD CAHALAN needs no reminding about the weight of history. The Galway senior camogie captain, who leads her side into battle against seasoned campaigners Cork in the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie final on Sunday, is a neighbour of Imelda Hobbins, the only Galway girl to bring the O'Duffy cup west of the Shannon (in 1996).

While, she says that might be on other people's minds, she refuses to read anything into what she terms as 'mere coincidence'.

"There is a lot of talk about us being from the same club (Mullagh) and all that, but it is insignificant," she said. "We are both from Gurtymadden, and that is about it. History doesn't win All-Irelands for you."

Sinead is only too familiar with Galway's lengthy journey — their last appearance in the All-Ireland senior final was 1998. They have been among the also-rans far too long.

She stepped up to senior after leading the maroon and white to All-Ireland intermediate success in 2004. This followed on from a junior All-Ireland medal the previous year. The breakthrough was seemingly imminent, but she had to wait another four years, and the 22-year-old says that desire has turned Galway into serious contenders.

"There is an absolute want for a medal this year more than any other year. I have been disappointed losing All-Ireland semi-finals before, but if we had lost this one we all would have been absolutely gutted. We just weren't entertaining it," she admitted.

"We have our eight steps. Eight steps are our journey to Croke Park. One step for each of the championship matches in the round-robin series. After each one we ticked them off — successfully completed. Step seven was obviously the big one, beating Wexford in the semi-final. And when we ticked that one, it was an amazing feeling. We are on step eight now."

Sinead's family are immersed in GAA. Her father Stephen is vice-chairman of the Galway county hurling board. Her older brother Niall and younger brother Stephen both hurl with Mullagh, and her younger sister Caitriona is on the Mullagh camogie team.

Naturally enough, it is her club that provides the inspiration.

"I started to play with Mullagh when I was seven or eight years old. Our club was very strong then. I looked up to Pam Nevin, Imelda Hobbins, Emer Hardiman, and Cora Curley. When I was 12 I came on to the senior team. You wouldn't see that happening now, I played wingback with hurleys flying everywhere. That stood to me, Mullagh were very successful then, and we are building again."

Further proof of Mullagh's re-emergence is Therese Manton and Sarah Dervan wearing the county jersey as well. But, the friendships extend



Captains Marion Crean (Offaly), Deirdre Murphy (Clare), Sinead Cahalan (Galway) and Caitriona Foley (Cork) exchange views ahead of the Gala All-Ireland senior and junior camogie championship finals.

Picture: Paul Mohan/Sportsfile

beyond club. It would be dream come true if this close-knit unit were to be victorious. Not having got to the final before is rich motivation.

"There has been a winning feeling in us all year," said Cahalan. "I can't put my finger on any one thing. Absolute sheer and utter desire to win the championship is what it is. I never thought we were going to lose against Wexford. I thought it might be a draw. I never entertained a loss. There is

ferocious spirit. And for once we got a rub of the green."

However, while being a fan of the championship format, where every team plays each other, she says it has its challenges.

"The championship has been full of peaks and valleys. We won our first three games, lost one, won again and drew our final match against Tipperary. You could say we got tired, but it is the same for every team. It is just difficult

to get yourself right in a week. We were lucky to have three wins early on, that gave us a cushion. We finished with nine points out of 12."

One thing she learned is that there is very little between the top teams, and that they are all difficult to defeat — Cork included. Her wish is for a medal on Sunday and for Mullagh to be a force once again. In her quest, both camps will have an iconic figure to look up to.

Howard happy as 'hurling family' doubles up again



Camogie President Liz Howard, front right, and Gala chief executive, Gary Desmond, front left, with the county captains before the commencement of the championships earlier this year.

Picture: Paul Mohan/SPORTSFILE

by Jim O'Sullivan

CAMOGIE President Liz Howard hopes the GAA will continue to pair their junior and senior finals with the All-Ireland U21 hurling championship decider in Croke Park as they do on Sunday for the third consecutive year.

She believes the arrangement represents the most practical form of integration, between the codes as 'it brings the hurling family together' on a very important day for the two associations.

"I think everybody would agree it has been a tremendous success. It has raised the profile of the U21 hurling championship and it has definitely improved the profile of camogie," she said yesterday in Croke Park.

