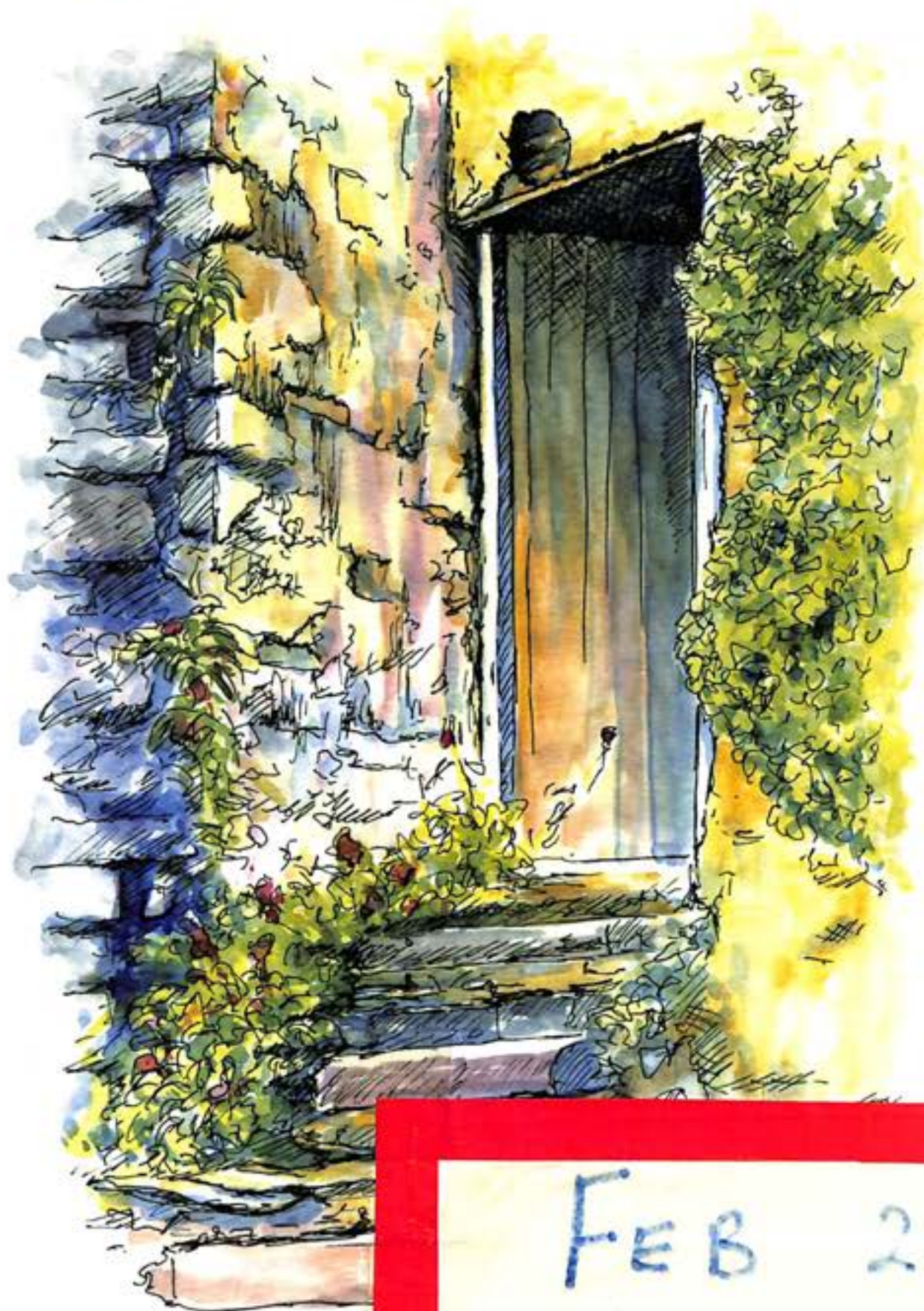


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Programme of events for 2004

MARCH sees the launch of Centenary Stamps with An Post.

April 10th sees a national Club Day. All competitive fixtures are put on hold for this particular weekend. It is hoped all clubs will organise a day of events and craic.

This is a day for all the local community to be involved not just club members.

In my view we should forget the norm of holding seven a side competitions, long pucks, etc.

These tournaments are 10 a penny throughout the year (and rightly so) but for this particular day I recommend getting something like a road-show going, mothers/fathers and children having the good old fashioned three legged/egg and spoon races, face painting for the kids. An over 40's mixed match of some sort for the adults while at the same time promoting our game and getting more volunteers involved.

May and June has the final

stages of the senior and junior National League along with the inter-provincial championship.

Kilkenny host a camogie golf classic in July.

This should prove a very popular and competitive event.

The All-Ireland Senior Championship also commences.

August and September are as usual hectic months with all Championships entering the semi-final and final stages.

The Kilmacud Crokes 7's Tournament and the All-Ireland Mini-Games are just a few of the extras once again generating the extra buzz on the exciting All-Ireland weekend.

For the first time an international competition is being held in October with a shinty/camogie tournament with our friends in Scotland.

November hosts the All-Ireland Club Championship and the year ends with another selection - The camogie All-Stars.

Now there's an event long overdue and I hope that this will continue even after 2004 has come and gone.



SURE BET: Kilkenny's Angela Downey is sure to make the team of the century when it is announced.

A year to savour for camogie fans

2004 will be a year to remember for camogie.

We celebrate our 100th birthday and what a year it promises to be!

Three years ago the association appointed a 'Centenary Committee' to plan and organise a series of events to commemorate this historic year.

Therese O'Callaghan chairs a committee which includes Eithne Duggan (Cork), Germain Noonan (Dublin), Olivia Broderick (Galway) amongst others.

The work they have put in sees over a dozen events organised for the year kicking off tonight, February 28th with a banquet at the City West Hotel in Dublin.

The banquet has generated a lot of talk and excitement most notably because the night will begin with the announcement of 'The Team Of The Century'. I don't know who is on the committee to choose this team.

What I do know is that those nominated were asked to keep their nomination a secret.

I find this a little silly. The most exciting part of any selection, be it the Allstars, an international selection or an event such as this, is knowing the nominees, having a chat in your local or at home about the shock omissions and then having a go at selecting the team yourself.

But as with most secrets there is usually a leak. I know that Angela Downey of Kilkenny is one nominee (you'd want to have been half dead for the entire eighties to middle nineties if you thought that she wasn't an automatic choice).

The female Christy Ring without a shadow of a doubt.

A couple of Cork names have reached my ears but I had better keep quiet a while in

case I'm wrong and get someone's hopes up.

All will soon be revealed and the results eagerly awaited.

Speaking of the inaugural Allstar selection it is a venture that I am delighted to see included in the camogie calendar.

Cork, Tipperary, Kilkenny and to a lesser degree Galway over the years have all tasted All-Ireland glory.

Winning makes you selfish, the more you win, the more you want.

You can never win enough All-Irelands and even now I dwell more on the ones that got away than the ones I won.

But then I think about the great players who have never won anything at senior level with their beloved county.

Máire Collins of Clare, Pauline McCarthy, Eileen O'Brien and Vera Sheehan of Limerick to name but a few.

These players deserve to get some recognition. The fact that their county is just that little bit weaker than the big guns at the moment doesn't mean that they should miss out.

An Allstars selection affords these players a chance to receive the plaudits they deserve and give them a sense of achievement after the disappointment of losing the Championship.

An Allstar style was adopted this year with a selection which was titled 'Camogie Lynchpins 2003' sponsored by Lynch Hotels.

But next year and there after let's make this an official event. Make it as prestigious as it is in GAA circles and let players play throughout the year with the ambition of being included.



Linda Mellerick

It can only better us!

So we've come a long way, 100 years.

Whatever about today, many thanks must be paid to those who founded our as-

sociation.

Sport was a man's domain and considered 'socially undesirable' for women. In the early days, the playing area was from 60-100 yards long and 40-60 yards wide.

The duration of a match was 40 minutes. The ball, which was made from red horse skin weighed from 4-5 ounces.

Females clad in long skirts practically covering their ankles.

To intentionally stop the ball with the skirt was deemed to be a foul.

No fear of stopping a ball that way nowadays! Thank God!

The game has come an enormously long way. Over the years I have yet to meet anyone, particularly men who have become involved with camogie in one way or another and not been completely caught up in the dedication, drive, commitment, skill and intensity of the game and those playing.

But I'm not here to try and convince people about how great this game is.

I never have and never will get involved in an argument with someone who underestimates camogie.

I walk away and smile. The game speaks for itself.

What we have now 100 years on is a thriving sport!

The game in recent years has reached a new level and requires a standard of fitness and skill that we once only dreamed about but now have in abundance.

LINDA STATS

LINDA MELLERICK is widely regarded as one of the best camogie players ever to grace the national stage.

She began her senior inter county career with Cork back in 1985, spending nearly two decades wowing crowds with her prowess before retiring after Cork's All-Ireland success in 2002.

Over her career she won six senior All-Ireland titles with Cork, captaining the side to glory on two occasions.

She also won Minor and Junior All-Ireland medals with Cork.

In a glittering club career with Glen Rovers she won seven Cork County Championships and three All-Ireland Club titles.

Linda is joining the **EVENING ECHO** sports team as our new camogie columnist and will be giving her views on all matters in the camogie world in her new weekly column.

HONOURS

- *6 senior All-Ireland medals (two as captain)
- *1 junior All-Ireland medal
- *1 minor All-Ireland medal
- *7 senior Cork County Championship medals
- *3 All-Ireland Club titles
- *If you are involved in a camogie club and would like to feature in our extended camogie coverage then email sport@echo.ie

The only crib is that the same few teams contend for All-Ireland glory year after year.

In the eighties and up to the late nineties it was mostly Cork and Kilkenny, for the latter of the nineties and the early years of the 21st century its been Cork and Tipp.

(Cork are always there or thereabouts to be fair). This will eventually bore people outside of the competing counties and does nothing to inspire or develop the game in counties like Limerick, Dublin, Armagh, etc.

We go back to developing the game in these counties at under age level.

But all these kids need role models and ambition. Success breeds success. It's a proven fact!

It'll be a long road in some counties but others aren't too far behind.

It's another days work! For the moment let us look at the UP side, how our game has gone from strength to strength, how it is recognised as one of our nation's top female sports and how year after year more and more girls take up the hurley.