"And when you have the quality of the matches we had in last year's junior and senior Gala finals, I think people were in awe at the standard. That's good for our game, but it also brought the U21 hurlers into Croke Park and I know from talking to players, they are delighted to be here."

Looking to the future, she expressed optimism that preliminary discussions

Cork name team

THERE is one change on the Cork senior camogie team to play Galway in Sunday's All Ireland final.

The team, announced last night, sees Elaine O'Riordan at corner-forward in place of Linda Dorgan.

Team: A. Murray, L. O'Connell, C. Foley (capt), J. O'Callaghan, G. O'Connor, M. O'Connor, S. Hayes, B. Corkery, O. Cotter, A. O'Regan, U. O'Donoghue, E. O'Sullivan, S. Burns, R. Maloney, E. O'Riordan.

with President Nicky Brennan and Director-General Paraic Duffy indicated that they were 'very open' to carrying on the arrangement.

"Nicky has been very realistic on this and both he and Paraic Duffy recognise the success of playing the U21 with the camogie final. There was a proposition to do away with the U21 in hurling which I would think would be a pity and they said 'no' at Congress."

Having persuaded the GAA to agree to the current agreement, she is adamant that it doesn't take from what has always been "camogie's day". It is

still that way, she responds, saying that she looks at it differently.

"I look at it as the day of the hurling family altogether," says Howard.

"I think it is a terrific stage for both of them. It has not taken from 'our' day in any way. I think it has enhanced it and I also think it has enhanced the U21 championship."

"It's a stage for both of us and I think we have to think differently and be creative as to how we promote our games, both hurling and camogie. For me, that's thinking outside the box and I think the GAA would think the same. And our sponsor Gala is happy with that."

Ms Howard also referred to the participation of former star Joachim Kelly with the Offaly junior team which takes on Clare and former county hurling goalkeeper Liam Donohue, co-manager of the Galway team, which takes Cork in the senior final.

"To have iconic figures like Joachim and Liam is good for the game. The more high-profile people you have involved — whether playing or managing — is good for me and I will do anything to promote my sport."

SEIT 2008

Croke Park will hold no fears for O'Sullivan

EIMEAR O'SULLIVAN is eagerly looking ahead to Sunday's Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie final and hoping that her first game in Croke Park will be a winning one. With a Senior B All-Ireland medal already safely tucked away following Cork's victory over Galway in 2006, she is about to play in her first senior final.

By MARY NEWMAN

occasion for the clan. "I suppose they are all excited" laughs Eimear, "and they are all heading up, in-laws and grand children the whole clan." Eimear has always had huge support from her mother Nora, who goes to all the games and has been driving constantly to matches and training for many years but without doubt her grandmothers are her biggest fans. Mary O'Sullivan is a hale, hearty and active 96-year-old and will be glued to the TV on Sunday watching every move her granddaughter makes while Kate Duff will be doing likewise. It's a dream come through for the quietly-spoken Eimear who, despite her young years, has achieved so much, a county senior championship medal won with Carrigrohoun while still only 16, an Ashbourne Shield medal with CIT and of course the Senior B All-Ireland won at the expense of Galway — an omen maybe. "Hopefully, it may be a good sign but Galway will be very strong, we saw that already when they beat us in the earlier round of this championship but we will give it our very best shot, they are in final the same as us and it is all on the day." Eimear looks and plays like a player who experiences little or no nerves. I put it to her that Croke Park will be a totally new experience. "It certainly will be but I am really looking forward to it and I suppose we are all a bit nervous but once the games starts we should be okay, we have done the work and hopefully it will go well for us on the day." With her hurleys made to perfection by dad Johnny and the extended O'Sullivan clan urging her on from the stands, one feels Croke Park will hold little fear for Cork's young debutant.