To those of you who struck the first ball, to those of you who slogged over the years to better our facilities, to those of you who played their part, however small, over the past 100 years, many thanks, take a bow and Let the celebrations begin!

Three talented ladies make Century team

CAMOGIE

OVER 1000 guests filled the banquet hall of the City West Hotel, Dublin on Saturday when the Camogie Association announced their 'Team of the Century'. This is all part of the celebration of 100 years of camogie in Ireland.

Kilkenny had three players honoured although, as with any such team, much of the talk was about players who might have made the selection.

There was no doubt, however, about the quality of the players chosen. The first quandary the Selection Committee had to face was to decide whether to choose a 12 member team (as camogie was until 1999) or as a team of 15. They went for XV so some players were picked in positions that didn't exist when they playing.

Selected at right full back was Kilkenny's Liz Neary, who gave consistently dominant displays at full-back during her career. Liz won seven senior All-Irelands, two as captain. She was also won six club All-Irelands and five National Leagues, one as captain. Liz won a colleges title with the Presentation Convent, Kilkenny.

As well as winning Smithwick's awards for camogie, she was selected as the Hall of Fame winner four years ago.

Picked at centre-back was one of the most stylish players ever to have graced camogie, or indeed any game.



The Camogie team of the Century, back row from left, Sheila Wallace, Ard Stiurthoir, Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael, Liz Neary, Kilkenny, Marie Costine O'Donovan, Cork, Mary Sinnott Dinan, Wexford, Bridie Martin McGarry, Kilkenny, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Cork, Margaret O'Leary Leacy, Wexford, Linda Mellerick, Cork, Marian Carolan, on behalf of the late Kathleen Mills Hill, Dublin, and Mary Fennelly, on behalf of Angela Downey Browne, Kilkenny, and front row, from left, Eileen Duffy O'Mahony, Dublin, Mairead McAtamney Magill, Antrim, An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, T.D., Miriam O'Callaghan, Uachtaran, Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael, Una O'Connor, Dublin, Nancy McCarthy, on behalf of the late Sophie Brack, her sister, Pat Moloney Lenihan, Cork, and Deirdre Hughes, Tipperary, at the Cumann Camogaiocht na nGael centenary celebrations at the Citywest Hotel, Dublin.

Bridie Martin-McGarry won nine senior All-Irelands. She would have won a 10th but for the fact that she gave birth to her second son only a week before one All-Ireland.

The birth didn't stop her attending the final!

Bridie captained Kilkenny in two of the wins. She holds four inter-club All-Irelands as well as eight

National Leagues. She was captain in two of the victories.

She was also honoured by the Smithwick's sports stars committee.

The corner-forward position went to another stylist who set Croke Park alight on many an occasion. Angela Downey Browne won a whopping 12 All-Irelands, two as captain.

How many times was she top scorer? Probably in all 12 finals!

Angela sampled victory in five club championships. She was a member of all the Kilkenny National League teams.

As well as being honoured by the Smithwick's sports stars committee, Angela was chosen by B+I as their 'player of the year' on a

number of occasions. She was chosen as a Texaco award winner, a very rare honour for a camogie player.

As with all such selections, there was controversy with Kilkenny folk present thinking that their exploits deserved more than three selections.

Ann Downey, for example, was on all 12 Kilkenny senior All-Ireland winning

sides, and was captain. She went close to collecting a 13th medal when Kilkenny lost to Tipperary by a single point in 1991.

Another name mentioned was that of the sweet-striking Helena O'Neill. Many more were fondly remembered, but alas, there wasn't room for everyone.

Team of the century: Eileen Duffy-O'Mahony (Dublin);

Liz Neary (Kilkenny), Marie Costine-O'Donovan (Cork), Mary Sinnott-Dinan (Dublin), Sandra Fitzgibbon (Cork), Bridie Martin-McGarry (Kilkenny), Margaret O'Leary (Wexford), Mairead McAtamney (Antrim), Kathleen Mills (Dublin), Linda Mellerick (Cork), Pat Moloney-Lenihan (Cork), Una O'Connor (Dublin), Sophie Brack (Dublin), Deirdre Hughes (Tipperary), Angela Downey-Browne (Kilkenny).



Sandie Fitzgibbon, left, Marie Costine O'Donovan, Pat Moloney Lenihan and Linda Mellerick, right, who were named on the camogie Team of the Century, at the Cumann Camogaiocht na nGael centenary celebrations at the Citywest Hotel.

Picture: Sportsfile

Linda one of the best

By CONOR GEORGE

Camogie team of the century

EVENING ECHO columnist Linda Mellerick was one of four former Cork camogie stars named on the Team of the Century at the association's annual congress at the Citywest Hotel in Dublin on Saturday night.

Mellerick, whose exclusive column appeared for the first time in Saturday's *Evening Echo*, was thrilled at her inclusion in the star-studded team.

"I'm over the moon," said Mellerick, who retired from the inter-county scene following Cork's All-Ireland win in 2002.

"To be named in the Team of the Century is a tremendous honour and one I, and I'm sure the rest of the selection, are thrilled with."

Linda, who was selected at right half-forward, was joined on the team by former Cork and Glen Rovers' team-mate Sandy Fitzgibbon, and Pat Moloney-Lenihan and Marie Costine O'Donovan, who both starred on Cork teams in the 1970s.

TEAM: Eileen Duffy-O'Mahoney (Dublin), Liz Neary (Kilkenny), Marie Costine O'Donovan (CORK), Mary Sinnott-Dinan (Wexford), Sandra Fitzgibbon (CORK), Bridie Martin-McGarry, Margaret O'Leary-Leacy, Mairead McAtamney-Magill (all Antrim), Kathleen Mills-Hill (Dublin), Linda Mellerick (CORK), Pat Moloney-Lenihan (CORK), Una O'Connor (Dublin), Sophie Brack (Dublin), Deirdre Hughes (Tipperary), Angela Downey (Kilkenny).

It's a night I won't forget

AS SOON as we got out of our cars in the impressive surroundings that is the CityWest Hotel, there was a buzz in the air.

Walking into the foyer, we spotted many past and present sporting figures.

We headed for the bar and the talk began — who was or who wasn't named on the Team of the Century? We pondered over how many nominees there were! As I mentioned last week, the whole event was kept very secret, so nobody really knew.

Sandy Fitzgibbon, Marie Costine, Pat Moloney and myself all received notification of our nomination a month ago, and were asked to keep it to ourselves.

While we had remarked that this was a little peculiar we thought little more about it.

Of course the reason became very apparent on the night, after the team was announced — the nominees were the actual team.

Apparently those who selected the team short-listed it time and time again until they arrived at their 15, and those 15 were honoured guests at the function.

Up to then I had thought little about being selected on 'The Team'.

But I'll have to admit that my stomach started turning once we arrived.

Upon taking our seats I was immediately impressed by the surroundings. One hundred tables each seating 10 filled a dimly lit room.

An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern entered the packed function at 7.40pm, and within minutes the proceedings began.

RTE's Claire McNamara gave a moments introduction on Dublin's great Eileen Duffy-O'Mahony, and announced the first member of the Team of the Century.

Micheál O'Muircheartaigh was next with Liz Neary of Kilkenny, and for the next 20 minutes they alternatively introduced and announced the selection.

My God, what a nerve wrecking

Linda Mellerick

20 minutes that was. The tall impressive Maire Costine of Cloyne was Cork's first award named at full-back.

And a popular choice she was too. Ranked as one of the most accomplished fullbacks ever to grace the game, Marie had it all; height, strength, mobility, superb ball control, and her trade mark — a great hand.

I never had the honour of playing alongside Maire, who retired from inter-county camogie in 1980, but I grew up listening to wonderful stories of her heroics.

Holder of five All-Ireland medals including four-in-a-row from 1970-1973, she is one of the all time greats. Congratulations Marie, to you and your sporting family.

I was sitting at the same table as the brilliant Sandy Fitz, and it was no surprise when she was called out at right-half back.

I felt on the way up that Angela Downey and Sandy were probably the only two certainties, such was their immense talent, and I suppose they are the players I'm more familiar with.

But poor Sandy didn't feel that way at all. She was shaking just as much as I was (as we admitted to each other afterwards).

I joined the Cork set-up in 1985 and Glen Rovers in 1987, and to this day Sandy remains one of my idols (I have two).

Her modest unassuming nature when she could have walked 10 feet tall is what amazed me most.

I wonder if she realises just how good she really was.

Her speed, her little flick away just when you thought you were through, her boundless energy and incredible skill makes her one of the best there was.

And to think she combined all that with a successful international basketball career.

I never knew how she did that. I often pondered other sports but camogie took over my life, how



The camogie Team of the Century pictured in City West Hotel with Taoiseach Bertie Ahern.

Picture: Sportsfile



I receive my award from Bertie Ahern and camogie chairwoman Miriam O'Callaghan.

Picture: Sportsfile

could I possibly fit in something else? But Sandy did. To give you an idea of how hectic Sandy's schedule could be, I remember in 1990 the Glen won the All-Ireland club title.

For the semi-final we had to travel to Swatragh in northern Ireland. On the Saturday morning, Sandy travelled by bus to Galway with the Blarney basketball team for a vital game against Corrib.

Rose Mackey, her Glen club-mate, hired a car in Galway and drove Sandy to Donegal where they spent the night.

They drove to Swatragh on Sunday morning where Sandy lined out at centre-back for the Glen. After the game Sandy showered, had a bite to eat and the pair hit the road again.

They headed for Dublin where they handed back the hired car.

Sandy grabbed a few hours sleep before joining up with the Irish basketball squad to fly to America.

Bridie McGarry, Kilkenny and Margaret O'Leary-Leacy, Wexford completed the half back line.

Máiréad McAtamney from Antrim was announced at centre field, and then it was my turn.

All I'll say is that apart from walking up the steps of the Hogan Stand, that walk up to sit with the others players on stage was the greatest walk of my life.

I don't think I realised how much making this team meant to me until

my name was called out and I fought back the tears.

The last Cork player to be named was Pat Moloney-Lenihan.

Holder of seven All-Ireland medals, again a member of that great four in a row team, the great Killeagh player was and remains today a household name in Camogie circles.