The fourth-year accounting student at CIT has had a hurley in her hand for as long as she can remember and this comes as no surprise given that hurleys are made in the O'Sullivan back garden in Briar Hill, where father Johnny is always busy cutting and shaping sticks for a legion of players. The family are steeped in GAA tradition, Johnny hurled with Ballypheane at junior level before lining out at senior level for Youghal, the parish where his father Jack was born. He later returned to lead Ballypheane to a city junior title. On putting down roots in Briar Hill, Johnny immersed himself in Ballinhassig, as did his wife Nora (nee Duff) and, as their sons and daughters began to play with the local club, it was inevitable that he would get involved, with John being the current club chairman! Hurling and camogie is a way of life for the family, John Jnr, Brian, Kevin, Declan and Paul all hurl with the club as did sisters Linda and Jennifer and now the youngest of the "Sullies" is heading to Croker and it's huge

Without doubt he is one of the main driving force behind the Galway camogie revival. Let's hope for Cork's sake he is not helping to polishing medal number two in the Coleman/Curtin household in the months ahead.

Young cork star Eimear O'Sullivan.

Damien Coleman.



Damien doesn't intend to let final chance slip away

NO doubt there will be just that little bit of added tension in the Coleman/Curtin household this week as Galway joint manger Damien Coleman begins the countdown and focuses on what's ahead for his charges.

Meanwhile, wife Veronica Curtin will try to remain focused on the task ahead as she endeavours to add another All-Ireland medal to her first won at the expense of Cork in 1996.

Veronica is the last remaining link with the side that annexed Galway's first senior All-Ireland, she also suffered the heartbreak of losing finals in 1997 and '98 as Cork brushed aside her county's challenges but now she has extra support as Galway aim one more time to topple the Rebels.

Damien is joint coach to the side with former Galway teammate Liam Donoghue and his long association with Galway camogie began in NUIG when Tony Regan invited him to come along and help coach the camogie team and, as he explains, it been hard to get away ever since.

"We had some great years and it just went on from there, Sharon Glynn took over, as Galway manager and she invited me to get involved.

"I did that for nearly two years and opted out last season, this year I am back on the scene with Liam and Ann Broderick so I suppose, with a short break last year, it has been continuously involvement since those Ashbourne days."

I put it to Damien that he got more than he bargained for when he got involved.

"Yes, to be honest, I suppose they really hooked me in every sense of the word, I met Veronica through camogie and the rest is history so I suppose I am



Veronica Curtin of Galway gets past Cork's Rena Buckley during the 2006 All-Ireland semi-final. Picture: INPHO/Andrew Paton

By MARY NEWMAN

Galway latest here to stay now no getting away from it."

Hurling is very much in his blood. A former U21 and senior hurler with the county, the Portumna man still lines out with his club's junior side while the day job also involves hurling.

Three year ago, he took up the post of Connacht hurling director and the job entails taking charge of the structure in the province.

"The game is steadily improving in the province and our aim at the very start was to treat the boys and girls the same. At present we have 4,000 primary school boys and 2,700 girls involved so it's nonstop."

I put it to Damien that the improvement in Galway camogie has been remarkable, given that his side have already contested the senior national league final earlier this year.

"We set out at the start of the season to reach the league final and, despite losing that, we

were happy with the progress made. We also represented Connacht in the Gael Linn competition and defeated Munster by a point, that was a huge bonus.

"It has been a great year so far and a win on Sunday would be great for us. Our girls have put in huge effort, they are a relatively young side and we have no stars. Veronica is the only one left from the side of 1996 so, when you look at it, players such as Jessica Gill were only eight years of age when Galway last won the title."

Damien feels Cork are a hugely-experienced team, having been in Croke Park before they will no feel under as much pressure as his girls.

"This Cork side are experienced, players such as Gemma O'Connor, Mary O'Connor, Aoife Murray, and Rachel Moloney are household names in Cork whereas our girls are unknowns, it's a daunting task in Croke Park but we are ready for it and determined to repeat what Wexford did last year."

One thing that is pleasing to

the Galway coach is the huge friendships camogie players have with their opponents.

"I have noticed that, despite the healthy rivalry that exists, there is a great bond between the counties. After we defeated Wexford they were gutted but still several of their players waited around to congratulate us, many of the players know each other from college and in all the games there is good honest endeavour."

While not to anxious to predict a winner, he points out his side's commitment.

"If we are to lose it won't be for want of trying. This is a whole-hearted group of players and they are a serious group of girls, their devotion to Galway has been tremendous."