Her name is often mentioned when stories of past games are relived. Pat played in midfield for many years before moving to attack where she made an immediate impact.

Incredible speed and skill, holding the hurley right below left she proved very elusive.

Pat captained Cork on two occasions, 1977 and to victory in 1982 and was hugely influential both with club and county. Thoroughly deserved and a popular choice-Well done Pat.

The only talking point of the weekend was the failure of star player Angela Downey to attend the banquet.

I'm sure you've all heard by now that Angela's absence was due to the fact that both sisters were upset at the failure of twin sister Ann to make the team.

My opinion — Ann was one of the all time greats and will long in the memory of Kilkenny people and the sporting world.

Yes, she could have made the

team, and everyone would have nodded their agreement.

But how do you pick a team like this?

My God, most counties have trouble picking 15 to start a championship match.

I never saw many of those selected in action or indeed, even met.

Two are deceased. But their names I had heard over the years and throughout the course of the night the general consensus was that those chosen deserved their award.

But so would another 15 or even 30 had they picked three teams.

I could rattle off at least another half-dozen Cork players alone who would have been justifiably selected.

The team was always going to be a talking point once announced, and that debate in itself was very enjoyable.

I thought the publicity surrounding it was great. No one envied the selection committee—a tough task, but well done to them.

I can understand Ann's disappointment. I still feel that Angela should have attended the function.

She disappointed many people who had watched her over the years but never met her.

They genuinely wanted to shake the hand of the greatest camogie player there was (she's my other idol).

And on top of that she deserved to be there.

It was one of the greatest nights for all of us as players.

The picture of Máiréad McAtamney in the papers on Monday, wiping a tear from her eye while being embraced by her brother, just about summed up how we all felt.

From start to finish the night was a tremendous success, and credit must go to the Centenary Committee and Central Council for organising such a gala banquet.

It will live long in the memory. On a personal note many thanks to John Ring in St Patrick's school, Gardiner's Hill where it all began for me, Brian Dillon's, Glen Rovers and Cork. People tell me that it's been an honour but believe me, the honour's been all mine.

Taoiseach's seal of approval



The Camogie Team of the Century: Back row from left, Sheila Wallace, Ard Stiurthoir, Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael, Liz Neary, Kilkenny; Marie Costine O'Donovan, Cork; Mary Sinnott Dinan, Wexford; Bridie Martin McGarry, Kilkenny; Sandie Fitzgibbon, Cork; Margaret O'Leary Leacy, Wexford; Linda Mellerick, Cork; Marian Carolan, on behalf of the late Kathleen Mills Hill, Dublin, and Mary Fennelly, on behalf of Angela Downey Browne, Kilkenny. Front from left, Eileen Duffy O'Mahony, Dublin; Mairead McAtamney Magill, Antrim; An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, T.D.; Miriam O'Callaghan, Uachtarán, Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael; Una O'Connor, Dublin; Nancy McCarthy, on behalf of the late Sophie Brack, her sister, Pat Moloney Lenihan, Cork, and Deirdre Hughes, Tipperary, at the Cumann Camogaíocht na nGael centenary celebrations at the Citywest Hotel, Dublin.

Picture: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE

by Jim O'Sullivan

A NEW era of 'progressive change' will guarantee the future of camogie, predicted Taoiseach Bertie Ahern when he spoke at a special banquet on Saturday to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the foundation of Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael.

The highlight was the announcement of the camogie team of the century, which featured four players each from Dublin and Cork and, in the choice of Tipperary's Deirdre Hughes, the only current player.

Mr. Ahern said he believed that the new playing rules (extending teams to 15-a-side) and the re-structuring of the All-Ireland championships had brought a freshness to the organisational approach of the sport. "It will ensure that camogie remains an essential part of our Gaelic Games heritage in the 21st century," he commented.

President Mary McAleese, in a message of congratulations, expressed delight that camogie was now getting the recognition it richly deserved. She said that a keen competitive atmosphere

and team spirit that had engendered great achievement in recent years had also encouraged young players to overcome the physical and mental challenges of the game to achieve their real potential.

In the process, they were making new friends and building bridges that would endure long after they had moved on with their lives. "I say that because camogie is my own sport, having played it at school and for Kilkenny GAA in Ardoyne - and gained many long-lasting friendships with the people I met through the game," she wrote.

In recent years, the Taoiseach added that he had witnessed a marked increase in the profile of camogie, thanks largely to the groundswell of support that it enjoys in the schools, the clubs and the media. Live television coverage of the All-Ireland finals had become the norm and this, in turn, was bringing the skill and excitement of the game to a wider audience.

"Each time that I visited finals over many years, especially the televised ones, the crowds have been very im-



Mairead McAtamney Magill, is embraced by her brother James and wipes a tear from her eye, after she was named on the Camogie Team of the Century.

pressive. It's a great sign of the popularity of the game when attendances are seen to be constantly much bigger than attendances at most national finals in other codes - dare I say it and apologise, than the men's FAI Cup final and the All-Ireland rugby league final. The icing on the cake this year was that the finals attracted the highest TV viewing in the history of camogie."

GAA president Sean Kelly said the Camogie Association could take justifiable pride in reaching 100 years, par-

ticularly in such healthy condition. "It's obviously a great achievement and obviously an encouragement for them. Now, through their whole new approach and working in close co-operation with us and ladies football, we can go from strength to strength."

Hurling and camogie go hand in hand. Wherever hurling will be promoted, the game of camogie will be promoted equally into the future."

Ladies Football chief executive, Helen O'Rourke insists that the two sports are not in competition with each other. "We're all supporting Gaelic games - the same as hurling and football. We have a lot of dual players and with co-operation we can facilitate both," she commented.

"While we're only established 30 years and camogie is celebrating a hundred years, there's still an awful lot of work to be done. The one thing we are doing is that we are providing a great service for the women of this country in giving them an opportunity to play field sports. There's plenty of room for both of us."

Miriam O'Callaghan, President of

the Camogie Association, said that the players honoured on the Team of the Century were representative of the many great players who had, and continued to give, marvellous entertainment to so many.

Two of the players honoured are deceased, Kathleen (Mills) Hill - described by RTE commentator Micheal O Muircheartaigh as the most elegant camogie player he ever saw - and Sophie Brack, both from Dublin. With the exception of Kilkenny star Angela Downey, whose career spanned 25 years ago, all the other players were present to receive their awards. The failure of Angela's twin sister Ann to gain a place was one of many talking points in relation to the selection of the team.

Camogie team of the century: Eileen Duffy - O'Mahony (Dublin); Liz Neary (Kilkenny); Marie Costine - O'Donovan (Cork); Mary Sinnott - Dinan (Wexford); Sandie Fitzgibbon (Cork); Bridie Martin - McGarry (Kilkenny); Margaret O'Leary - Leacy (Wexford); Mairead McAtamney - Magill (Antrim); Kathleen Mills - Hill (Dublin); Linda Mellerick (Cork); Pat Moloney-Lenihan (Cork); Una O'Connor (Dublin); Sophie Brack (Dublin); Deirdre Hughes (Tipperary); Angela Downey (Kilkenny).



The Camogie team of the Century, which was named on Saturday night, back row from left: Sheila Wallace, Liz Neary, Marie Costine O'Donovan, Mary Sinnott Dinan, Bridie Martin McGarry, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Margaret O'Leary Leacy, Linda Mellerick, Marie Carolan (for Kathleen Mills Hill), Mary Fennelly (for Angela Downey Browne). Front row from left: Eileen Duffy, Mairead McAtamney Magill, An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, Miriam O'Callaghan, Uachtarán, Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael, Una O'Connor, Nancy McCarthy (on behalf of Sophie Brack), Pat Moloney Lenihan, Deirdre Hughes.

FEB

2004

Angela lashes gala team

Twin omission proves too much for camogie legend Downey

ANGELA DOWNEY, widely accepted as the greatest camogie player in the game's 100-year history, boycotted its 'Team of the Century' presentation on Saturday night in protest at the absence of her twin sister Ann from the team.

The legendary Kilkenny woman, who first played for the county seniors when she was only 13, snubbed the gala banquet presentation in the CityWest Hotel, Dublin to register her disgust that her sister Ann was not included.

Her own citation described the St Paul's player as "the greatest player ever to adorn the game" but she nominated a former Kilkenny teammate to pick it up for her.

And yesterday the woman who won 12 senior All-Irelands and six All-Ireland club titles in a 25-year inter-county career, and whose phenomenal skill and swash-buckling attacking style helped put the women's game on the map, admitted she had deliberately stayed away to register the strength of her feelings.

"I don't know whether I did right or wrong and anything I say publicly will seem like sour grapes but a lot of people know why I wasn't there," she said. "I really felt it would have been hypocritical of me to attend and pretend everything was rosy in the garden when it wasn't."

Ann gave 25 years to camogie, has 12 All-Irelands and actually one more club title than me because I was suspended for one final! I asked around outside of Kilkenny in the past fortnight and lots of people were disappointed by it and said that our two names would have been the first they would have picked."

Mrs Downey-Browne said she was particularly upset because no one in the Camogie Association would reveal who had picked the team, saying only that it was done by one individual but vetted by several others.

"Maybe if I could have discussed their reasons I might have been able to get my head around it but I would not be told who had picked it and eventually I wrote a letter to Croke Park and told them I would not be there," she revealed. "I saw it on



Angela Downey refused to attend the award ceremony.



Cliona FOLEY

television, it looked like a real gala night and it was certainly not a decision I took lightly but had I gone I would have felt like a hypocrite."

The Downeys played before the game went 15 a-side in 1999 and Ann Downey may have suffered from her own versatility as she could have been picked as a half-back, midfielder or even a forward, though midfield, where the late Kay Mills and Antrim's Mairéad McAtamney Magill were chosen, was her likeliest sitting.

The 'Team of the Century' is one of the highlights of an extensive programme of centenary celebrations this year and Angela Downey's conspicuous absence from the official team photograph will certainly leave a blot on their archives.

Yet it still did not overshadow a most glittering event which was attended by

An Taoiseach. Two of those chosen — Dublin legends Mills (with a record 15 All-Irelands) and Sophie Brack — are deceased. But there was widespread delight amongst their families and the 12 other recipients, not least Eileen Duffy O'Mahoney, the oldest surviving member of the team.

"I can't believe I have been chosen when there were so many great goalkeepers," she said.

Recalling her 10-year spell for the Dubs from 1949, including playing in camogie's first Interpro in Navan in 1954 when the players were paraded around the town beforehand, she revealed that the Dublin women were not actually originally the 'Blues' but the 'Purples'!

"Dublin didn't have a set of tunics when we started, we borrowed them from Scoll Bhríde and they were purple gym frocks but we eventually got our own blue tunics. We were very particular about tying the sash in a certain way and we wore white ankle socks over our black tights," she recalled.

"We trained in the Phoenix Park but my own club (Celtic) had a pitch out in Coolock which was a village then and we used to cycle out there to training, sometimes pulling the lawnmower behind us all the way because we used to cut it



Ann (left) was omitted from the Camogie 'Team of the Century'.



The empty seat of Angela Downey at Saturday night's presentation.

ourselves!" she said laughing. "But those were different days, we cycled everywhere and actually got great coverage in the papers. People would recognise you around town and shout over 'well done yesterday, Eileen!'"

Both of Duffy's sisters, Mary and Pauline, played for Dublin as did her daughter Gráinne (O'Mahony, at junior level) and she might have won a ninth All-Ireland had she not married.

She said her era, a golden one for Dublin and Antrim, actually experienced little sexism, but that "it was not considered ladylike to con-

tinue playing when you got married" as she did in 1958.

"The modern game is very different from ours," she said. "I don't like this 'shoulder-to-shoulder' stuff. In our day it was much more open and probably friendlier but I'm very impressed by the current Tipperary team, they are really skilful."

One of that Tipp team — Deirdre Hughes — was the only current player selected, though former Cork star Linda Mellerick was another of the modern era included, as was her Glen Rovers and Cork colleague Sandie Fitzgibbon, a legendary former

basketball international also.

Liz Neary and Bridie Martin McGarry completed Kilkenny's selected trio, Wexford had Margaret O'Leary Leacy and Mary Sinnott Dinan included but Cork and Dublin both had four.

TEAM OF THE CENTURY (1904-2004)

E Duffy O'Mahoney (Dublin); Liz Neary (Kilkenny); Marie Costine O'Donovan (Cork); Mary Sinnott Dinan (Wexford); Sandie Fitzgibbon (Cork); Bridie Martin McGarry (Kilkenny); Margaret O'Leary Leacy (Wexford); M McAtamney Magill (Antrim); Kathleen Mills (Dublin); Linda Mellerick (Cork); Pat Moloney Lenihan (Cork); Una O'Connor (Dublin); Sophie Brack (Dublin); Deirdre Hughes (Tipperary); Angela Downey Browne (Kilkenny).

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Officers of the Cork County Camogie Board with the Cork Players chosen on the "team of the century" in the City West Hotel



Deirdre Hughes, Tipperary, who was named on the camogie team of the century with An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, T.D. at the Cumann Camogaíochta.



The Cork players named on the 'Camogie Team of the Century' Pat Moloney, Linda Mellerick, Marie Costine and Sandy Fitzgibbon

NEW manager John Considine got his National League campaign off to the best possible start with a 3:10 to 0:7 victory over Galway in Kinvara on Sunday last. Fielding with several new faces in their line out the holders always looked comfortable and led at the break 2:3 to 0:6 after goals from Ciara Healy and Sile Burns had edged them ahead. On the turn over the home side had it all to do as Cork now aided by the gale force wind picked off their scores and ran out comfortable winners to secure two league points.

It's good to see new faces getting a chance to impress amongst them Aoife Murray, Lynda O'Connell, Regina Curtin, Sile Burns and Catriona Foley, while Mary O'Connor enjoyed a good hour in the full back position.

In other games in division one Tipperary were also in experimental mood fielding just six of their All Ireland winning side, and they had to fight all the way before defeating an ever improving Limerick side.

THE Cork junior side set the mood for the day in Kinvara when they recorded a 2:11 to 0:7 victory in division 2, again there were many who impressed including Amanda O'Regan, Ellen Clifford Val O'Keefe and Niamh Goulding.

Also in division two Armagh proved to strong for Tipperary while Offaly defeated Kilkenny and

Down easily accounted for Meath.

The junior side now wait until March 21st when they take on Offaly at a Cork venue while the senior side have an extra week's break until March 28th when they will entertain Tipperary as will the juniors on a weekend when the Tipp hurlers are also in town.

The county minor selectors have a busy weekend ahead as they hold two trials games to help in the selection of their panel, who have a March 20th Munster championship opening round game with Waterford.

On Saturday next at 11.15am players from the divisions of Carrigrohoun, Carbery and South Muskerry are asked to assemble at the Ballinaspittle pitch, and on Sunday at 12.30 at Carrig na Bhfeir College it's the turn of the players from Seandun, Avondhu, Imokilly and North Muskerry.

Given the success to date that John Cronin, John Quinn and Anna Watson have achieved with the minor sides we can be sure that once again no stone will be left unturned as Cork set out in quest of a centenary All Ireland minor title.

National Congress takes place next weekend at the City West Hotel and there are many motions down for discussion over what should be a lively afternoon, it will finish on Saturday night with the Centenary Banquet and here delegates will join representatives from clubs throughout the

country and special guest Taoiseach Bertie Ahern as the "Camogie Team of The Century" is announced.

While there has been much speculation as to the make up of the team Cork will be hoping for big representation given the success story that has been Cork Camogie.

Looking ahead to Centenary happenings nearer to home two representatives from clubs in the city and county will march in their club gear in the St Patrick's Day parade as part of the County Board's efforts to highlight Centenary Year.

Clubs are asked to contact the County Board with the names of their two representatives before Monday next March 1st.

The county will celebrate the success of the minor side who took All-Ireland honours in such tremendous fashion last year when they made it three in a row with a presentation night taking place on Friday March 19 at the Castle Hotel Blarney. Tickets for the function are available and can be purchased from any county board officers or by email at www.corkcamogie.com and leaving your details.

Clubs are reminded of the special EGM which takes place on Monday next March 1 at Paire Uí Rinn at 8pm where new juvenile board officers will be elected.

National congress

by Mary Newman

OFF the field activities dominate next weekend when camogie chiefs gather with the grassroots from clubs and counties for national congress at the City West Hotel.

Another big event also taking place next weekend is the Centenary Ball at the City West and the much awaited announcing of the Camogie Team of the Century.

Cork will be hoping for strong representation.



The Camogie Team of the Century

Back row (from left) Sheila Wallace, Ard Stiurthoir, Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael, Liz Neary, Kilkenny, Marie Costine O'Donovan, Cork, Mary Sinnott Dinan, Wexford, Bridie Martin McGarry, Kilkenny, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Cork, Margaret O'Leary Leary, Wexford, Linda Mellerick, Cork, Marian Carolan, on behalf of the late Kathleen Mills Hill, Dublin, and Mary Fennelly, on behalf of Angela Downey Browne, Kilkenny.

Front row (from left) Eileen Duffy O'Mahony, Dublin, Mairead McAtamney Magill, Antrim, An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, T.D., Miriam O'Callaghan, Uachtaran, Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael, Una O'Connor, Dublin, Nancy McCarthy, on behalf of the late Sophie Brack, her sister, Pat Moloney Lenihan, Cork, and Deirdre Hughes, Tipperary, at the Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael centenary celebrations at the Citywest Hotel, Dublin.

(Picture credit: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFIRE)

CAMOGIE:-

Deirdre on Team of Century

By Liza Roche

An obviously shocked and astounded Deirdre Hughes rightly took her place in history when she was selected at full forward on the Camogie Team of the Century announced at Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael Centenary Banquet on Saturday night last February 28th.

Speaking to reporters after receiving her award Deirdre admitted that the enormity of the Award had not yet hit her. She said while she knew she had been nominated she never thought she would be selected. 'I really had no idea that I was going to be selected being nominated was enough really.'

'I do remember speaking to Therese O'Callaghan and she was telling us about the banquet and the celebrations planned to mark the centenary. I thought to myself we must

really make an effort for this and try and round up a group to go to this,' commented Deirdre.

Still reeling in disbelief, Deirdre stated, 'There are tonnes of players out there whom I thought would have been getting this award before me. It's just unbelievable.' When it was put to her that she is the only player on this team that is still currently playing similar to Brian Whelehan on the Team of the Millennium. 'Oh! don't compare me to an Offaly man anyway,' joked Deirdre.

Remarking on the team that had been selected Deirdre said that she grew up admiring players such as Linda Mellerick, Angela Downey and genuinely thought that Ann Downey would have been included.

Asked how she became involved in the game of camogie, 'When I was very young I played with

friends and neighbours. My Aunt brought me to my first training after that I just kept going.'

Asked if she had any ideas of retiring from the inter county game as she had given fifteen years to it. 'I don't think you look that way when you are playing and especially when you are winning the last four or five years have really seen us reap the rewards of all our efforts in the early years. I don't think I would ever like to retire. If I could I would play until I am 90,' added Deirdre.

Deirdre has four All-Ireland Senior medals, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior medal, 6 Senior and 2 Junior Gael Linn medals. Scored 2-2 in the 2000 All-Ireland final. Deirdre was captain of the Intermediate winning team in 1997. On a day when Eir-cell honoured members of four All-Ireland winning teams for the months of September and October

Deirdre Hughes gave the Premier County its first award under the scheme. On the Tipp panel for 15 seasons.

The Team of the Century 1904-2004

Eileen Duffy O'Mahony (Dublin), Liz Neary (Kilkenny), Marie Costine O'Donovan (Cork), Mary Sinnott Dinan (Wexford), Sandie Fitzgibbon (Cork), Bridie Martin McGarry (Kilkenny), Margaret O'Leary Leary (Wexford), Mairead McAtamney Magill, (Antrim), Kathleen Mills Hill (Dublin), Linda Mellerick (Cork), Pat Moloney Lenihan (Cork), Una O'Connor (Dublin), Sophia Brack (Dublin), Deirdre Hughes (Tipperary), Angela Downey Browne (Kilkenny).

The selection of the Team of the Century was the highlight of the evening which was attended by 1,000 people at the City West Hotel in Dublin.

Guest of honour on the night was An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern. He paid tribute to the Game of Camogie and the organisation for its contribution to the development of the nation.