"They are hungry and determined to bridge the gap and take our first title in 12 years, we have waited a long time and worked hard to reach this day we don't intend to throw away our chance."

When we spoke, Damien was on his way to a Galway training session having already spent eight hours promoting hurling and camogie in the province, his dedication and commitment to the cause is to be admired.

Without doubt he is one of the main driving force behind the Galway camogie revival. Let's hope for Cork's sake he is not helping to polishing medal number two in the Coleman/Curtin household in the months ahead.





Cork's Emer O'Sullivan racing away from Galway's Aine Hillary and Sinead Cahalan during the All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship game. Picture: Richard Mills

Sile hopes to help Cork reach their goal

By LINDA MELLERICK
Cork news

SILE Burns has earned a reputation during 2008 as a lethal goalscorer and, despite the new set-up, always felt that there was an All-Ireland title in this team. "There was a bit of the unknown at the start of the year. We did lose a lot of high-profile players, a lot of players came into the panel and we had new management."

"Those were big changes. But I always felt that we had the core players and that Cork had the strength in depth."

Sile reflects on her own game. "I've been kind of up and down. I've had games where I've felt I've played well and others when I haven't. But hopefully I'm due a good one on Sunday!"

When Sile wins possession she always thinks 'goal' and that is a great attribute to have.

"I suppose, when you're a corner-forward, that would be your instinct, to think goal first and if not, then is the point on? We'll have to think tactically about how to beat Galway. When they beat us in the championship their back line did frustrate us."

"They were very physically strong. Hopefully the open space in Croke Park will play to our advantage in the forward line."

Does Sile feel at times that as a corner-forward, you can be starved of possession?

"Yeah sometimes. It depends on the match."

"Sometimes you walk off the pitch wondering how many times you actually touched the ball."

"But we've worked on that during the year and we are getting more quality ball into the forward line."

Sile felt that last year's loss was almost like a bereavement and it was on her mind for many months.

"When you work so hard for something for nine months and sacrifice so much and end up with nothing it's heartbreaking."

Sile didn't score in last year's final. She's determined to change all that in 2008.



So will we see 2-2 from this corner-forward in Croke Park? Laughing, she says, "That's the plan!"

Cork's Sile Burns.

ensure it happens.

Elaine O'Riordan makes her All-Ireland debut in place of Linda Dorgan. Amanda O'Regan retains her place after a very impressive semi-final display.

Galway are physically stronger than Cork. When Galway defeated Cork in July many attributed that factor to the loss.

Coach Jim McCarthy has worked on toughening the girls up. Physicality possibly won't come into the game as much in Croke Park as it did in Páirc Uí Rinn but the girls need to match

Galway for strength on the day.

The pain of 2007 is still very much alive in the minds of the players who walked off the field dejected 12 months ago.

With new management and many new players few felt this team would achieve glory in 2008.

Against all the odds, the side is just one hour away from the ultimate prize. Galway too have made it and few would have predicted that last February.

Expect an enthralling game between two sides who want this title badly.

PATHS TO FINAL

CORK

Cork 1-13 Dublin 0-5
Cork 3-6 Wexford 0-5
Cork 1-16 Tipperary 0-10
Cork 0-9 Galway 1-9
Cork 2-21 Limerick 1-5
Cork 5-11 Kilkenny 0-7

GALWAY

Galway 4-18 Limerick 1-6
Galway 1-12 Wexford 1-4
Galway 1-9 Cork 0-9
Galway 1-9 Kilkenny 1-13
Galway 3-10 Dublin 0-6



Galway 2-11 Tipperary 1-14

SEMI-FINALS

Cork 3-14 Tipperary 0-10
Galway 1-13 Wexford 1-10

IF CORK WIN SUNDAY'S FINAL SHOWDOWN WITH GALWAY

times before but still the occasion and the pressure gets to players. Cork also have a few first-timers in their camp but the older and wiser heads need to guide the fortunes of players such as Eimear O'Sullivan. Galway will feel the strain, the first team from the county to reach an All-Ireland final since 1998. The pressure to bring the second title home will have a huge effect. They will need to stay focused and calm and this is where Cork should be able to capitalise.