Other speakers on the night included Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael President Miriam Uí Cheallachain she thanked those who were involved in organising the banquet including Sile de Bhailis, Sinead Ní Chonchuir, Fil Ni Chlerigh, Irene Kirwan and Liz Howard. President of the GAA Sean Kelly and Archbishop of Cashel and Emily Dermot Clifford also spoke. As the speeches drew to a close the party got underway with comedian Alan Shortt of Bull Island fame setting the tone for a very enjoyable night which I am told went on until the very late hours of the morning!! As they say down the country 'A great night was had by all'.

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... and the Camogie Team of the Century!

THE Camogie Association celebrated in style last Saturday night when over 1,000 guests gathered in the CityWest Hotel for a Gala Centenary Banquet and the announcement of the Team of the Century.

The President of Cumann Camógaiochta na nGael, Miriam O'Callaghan, and An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, TD, presented the Team of the Century with their awards.

The atmosphere was electric as presenters Clare McNamara and Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh built up the sense of anticipation as they read a citation for each player.

Team of the Century:

Eileen Duffy-O'Mahoney (Dublin); Liz Neary (Kilkenny); Marie Costine-O'Donovan (Cork); Mary Sinnott-Dinan (Wexford); Sandy Fitzgibbon (Cork); Bridie Martin-McGarry (Kilkenny); Margaret O'Leary-Lacy (Wexford); Mairead McAtamney-Magill (Antrim); Kathleen Mills-Hill (Dublin); Linda Mellerick (Cork); Pat Moloney-Lenihan (Cork); Una O'Connor (Dublin); Sophie Brack (Dublin); Deirdre Hughes (Tipperary); Angela Downey-Browne (Kilkenny).

Speaking at the presentation, Miriam O'Callaghan said: "I congratulate the members of the Team of the Century. They span many



The respective captains, Fiona Morrissey, of St Mary's, Charleville (left) and Deirdre Coomey, Coláiste na Toirbhí, Bandon, with referee, Cathal Egan, of Glen Rovers, before the start of the final of the Munster Colleges Junior A Camogie Championship at Brinny.

decades and it is a supreme honour for those chosen.

"It is not an easy task to select such a team as there are so many wonderfully skilled players who graced and continue to grace the playing fields over the years."

She thanked An Taoiseach for his presence and made him a presentation of a framed print of the Team of the Century.

The event was attended by a number of dignitaries, including Deirdre Heney, Deputy Lord Mayor of

Dublin, Seán Kelly, President of the GAA, Past Presidents of the Camogie Association, and relatives of the founding members.

The Camogie Association has a membership of approximately 90,000 and guests travelled from the

USA, Europe and the UK to attend the banquet.

The Taoiseach paid tribute to the Camogie Association. "I congratulate you on your centenary year and your significant contribution to sport in Ireland," he said.

"I pay special tribute to the

Team of the Century, all household names.

"You have carved a special niche in Irish sporting history."

Guests partied into the early hours on what, truly, was a momentous night for the Camogie Association.

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Sinead O'Connor, Moycullen, Co Galway, Sponsorship and Finance manager, Camogie Association, and Deirdre McDonnell, Burgess, Co. Tipperary, Camogie Ambassador Third Level Colleges, at the Camogie Association centenary celebrations at the Citywest Hotel, Dublin.

Picture credit: Brendan Moran

A quartet of Cork stars make Centenary team

CamogieChat

IT WAS a wonderful weekend for Cork camogie as four players were honoured with selection on the "Camogie Team of the Century" at the City West Hotel.

Nine hundred representatives from clubs throughout the thirty two counties gave a rapturous welcome to an Taoiseach Bertie Ahern as the evening began and it was to the delight of the large Cork contingent that Marie Costine, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Linda Mellerick and Pat Moloney were duly honoured with selection.

Let me briefly introduce you to Cork Centenary Queens:

Marie Costine from the Killeagh club was a full back par excellence, the holder of five All-Ireland senior medals her ability to read the game and catch the dropping ball were just two of the many skills that set her apart.

Sandie Fitzgibbon holds six All-Ireland senior medals and without doubt the Glen Rovers star was one of the games most skilful and stylish players, her control of the ball and her exceptional work rate were and indeed still are a treat to watch she captained the Cork senior side to All-Ireland success in 1992.

Linda Mellerick the only player to captain Cork to All Ireland senior success on two occasions is the holder of six senior All Ireland medals, noted for her dashing runs and continuous involvement in the action, indeed Glen were the only club that had two representatives on the team.

Pat Moloney from Killeagh played for many years in midfield

before making the move to the forward line where she was selected on the centenary team Pat was noted for her skill, speed and distinctive style is the holder of seven All Ireland medals.

It was a night of marvellous celebration and the large Cork contingent certainly celebrated in style led by the County Board chairperson Marion McCarthy and her fellow officers President Sheila Golden, Mary Bugler, Mary McSweeney and Kay and Terry Dunne.

It was great to see many of the clubs also represented with Rena and Dermot O'Leary from St. Catherine's, former Cork coach Pa Finn from the Barrs and his wife Nora, East Cork were well represented with a the Costine's from Cloyne and Killeagh while former Killeagh coach Eamonn Linehan was there as in the years gone by giving full support to his wife Pat Moloney-Linehan.

Eire Og's Rose and Con Malone and Miriam and Con Murphy enjoyed the occasion as did last years Cork captain Stephanie Dunlea joined by her new husband Martin Murphy.

Present day players Ciara Healy, Una O'Donoghue and Emer Dillon made sure the new generation of Cork stars were represented while it was great to meet former players such as Mary O'Leary, Marion Sweeney, Marie Mackey, Miriam Higgins, Nancy O'Driscoll, Sheila Dunne and Mary Moran.

Old Als stalwart's Lil O'Neill and Carmel Desmond were there in force while Glen Rover's chairperson Nora Newman led a group from her club including officers Deirdre

Sutton-Coleman and Rose Mackey.

From county champions Fr O'Neills you had Joan and Sean O'Driscoll and Cork's representative's on the centenary organising committee Eithne Duggan, Therese O'Callaghan and their fellow committee members are to be congratulated on a job well done.

With teams such as this there is always controversy and certainly this was no exception but I do think it was a pity that one of Camogie's finest ever players chose to miss one of the biggest occasions in the sports history simply because her sister did not receive a nomination, certainly no role model here for our younger players.

Well done to our girls Marie Costine, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Pat Moloney and Linda Mellerick, who certainly did Cork and camogie proud.

Officers for the juvenile board were elected on Monday last and Mayfield's Tracy Sheehan will bring a wealth of experience to the role of chairperson where she will be ably assisted by Kathleen Healy in the role of vice chairperson, Mary O'Sullivan Brian Dillon's is the newly elected secretary while Cloughduv's Bina O'Callaghan takes the job of treasurer.

Ann Marie Healy is the PRO with former officer Mairead Ni Mhaolduin Blackrock elected to the position of child welfare officer. Outgoing GPC members John Barry and Willie O'Regan were re-elected and they are joined by Dungourney's Paddy Cullinane, Andrew O'Farrell Carrigaline and Sliabh Rua' Eileen O'Brien.

Century's finest named at centenary celebration

GAVIN CUMMISKEY

The Camogie Association celebrated 100 years of existence on Saturday night when they announced their team of the century to a crowd of over 1,000 guests at the Citywest hotel in Dublin. The President of Cumann Camógaíochta Na nGael, Miriam O'Callaghan, and An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, presented the awards.

"I congratulate you on your centenary year and your significant contribution to sport in Ireland. I pay special tribute to the team of the century, all household names. You have carved a special niche in Irish sporting history," said Mr Ahern.

Twelve of the team were present at the banquet, which was hosted by Clare McNamara and Micheál Ó Muirheartaigh of RTE.

Corner forward Angela Downey-Browne from Kilkenny was unable to attend so another Kilkenny woman, Mary Fennelly, collected her award. Two of Dublin's finest ever players, Kathleen Mills-Hill and Sophie Brack, are deceased.

Special mention was given to Mills-Hill, who picked up a remarkable 15 All-Ireland medals spanning three decades (1940s to 1960s); her husband, George, has since provided a replica trophy of the O'Duffy Cup to be presented to the winning All-Ireland

captain every year.

The county-by-county breakdown was: Dublin, Cork (four each), Kilkenny (three), Wexford (two), Antrim and Tipperary (one each).

Tipperary's Deirdre Hughes is the only player on the 15 still playing inter-county camogie but wing forward Linda Mellerick did win an All-Ireland with Cork as recently as 2002.

O'Callaghan said: "I congratulate the members of the team of the century. They span many decades and it is a supreme honour for those chosen. It is not an easy task to select such a team as there are so many wonderfully skilled players who graced and continue to grace the playing fields over the years."

She also thanked An Taoiseach for his presence and presented him with a framed print of the team.

The event was attended by a

number of dignitaries, including Deirdre Heney, Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin; Seán Kelly, president of the GAA; past presidents of the Camogie Association; and relatives of the founding members.

The Camogie Association has a membership of approximately 90,000. Guests travelled from the USA, Europe and Britain to attend Saturday's function.

Just one person, who wishes to remain anonymous, selected the team. At least another two people also had input into the final selection but they wish to remain out of the limelight.

TEAM OF THE CENTURY: Eileen Duffy-O'Mahoney (Dublin); Liz Neary (Kilkenny); Marie Costello-O'Donovan (Cork); Mary Sinnott-O'Neil (Wexford); Sandy Fitzgibbon (Cork); Bridie Martin-McGarry (Kilkenny); Margaret O'Leary-Leary (Wexford); Mairead McAtamney-Magill (Antrim); Kathleen Mills-Hill (Dublin); Linda Mellerick (Cork); Pat Moloney-Lenihan (Cork); Una O'Connor (Dublin); Sophie Brack (Dublin); Deirdre Hughes (Tipperary); Angela Downey-Browne (Kilkenny).

FEB 2004

Athenry and Scariff through

by Therese O'Callaghan

THERE were mixed fortunes for two Galway schools in the All-Ireland junior colleges camogie semi-finals played on Saturday.

In the A decider, Presentation Athenry booked their final date with Coláiste Bride Enniscorthy after conquering Munster champions Presentation Bandon at Brinny (2-2 to 0-5).

In the B competition, Athenry Vocational School were forced to surrender to an extremely talented Scariff Community School at Scariff (7-8 to 1-0).

Pres Athenry will be appearing in their first junior final since 1977 and Noreen Coen was hugely instrumental in the win, notching 1-2.

Elsewhere, the Clare champions ended the B contest early on.

They led 3-5 to 0-0 at the break. And with other green flags from Mairead

Scanlon (two), Laura Brody, Mairead Dooley, Ann Marie Fitzgerald and Ciara McDermott, they secured their passage to the final with ease.

Meanwhile, in Division One of the National League, Wexford secured two points from their outing to Corrig Park beating Antrim, 8-13 to 0-4. Michelle Hearn was their top scorer bagging four goals.

In Division Two, Waterford succumbed to Laois at Walsh Park, 2-5 to 1-5, a goal after the break from Sinead Lenihan proving to be the all-important score for the visitors.

Wexford's second outfit had too much firepower for Antrim when they ran out easy winners on a scoreline of 2-16 to 1-0.

Wicklow came away with a significant 4-10 to 0-3 win over Cavan.

A pair of goals from Vicky O'Gara plus 1-4 each from Pamela Maher and Ger Norton secured this victory.

ST. MARY'S, CHARLEVILLE

Sky Blue & Navy

1. Sinéad O' Connor	28/7/88	Mallow
2. Orla Carroll	22/4/89	Ballyhea
3. Mary O' Mahony	19/7/88	Newtownshandrum
4. Joanne Herlihy	11/5/89	Newtownshandrum
5. Lisa Fitzgerald	24/1/89	Ballyagran
6. Fionnuala Dore	11/7/89	Ballyagran
7. Arah Sexton	28/6/88	Milford
8. Áine Watson	7/4/88	Milford
9. Valerie O' Dea	13/2/89	Gran-B.Garry
10. Áine Geary	9/4/89	Ballyagran
11. Eileen O' Mahony	21/3/88	Newtownshandrum
12. Michelle O' Connor	5/2/89	Newtownshandrum
13. Aisling Thompson	5/3/90	Milford
14. Fiona Morrissey [C]	21/7/88	Gran-B.Garry
15. Aisling McAuliffe	17/1/90	Ballyagran

Subs:

16. Denise O' Flynn	26/2/88	Newtownshandrum
17. Mairéad Dunne	28/4/88	Ballyhea
18. Fiona Lambert	31/8/88	Charleville
19. Ann Marie Lyons	4/10/88	Charleville
20. Kim O' Connor	8/11/88	Charleville
21. Lisa Sexton	23/4/88	Gran-B.Garry
22. Rachel Waters	17/10/89	Ballyhea
23. Fiona O' Connell	16/6/89	Buttevant
24. Eileen Hanley	9/9/89	Charleville
25. Vera Hennessy	3/4/89	Ballyhea
26. Lisa Meaney	4/7/89	Ballyhea
27. Melissa Jones	26/3/90	Ballyhea
28. Maria Walshe	17/7/90	Ballyhea

Selectors:

Mr. Ger Donovan
Mr. Vince Harrington

COLÁISTE NA TOIRBHIRTE, BANDON

Red

1. Brid Coleman	13/4/89	Ballinhassig
2. Sarah Walsh	14/4/89	Ballinhassig
3. Lucy Hawkes	27/3/88	Valley Rovers
4. Lisa O' Sullivan	8/12/88	Newcestown
5. Frances Deasy	16/9/88	Newcestown
6. Anna Nyhan	20/10/88	Enniskeane
7. Deirdre Coomey [C]	23/1/88	Ballinhassig
8. Colleen Long	3/2/88	Newcestown
9. Breda Tuohy	5/4/88	Ballinhassig
10. Danielle O' Sullivan	10/1/88	Kilbrittain
11. Mary Ann Hawkes	7/1/91	Valley Rovers
12. Bridgid Crowley	12/8/89	Enniskeane
13. Ann O' Donovan	8/7/90	Valley Rovers
14. Sinéad O' Callaghan	8/9/90	Ballinhassig
15. Gráinne Cronin	13/9/89	Bandon

Subs:

16. Marie Condon	13/12/88	Ballinascorthy
17. Treasa Hurley	24/8/89	Newcestown
18. Aimee O' Riordan	16/6/90	Ballinhassig
19. Aoife Holland	13/1/89	Newcestown
20. Elaine Ryan	8/6/90	Courceys
21. Áine Coughlan	17/8/89	Valley Rovers
22. Ella Ryan	12/3/89	Ballinascorthy

Coach

Ms. Sinéad White

O'Sullivan and Coomey clinch Munster title for Bandon

Presentation, Bandon 4-7
St Mary's, Charleville 2-4

by Therese O'Callaghan

PRESENTATION, Bandon collected their first Munster Junior A colleges camogie title after a thrilling final replay against Charleville at Brinny yesterday.

Goals in the 30th and 32nd minute from Danielle O'Sullivan, and captain Deirdre Coomey ultimately decided the contest.

After playing with the wind, Presentation went in at the break leading 2-6 to 1-2 - the Charleville goal came from the stick of captain Fiona Morrissey. Then, came the

killer blow for the north Cork girls, when O'Sullivan struck again four minutes after the resumption to increase their advantage to ten points.

Scorers: Bandon: D O'Sullivan 2-0, D Coomey 1-3 (free), S O'Callaghan 1-1, L Hawkes 0-2 (free), C Long 0-1.

Charleville: F Morrissey 2-1, A Thompson, A Watson (free) and E O'Mahony 0-1 each.

BANDON: L O'Sullivan; S Walsh, L Hawkes, A O'Riordan; F Deasy, A Nyhan, D O'Sullivan; D Coomey (capt), M A Hawkes; B Crowley, S O'Callaghan, B Tuohy; M Condon, C Long, G Cronin.

CHARLEVILLE: S O'Connor; O Carroll, M O'Mahony, R Waters; L Fitzgerald, S Sexton, V O'Dea; F Dore, A Geary; E O'Mahony, A Watson, M O'Connor; F Morrissey (capt), A Thompson, A McAuliffe.

Subs: D O'Flynn (for V O'Dea (39 mins), M Dunne for A Thompson (45 mins).

Referee: C Egan (Glen Rovers).

A great run comes to an end for the camogie players of Charleville

The luck runs out for St Mary's

Derry Farr reports on the Munster Colleges junior A camogie final at Brinny which saw St Mary's, Charleville, fail in a bid for their eighth victory in succession

BANDON 4-7
CHARLEVILLE 2-4
FOR now at least a glorious run by St Mary's, of Charleville, has come to an end with their defeat in the Munster Colleges junior 'A' camogie final.

In last Wednesday's replay, at Brinny near Bandon, the Charleville girls were going for their eight in a row after a late point from Aine Watson had earned them a second chance when the sides met in the first game.

On that occasion, it was a closely-contested affair, but at the second time of asking, goals at either side of half-time ensured that the girls from Bandon were elevated to a different plane and eventually to an historic first ever victory in this grade.

Last year, the Bandon girls won the junior 'B' provincial crown and a fledgling outfit displayed growing maturity in this new season when they shot to the top in a higher grade and did so by building on the class of a few, augmented by a back-up force that was willing to die for the cause.

Charleville also had their stars, but on this occasion they hadn't the element of luck required to win championship games.

Their opponents had the bit of luck that was going, with their early goals having good fortune attached to them, and they came at a time they were just a point in front nearing the end of an opening half during which they had the breeze to their backs.

The first came in the thirtieth minute when Danielle O'Sullivan availed of defensive frailties in the loser's defence and two minutes into injury time the St Mary's girls were deceived by a long-range Deirdre Coomey free and a second goal resulted.

As if that wasn't bad enough the Bandon girls poached a third goal in the fourth minute following the resumption when, Danielle O'Sullivan sneaked a shot in by the near post, leaving Charleville with a huge task



Colaiste na Toirbhirte, of Bandon, in happy mood after their victory over St Mary's, of Charleville, in the final of the Munster Colleges Junior A Championship at Brinny. It was their first ever title success in the competition.

on their hands if they were to continue their school's proud record in this competition.

It wasn't for the want of trying they failed as they adapted an offensive formation for the remainder of the game but that was to tell against them in the final minutes when Sinéad O'Callaghan raced through on the break to score the winner's fourth goal and sign seal and deliver Bandon's victory after the early exchanges in a highly entertaining clash had been evenly contested.

A Deirdre Coomey point from a free opened the winner's account in the second minute and thereafter the Bandon captain converted some great frees as did their fullback, Lucy Hawkes who was the outstanding player on the field.

Nevertheless the Charleville skipper, Fiona Morrissey, was to give the winner's defence some cause for concern in the early stages when the hard trying, Aine Watson delivered well from farther out. At the back Sarah Sexton, flanked by the willing Lisa Fitzgerald and Valerie O'Dea, had the hatches fairly well secured and when Fiona Morrissey belted home a rebound from a half blocked, Aine Watson free,

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Charleville also had their stars, but on this occasion they hadn't the element of luck required to win championship games. Their opponents had the bit of luck that was going, with their early goals having good fortune attached to them, and they came at a time when they were just a point in front nearing the end of the opening half during which they had the breeze to their back.

the loser's prospects looked bright with nine minutes remaining in the opening half.

At that stage they were level with their opponents and playing constructively as Fionnuala Dore along with Aine Geary competed well in the midfield sector while, late replacement, Rachel Waters was playing her part in a solid fullback department.

It all went wrong for Charleville in the dying minutes of the half when the Bandon girls served up two goals to retire leading on a 2-6 to 1-2 scoreline and worse to follow for Charleville. Their new midfield pairing of Sarah Sexton and Aine Watson hadn't had time to settle in the closing half when Danielle O'Sullivan

placed the ball just inside their posts to make it a ten-point game. Fiona Morrissey scrambled home a second goal to restart Charleville in the 37th minute and with Eileen O'Mahony emerging from her shell the holders tried desperately to turn matters around.

They were stymied time and again by a resolute Bandon defence where Lucy Hawkes was majestic and goalkeeper Lisa O'Sullivan was in a confident frame of mind after making one top class save.

The St Mary's half-backs also hurled defiantly making the task of the defending champions more daunting by the minute. They switched full-back Mary O'Mahony to attack in a des-

perate bid to try and reverse the trend but to little avail against a Bandon team now playing with the swagger of a side within reach of an historic first title. This was finally delivered when Sinéad O'Callaghan broke away to score their fourth goal and on this occasion St Mary's had to play the role of runner up after many years on the winner's podium.