By now it should come naturally to the majority of the Cork panel, the familiar Saturday train journey, the friendly atmosphere they have managed to develop over the years at the team's base in the Moran Red Cow Hotel and the little ritual each player will go through that is by now second nature.

Management

On the sideline, Cork will need to act fast if the need arises. Denise Cronin is a shrewd



Cork manager Denise Cronin.

manager and, having been through the drill herself as a player, knows what All-Ireland day can do. No doubt, along with her fellow selectors Con Malone, Pat Murray and coach Jim McCarthy, they will have everything under control.

They have put in a huge effort and have worked hard to come this far a switch here or there could be the difference.

They will need

to stay calm and focused, no doubt they will. When the sides met last July, Eamonn Browne was the official in charge. That day, he awarded an amazing total of 35 frees over the hour as he constantly brought back the play for the slightest infringement and never allowed the game to flow. Cork will need to be mindful of this and not concede frees — in Jessica Gill, Galway have a superbly accurate free-taker.

On the plus side, Cork have Rachel Moloney in

charge of their free-taking duties and if given the opportunity she will punish any indiscretions by Galway.

It may just be decided by the puck of a ball separated them in July, the memory of last year's defeat by Wexford still haunts Cork.

They know Galway will also be eager and hungry and they will not want repeat of this. The title is there to be won and Cork have the ability and experience to make it title number 23.



Lynda O'Connell and Gemma O'Connor, at the Cork Camogie Press Night at Cork Camogie Grounds, Ringmahon Road, Blackrock. Picture: Cillian Kelly

Cork face tough Galway challenge

by Mary Newman

IT'S a big one on Sunday next as Cork and Galway go head-to-head for the first time since 1998 in an All Ireland senior camogie final.

Cork lost out to Wexford in last year's decider as their opponents breached a 39-year gap to be crowned champions.

That defeat hurt Cork badly and it's a credit to their determination and will power that 12 months later they are back in Croke Park and in with a fighting chance of regaining control and bringing the O'Duffy cup back to Leeside for the 23rd time.

At the start of the season there was a lot of doom and gloom, the outgoing selection committee decided to call it a day after having a tremendous run in the job and many pundits feared for the future of Cork camogie. However, one of the county's finest former players, Denise Cronin from Glen Rovers, agreed to take on the role of selector, joining Muskerry's nominee Con Malone and Bishopstown's Pat Murray, both hugely experienced and dedicated to the game. The trio brought on board as trainer Jim McCarthy, who helped Pa Finn guide the county to glory in 2002.

The year also brought a new sponsor with Bord Gáis

Networks coming on board, and the company have proved to be very hands on with the county team and the county board with people such as former Cork All Star goal keeper Ger Cunningham, John Barry and John Mullins showing huge support to the side something which county chairperson Marion McCarthy and her team is very appreciative of.

Minus the services of players such as Anna Geary, Eimear Dillon and Jennifer O'Leary, the backroom team used the league to help them familiarise themselves with their charges and come championship they were ready.

It has been a good championship campaign to date for Cork. The only team to defeat them has been Galway who they lost out on a 1-9 to 0-9 scoreline when the sides met in the round robin stages of the champions in July. Galway came through to the semi-finals stages having lost out in just one game to Kilkenny. In the semi-finals Cork recorded a good victory over old rivals Tipperary while Galway knocked out champions Wexford.

Last season Galway lost out to eventual champions Wexford at All-Ireland semi-final stage and their semi final victory this year over the All-Ireland champions has

given them a terrific boost.

Cork will go into Sunday's clash with their feet firmly on the ground.

Gemma O'Connor is an exceptional camogie player as she showed her strength as Cork defeated Tipperary; Eimear O'Sullivan in her first season is doing well and is a marvellous addition to the Cork attack, while Orla Cotter has grabbing vital scores in every game.

Rachel Moloney is enjoying her best season to date in the Cork jersey and is proving just how valuable she is to the team her accuracy from free and play has proved invaluable.

It will be close, but Cork with last year in the back of their minds want to banish a ghost. Sunday is the day to do it all.

CORK PANEL: Aoife Murray Cloughduv, Linda O'Connell St Finbarrs, Cathiona Foley Rockban (c) Joanne O'Callaghan Cloughduv, Mary O'Connor Killeagh, Sarah Hayes Courcy Rovers, Gemma O'Connor St Finbarrs, Briega Corkery Cloughduv, Amanda O'Regan Douglas, Elaine O'Riordan Millford, Una O'Donoghue Cloughduv, Eimear O'Sullivan Ballinhassig, Sile Burns Rockban, Rachel Moloney Courcy Rovers, Orla Cotter St Catherine's, Eimear White Barryroe, Jenny Duffy St Finbarrs, Eimear O'Farrell Sarsfields, Lucy Hawkes Valley Rovers, Linda Dorgan Grenagh, Marion Murphy Kilbrittan, Michelle Brown Malin, Margaret O'Horlthy Eire Og, Denise Cronin Ballincollig, Julia White Douglas, Regina Curtin Millford, Rosalie Holland Barryroe, Rena Buckley Inniscarra.

WIN TICKETS TO CORK V GALWAY

The Evening Echo has a pair of corporate tickets for the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final in Croke Park on Sunday, September 14 to giveaway to 2 lucky readers.

Your prize will include corporate box tickets, silver service lunch and refreshments for two people.

To enter:

Simply text your answer to the following multi-choice question to 57000

Question:

Where will the 2008 All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final be played?

- a) Semple Stadium
- b) Croke Park
- c) Pairc Uí Chaoimh

Text REBELS followed by your answer (a, b or c) plus your name & address to 57000

Lines close at midnight on Wednesday, September 10.

No cash in lieu. Entrants must be over 18 years of age. SP. Phonovision. Please leave spaces between the keyword, answer and name/address details. Any technical queries call: 0818 217 100. SMS costs €1, incl. VAT. Network charges may vary. Usual Evening Echo rules and regulations apply. Judges decision is final.



Complete Your Day

Memory of Western front defeat drives Cronin

by Jim O'Sullivan

LOOKING on as a spectator at last year's Gala All-Ireland senior camogie final in Croke Park, former Cork star Denise Cronin concluded Wexford deserved their victory over the Rebels.

However, she reacted very differently to Galway's win over Cork in the 1996 final, when the Westerners won their only title. Back then, it was personal. She was playing. And she didn't even have the consolation of believing that Galway were the better side. It gnawed at her that Cork had let victory slip through their hands.

"It hurt the most because it was the first final I lost as a player," she explained. "I'll never forget the devastation. At the time you think it's like a

death. You put so much effort in and you are totally focused on the All-Ireland and trying to win it and you are raging hot favourites..."

"And then the bubble bursts and you're applauding people down on the pitch. They put it up to us on the day. We had been eight or nine points up and we ended up losing by two."

"Watching last year's final, you got the inclination that things weren't going to go right for Cork. The ball fell to Wexford the whole day, but the thing is that Wexford deserved their win. When you are looking back over it, you wouldn't begrudge them it. It's disappointing for the girls that some days you walk off Croke Park and feel you left it behind, but Wexford genuinely won it last year."

She played her camogie with Glen Rovers and won six All-Ireland senior medals with Cork before bowing out in 2003. At the height of her career she was still able to maintain an involvement in training underage teams in the club and at the time they were successful enough. And after retiring, she devoted herself exclusively to the Glen for two years before she fell out of the loop and became a spectator at club and inter-county games.

Bringing in some experienced people as selectors, she recalled the difficulty in settling on their team for the opening league game, which happened to be against Wexford.

"We were close enough to them with the players we had, even though we hadn't much training done. We de-

cided to take a look at things again and bring in another few players.

"Obviously, it worked out. They were enthusiastic. They had been there (in the squad) and so close for long that when they got their opportunity they decided to take it. They put their heads down and worked very hard."

The Cork manager says that they will approach Sunday's final with extra caution after having lost to Galway already — in what was their only defeat in the championship. She described it as a game in which they really put it up to them, didn't give them any time on the ball. And that aspect of their play both impressed and concerned the management.

"Once you are doing that, you are doing something right. It meant we

had to go back to the drawing board and try and work out a game-plan. It benefited us and it benefited Galway. We were after winning three games on the trot. It brought us back down to earth."