This they did with commendable sportsmanship as they remained on the field for the presentation, which was made by, Mairéad Ni Mhaoláin, Cultural Officer of the Munster Colleges Camogie Board.

Scorers — Bandon: D O'Sullivan 2-0, D Coomey 1-3 frees, S O'Callaghan 1-1, L

Hawkes 0-2 frees, C Long 0-1. Charleville: F Morrissey 2-1, A Thompson, A Watson, G O'Mahony 0-1 each.

Teams — Bandon: L O'Sullivan (Newcestown); S Walsh (Ballinhassig), L Hawkes (Valley Rovers), A O'Riordan (Ballinhassig); F Deasy (Newcestown), A Nyhan (Enniskeane), D O'Sullivan (Kilbrittain); D Coomey (Ballinhassig), Mary Ann Hawkes (Valley Rovers); B Crowley (Enniskeane), S O'Callaghan (Ballinhassig), B Tuohy (do); M Condon (Ballinascorthy), C Long (Newcestown), G Cronin (Bandon).

Charleville: S O'Connor (Mallow); O Carroll (Ballyhea), M O'Mahony (Newtownshandrum), R Waters (Ballyhea); L Fitzgerald (Ballyagran), S Sexton (Milford), V O'Dea (Granagh-Ballingarry); F Dore (Ballyagran), A Geary (do); E O'Mahony (Newtownshandrum), A Watson (Milford), M O'Connor (Newtownshandrum); F Morrissey (Granagh-Ballingarry), A Thompson (Milford), A McAuliffe (Ballyagran). Subs: D O'Flynn (Newtownshandrum) for V O'Dea, M Dunne (Ballyhea) for A Thompson (injured). Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

Junior girls secure place in All-Ireland Schools final

Coláiste Bríde march on

David MEDCALF

Coláiste Bríde (Enniscorthy) 3-10, St. Mary's (Magherafelt) 1-2: Rampant in the first-half, merely workmanlike in the second, Coláiste Bríde's impressive Juniors - masterminded by Elva Moriarty and Martin Storey - marched on from sunny Coolree into the final of the All-Ireland camogie championship.

Derry school St. Mary's were held scoreless up to the break and ended a sunny day 14 points down as they faced the long, long journey home to Magherafelt. Nine of Friday's victorious team will be following them north next weekend when the Mercy Seniors attempt to match the pace set by the Juniors, and keep the dream of an amazing double alive.

Duffy Rovers provided a fine and breezy setting for the latest chapter in the Coláiste Bríde success story and the home team lost no time in establishing their superiority. The northerners ran foul of Carlow referee Matt Curran, with captain Una Leacy and Siona Nolan both picking off points from the resultant frees.

The pressure in the opening stages was constant, thanks in part to a breeze which slightly favoured the Enniscorthy girls. The match was eight minutes old before the ball first reached the St. Mary's full-forward line, only for corner-back Kerri Dunne to repulse the foray with ease.

Sixteen minutes had elapsed before the Derry side mustered an attempt to score - an attempt that was well smothered by Johanna Breen and company.

Instead, most of the action up to the interval was concentrated at the clubhouse end of the ground, though the visitors' well-drilled defenders repeatedly denied the favourites clear shooting opportunities from play.

However much Yvonne Walsh scampered eagerly up the left flank, it was the frees which produced the scores. Though Una Leacy barged time and again through the middle, only



■ Ciara Storey is challenged by Geraldine Lynch of St. Mary's.

placed balls yielded her returns on the board.

In the end, right corner-forward Maeve Frayne broke the trend on the quarter hour, with a point out of nothing from an improbable angle. Goals too were hard to come by against a well-organised defence until shortly before the break when Leacy sent the ball fizzing at throat height towards goalkeeper Natasha McElDowney who deflected it over her own line.

Thus, the eventual winners led by 1-8 to nil at the break and, when Stacey Redmond and Maeve Frayne kept the momentum going after the break, there was a danger that the scoreline would turn embarrassingly one-sided. Not a bit of it. Magherafelt responded with their best spell of the match to restore pride.

Centre-half Eimear Lavery conjured up a goal and a couple of neatly-taken points prompted thoughts that a comeback was not entirely out of the question.

Instead, after ten bothersome minutes under the cosh, normal Enniscorthy service was resumed, with Una Leacy rattling the bar and Maeve Frayne following up for goal number two.

Then Siona Nolan arrived from midfield to place goal number three in the top left-hand corner of the net from a Ciara Storey pass.

Nolan was excellent throughout the hour's play, inventive, athletic and assured. Her only rival for the player of the match accolade was the opposition keeper. McElDowney's technique and attitude were all but flawless, her contribution highlighted by a textbook tackle on Frayne to prevent a fourth goal.

The time, date and line-up of the All-Ireland final were not known at the end of the match. However, it is reported from Munster that provincial champions St. Mary's of Charleville did not make it out of the province. While definite news of the tie is

awaited, Enniscorthy attention turns instead to the school's Senior challenge next weekend.

Coláiste Bríde: Vikki Murphy (Monageer-Booleavogue); Sara Nolan (Rapparees), Johanna Breen (Monageer-Booleavogue), Kerri Dunne (Oulart-The Ballagh); Louise O'Leary (Rathnure), Siobhán Cullen (Oulart-The Ballagh), Lorraine O'Connor (Oylegate-Glenbrien); Siona Nolan (Monageer-Booleavogue, 1-1, 0-1 free), Stacey Redmond (Oulart-The Ballagh, 0-1); Ciara Storey (Oulart-The Ballagh), Una Leacy (Oulart-The Ballagh, 1-5, 0-4 frees, 0-1 '45), Yvonne Walsh (Monageer-Booleavogue); Maeve Frayne (Rathnure, 1-2), Aine Devereux (Oulart-The Ballagh, 0-1), Ciara Garahy (Monageer-Booleavogue). Subs. (not used) - Katie Murphy, Tracey Breen, Louise Hore, Jenny Fenlon, Sandra Carr, Emma O'Connor, Kelly O'Connor, Marguerite Casey.

St. Mary's (Magherafelt): Natasha McElDowney; Aileen McIvor, Natalie McGuckin, Jacinta Conway; Sarah Lennon, Aileen McCusker, Geraldine Lynch; Una Devlin, Lisa Mooney; Eimear McKenna (0-1), Eimear Lavery (1-0), Michaela Convery (0-1); Attracta Peake, Donna O'Kane, Niamh Doyle.

Referee: Matt Curran (Carlow).



■ Siona Nolan keeps her eye on the ball with referee Matt Curran close to the action.



■ Full-forward Aine Devereux aims for the posts.

Seniors shine in big victory over Antrim

Wexford 8-13, Antrim 0-4: Wexford opened their National Senior Camogie League campaign with an emphatic win over Antrim in Corrigan Park, Belfast, on Sunday last.

Despite being short some regular first-teamers, mentors Aidan Breen and Aidan Moran put out a strong side using some of the Junior girls to their advantage. Captain Mary Leacy led by example and was outstanding at centre-back.

While Antrim opened the scoring in the fourth minute courtesy of Sinéad Lagan, Wexford went on to dominate the game as they established a solid platform in the middle of the field.

Jenny Codd cleared the early danger when the home side threatened, and her sister, Deirdre, excelled at corner-back.

Aine Codd (no relation) also thwarted an early attack before Wexford won a free and Kate Kelly picked out Brigid Curran for the opening point. Curran and Orla Hernan then combined to pick out Michelle Hearne who handpassed the sliothar over the bar.

Lenny Holohan and Orla Hernan added on further points for the Slaneysiders before a driving run from the former resulted in Michelle Hearne kicking another score.

A further point by Brigid Curran stretched the lead, with Louise Codd widening the gap further before the arrival of the first goal.

Una Leacy provided the pass for full-forward Michelle Hearne who kicked the sliothar to the net, and Wexford were looking good.

Even though Antrim pulled back two points, a second Hearne goal from a great overhead flick on a Kate Kelly free stretched Wexford's interval lead to 2-7 to 0-4.

The leaders laid siege on the opposing goal in the second period, with Hearne quickly completing her hat-trick when she connected with a Mary Leacy delivery.

Louise Codd struck the crossbar with a thunderbolt and Lenny Holohan forced the Antrim netminder into a good save before picking off another point.

Sinéad Lagan also hit the woodwork at the other end before Wexford quickly regained their composure as Lenny Holohan did well to keep the ball in play and set up Louise Codd for a point.

Josie Dwyer added her name to the scoresheet before Lenny Holohan goaled, and Una Leacy added another major with an exquisite lob.

Michelle Hearne wasn't finished yet either, and she finished a pass from her club colleague Brigid Curran to the net for her fourth goal.

It was all Wexford in the closing stages and Orla Hernan pointed before Louise Codd and Una Leacy rounded off a great display with late goals. Hernan and Leacy added further points as the campaign got off to a tremendous start, with Aine Codd, Michelle Hearne, Mary Leacy, Rosemarie Breen and Lenny Holohan leading the way.

Wexford: Mag D'Arcy (St. Martin's); Jenny Codd (Duffy Rovers), Aine Codd (St. Martin's), Deirdre Codd (Duffy Rovers); Rosemarie Breen (Monageer-Booleavogue), Mary Leacy (Oulart-The Ballagh, capt.), Aisling Moran (Oulart-The Ballagh); Brigid Curran (St. Ibar's, 0-2), Kate Kelly (St. Ibar's); Louise Codd (Duffy Rovers, 1-2), Orla Hernan (Monageer-Booleavogue, 0-3), Josie Dwyer (Ferns St. Aidan's, 0-1); Lenny Holohan (Rathnure, 1-2), Michelle Hearne (St. Ibar's, 4-2), Una Leacy (Oulart-The Ballagh, 2-1). Subs. - Martina Murray (Ferns St. Aidan's) for D. Codd, Aoife O'Connor (Duffy Rovers), Colleen Atkinson (Oulart-The Ballagh), Emma Barnes (Faythe Harriers).

Juniors get northern trip off to winning start

Wexford 2-16, Antrim 1-0: A good day for Wexford camogie started off on a bright note in St. Gall's, Belfast, on Sunday last when the Juniors recorded a big win over Antrim in this National League opener.