While recognising that little could be done to avoid a clash with the Cork senior hurling championship semi-finals, Denise agrees that it's regrettable at the same time.

"It's probably unfair on family and friends, people who would like to be in Croke Park but want to see the county championship games as well."

"I would like to be there myself. My best friend has two brothers playing with the Glen and she wanted to be in Croke Park. I suppose everyone is affected to some degree."



The Cork camogie management team, from left: Denise Cronin, Pat Murray, Jim McCarthy and Con Malone at the official press night in the new Cork Camogie Grounds.

Picture: Damien Quirke

Con is hoping for glory at last

WHEN MUSKERRY took county honours for the first time in 74 years in 2007, there was always only going to be one person to step into the Cork set-up and endeavour to guide Cork to another All-Ireland title.

The names Con Malone and Cork camogie flow off the tongue almost as one. Coach to the side in 1988 and 1989, Con sees himself back involved 20 years later as a selector and in another All-Ireland final.

Unfortunately, Cork failed to lift the title back in the late '80s, succumbing to the might of Kilkenny.

This year, though, Cork are favourites. Will Con finally see his side lift the O'Duffy Cup?

"Well we are happy with the team, they've put in a big effort," he says. "They're very united which is very important for a team going into a final. Galway are a big strong team and if conditions were heavy it would suit them but then Croke Park is a big field and maybe big fields don't always suit big players."

"It's a hard contest for Cork, no question about that. If people think this thing is all over, forget it."

"They've beaten us twice this year already, once in the league and again in the championship. There was only a goal in it in the champi-



LINDA MELLERICK

onship but they managed to win.

"They'll hold that over Cork in the sense that they'll believe they can win it. It'll be important for Cork that they stamp their authority on the game very early on."

"If we do that and put Galway on the back foot, Galway just mightn't recover."

"If Cork let Galway into the game they'll grow in confidence, there'll be this huge desire to win and they could just go on and win."

Having been involved in Cork camogie for so long and having watched last year's defeat to Wexford does Con feel that the present side are more balanced despite losing the players they did?

"Well the players who are gone are gone now. You rarely go out again with the same team; inevitably there will always be changes."

"In one sense you would be worried about them going into the big occasion. A lot of talk locally can have a huge effect on players."

"We'll be hoping that they play a team game, that they hold their

heads and use their head as much as their hurling ability. If they do that, I'm confident that Cork are good enough to win."

"The defence is strong. They might not all be superstars but I don't think we'll be caught in the defence. The other side of the field, a lot of players can score and they'll believe that they can score."

"Last year I felt Cork underperformed in areas and, if that starts early on, it's harder and harder it gets, it's hard to turn the tide."

"When we played Tipperary in the championship we got level and took the lead and for the next 10 minutes played outstandingly and that really was the turning point."

"If Cork do that early against Galway and get into their stride, then they can be adventurous and you have to be adventurous to win."

Pat Murray is another whose name is synonymous with Cork camogie. Like Con, Pat has seen it all before.

Looking ahead to the final, Pat puts on a neutral hat for a few moments and says that he is glad that Galway are in the final because its great for the game of camogie.

That hat doesn't stay on long as his attentions turn towards defeating the Tribeswomen.

"Galway are the only team to have beaten us in the championship

so that of course is a worry. But, on the other hand, it'll stop our players from being complacent."

"I was impressed with Galway in the semi-final. They had hidden reserves when Wexford drew level and possibly should have won by a lot more than they did on the day."

Pat is happy that Cork are in the position that they set out to be in early in the year.

"Myself, Denise (Cronin, manager) and Con are in the game a long time. We were able to go out and pull in new players and some of them have slotted in very well."

"A lot of the players will be new to Croke Park but that's not a bad thing either."

"Only five of the 2006 Cork team are starting on Sunday. Galway made it very clear at the beginning of the year that nothing less than the All-Ireland was going to please them so they're very determined."

"All-Ireland finals are 50/50. I think the first 10 minutes is very important. If we get a good start we should win the game."

"If Galway get a good start it's a different story but Jim McCarthy has the team very fit and even though we've been slow to start in most of our games, in the second half we've dominated play so hopefully that'll come to pass again on All-Ireland day."