NATIONAL CAMOGIE LEAGUE

It may have taken 14 minutes to put the first score on the board, thanks to a point from centre-forward Jackie Codd, but there was no stopping the visitors once they got going.

The accurate passing of Mary Walsh from midfield created several chances for the forwards in the second quarter which they took with aplomb. Gretta Heffernan notched two points after some great running by Una Leacy who then slotted over her own first score from a 45m free.

It was all Wexford at this stage, and the points flowed from Aoife O'Connor, Leacy

and Heffernan.

A good save by Emma Barnes denied Antrim their first score and the Slaneysiders finished the half on a high note as Heffernan added another 1-1, leaving them ahead at the break by 1-8 to nil.

The loss of Jackie Codd through injury didn't unduly upset Wexford, with Michelle Kehoe coming in at wing-forward and Oonagh Carroll moving to the '40.

Aoife O'Connor fired over two early points, and the one-sided nature of proceedings continued as Michelle Kehoe and Una Leacy (45) also hit the target.

O'Connor made it 1-13 to nil before Leacy converted a free, and the former struck for the second Wexford goal to underline their superiority.

Another Leacy point from a placed ball was followed by Antrim's sole score, with Sarah Jane McGuigan's shot evading

Emma Barnes. However, it was fitting that Wexford had the final say as Gretta Heffernan struck the last point.

Key figures for the winners, who will host Clare in Bellefield on Sunday next (2.30 p.m.), were Deirdre Codd, Mary Walsh, Oonagh Carroll, Una Leacy and Gretta Heffernan.

Wexford: Emma Barnes (Faythe Harriers); Martina Murray (Ferns St. Aidan's), Colleen Atkinson (Oulart-The Ballagh), Eileen Hanrick (Buncloody); Siobhán Cullen (Oulart-The Ballagh), Deirdre Codd (Duffy Rovers), Karen Atkinson (Oulart-The Ballagh); Mary Walsh (Blackwater), Ciara Scallan (Oulart-The Ballagh); Oonagh Carroll (Blackwater), Jackie Codd (Duffy Rovers, 0-1), Una Leacy (Oulart-The Ballagh, 0-5), Emma Moran (Oulart-The Ballagh), Aoife O'Connor (Duffy Rovers, 1-4), Gretta Heffernan (Oylegate-Glenbrien, 1-5). Subs. - Michelle Kehoe (Naomh Eanna, 0-1) for Codd, in, Ciara Storey (Oulart-The Ballagh) for Moran, Sara Nolan (Rapparees) for Hanrick, Caroline Murphy (Oulart-The Ballagh).

Camogie centenary team

One of the most glittering black tie functions of the year took place recently in the CityWest Hotel in Dublin when the Camogie team of the Century was announced to a waiting crowd of almost 1,000 people. By Máire Uí Scolai.

Attended by An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern T.D., Uachtarán Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael Miriam Uí Cheallacháin, past Camogie presidents together with hundreds of former and present Camogie players, it also included many representatives from other sports. Uachtarán Sean Ó Ceallaigh of the GAA congratulated the Association on the great year and also made special reference to the team of the century and the wonderful honour bestowed on them.

Selecting the team of the century was not an easy one considering all the many great players who have graced the fields of play over the years. The first player to be honoured was former Dublin great goalkeeper Eileen Duffy O'Mahony who hailed from the famous Celtic club. She was accompanied on the night by her daughter Gráinne who also wore the blue and white of Dublin. Eileen is the proud holder of eight senior All-Ireland medals which she won in a most golden era for Dublin spanning from 1949 to 1957.

Kilkenny came next with the number two spot going to Liz Neary who gave some fine performances in defence. The game was played on the twelve a side basis when most of these players were playing. Among the many honours achieved by this great player were seven senior All-Ireland medals from 1974 to 1986. She captained the side twice in 1986 and previous to that in 1981. A member of the St. Paul's club she also won All-Ireland club medals in 1987 when they beat the famed Glen Rovers of Cork in the final as well as three in a row from 1968 to 1970 inclusive.

The number three spot was occupied by Cork's Marie Costine O'Donovan. Tall, Marie hailed from the Killeagh club who won their first and only club All-Ireland title in 1980. A fine defender she won five senior All-Ireland medals with the Rebel County. The final back-line position went to Wexford player Mary Sinnott Dinan who won her first and only All-Ireland in 1968.

The half backline went to former great Cork player Sandie Fitzgibbon who gave many sterling performances in the forward line for the Rebel county. The holder of six senior All-Ireland medals she was a member of the famed Glen Rovers with whom she won four All-Ireland club medals. She also went on to represent Ireland in international basketball.

Centreback went to one of the great Kilkenny stylists Bride Martin McGarry. An elegant centre back she could catch a ball with ease and clear without effort. The black and amber player is an aunt of Kilkenny goalkeeper James McGarry. She holds a remarkable nine senior All-Ireland medals as well as Club championship medals and many other awards. She was accompanied on this team in the corner by the second Wexford player to make the team of the century, Margarte O'Leary Leacy. A player who never gave up, she now has the good fortune to be able to watch her two daughters Mary and Una play for Wexford. She was on the first Wexford team to bring the O'Duffy Slaney side in 1968. This they repeated the following year and she

crowned her career with a third in 1975, which proved to be Wexford's last senior title.

Midfield went to two counties, Antrim and Dublin. These two counties had many great clashes over several decades. Antrim's Mairead Mc Atamney Mc Gill was the player who accompanied the great Kay Mills. Mairead is still involved with the Tir na Nog club in Antrim. A fine exponent of the game she won a senior All-Ireland medal with Antrim in 1967 when they broke Dublin's dominance of the game. She was lucky enough to be still around in 1979 when the Association celebrated its seventy fifth anniversary. That gave her a second All-Ireland medal.

The greatest legend in the game the late Kathleen Mills Hill of Dublin. Kay as she was called won a record fifteen senior All-Ireland medals, something that is unlikely to be ever accomplished by another sports person. Like the goalkeeper she too hailed from the Celtic club who were originally from the Coolock area of Dublin.

Linda Mellerick of Cork who only retired from inter-county fair two years ago was handed the number ten spot and she was along side another Corkonian Pat Moloney Lenihan who finished her Camogie career with seven senior All-Ireland medals. The final half forward spot was handed to another Dub. Una O'Connor hailed from the Celtic club and won a record thirteen All-Ireland medals.

Sophia Brack who came from the C.I.E club in Dublin was handed the corner forward spot. The late Sophia's award was accepted by her sister Nancy Mc Carthy who was full emotion as she collected the beautifully personalised bronze plaque. Sophia had the distinction of winning won eight senior All-Ireland titles. She further holds a remarkable record of having captained the Dubs on six occasions. In later years she became a member of the Kilmacud Crokes club in Dublin. The Brack tradition still lives on. Her niece Bernie played for Dublin, is still involved with juvenile coaching in her club Cuala. Bernie's other sisters Mary, Angela and Lisa also played for the Cuala club.

To achieve such a great honour of being chosen on the team of century whilst still playing is a truly remarkable achievement. That wonderful honour was bestowed on Tipperary's great full-forward the red haired Deirdre Hughes of Toomevara. A most tenacious full forward she also holds minor and Intermediate medals with the Premier-county.

The final spot of the evening went to the greatest modern player Kilkenny's Angela Downey Browne. The bane of many a defender it was very difficult to hold her scoreless. Angela has the honour of twelve senior All-Ireland medals. National League medals as well as Interprovincial Gael-Linn medals. She also holds All-Ireland club championship medals with the famed St. Pauls. When they ceased as St. Pauls she went on to record her fifth All-Ireland club medal with Lisdowney.



Linda Mellerick past pupil of St Patrick's Girls' School Gardeneris Hill who received the honour in recognition of her outstanding achievement in being recently selected for the "Camogie Team of the Century" with Orla Lawrence, Caroline Healy, Sorcha MacLochlaine, Aisling Drislane, Nicola Ring and Pamela Corcoran part of the 2004 Camogie Team, St Patrick's Girls School, Gardener's Hill.

Diarmuid O'Donovan

I was delighted to see that there were four Cork players chosen on the Camogie team of the Century. All four players deserved their awards. In fact, there could have been several more Cork players selected on the team. Although I am sure that same sentiment was expressed in several other counties about their players. It is great to see Sandie Fitzgibbon getting recognition for her services to camogie, however, she never has been properly recognised for her achievement as a dual sport player. There is a story in John Coughlan's book, 100 Hundred Sporting Heroes that gives people an idea of Sandie's commitment.

Over the course of one week in October 1990, Sandie Fitzgibbon had the following schedule. On the Sunday she played a semi-final of the All-Ireland Club Camogie Championship with Glen Rovers in Derry. After the game she went to Dublin, from where she flew to Boston with the Irish Ladies Basketball team. During the week she played three international basketball games. She returned to Ireland on the Friday and starred for Glen Rovers on the Sunday as they defeated St Paul's Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Club final. Whenever the Basketball Association celebrates their centenary, I am sure that Sandie Fitzgibbon will figure prominently there too.



Bertie McSweeney, chairman of the board Bishop John Buckley, Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr Colm Burke, Linda Mellerick past pupil of St Patrick's Girls' School Gardener's Hill who received the honour in recognition of her outstanding achievement in being recently selected for the "Camogie Team of the Century" and John Ring acting principal and PE teacher. (See also Pages 32 & 33) Picture: Gerard Bonus / B Photo

A major year ahead for Wolfe Tones camogie

Coinciding with camogie's centenary celebrations, Wolfe Tones in Shannon plan to become the first camogie club to open their own pitch later this year. **Seamus Hayes** reports.

WOLFE Tones camogie club will make history later this year when they will become the first camogie club in the country to open their own playing field.

"We are in the process of developing a camogie pitch and hope to have it ready for an All-Ireland 11-a-side gold medal tournament in August," according to club chairman Gus Lohan.

This is a special year for camogie as the sport celebrates its centenary and the Shannon club has planned the opening of their pitch and the organisation of the 11-a-side tournament featuring teams from all thirty two counties as the centrepiece of their celebrations. The pitch is located at Tullyvarruga, a short distance from the Wolfe Tones GAA club. In fact, its the old 'Tir na nOg' GAA field.

"The club was formed in 1968 and we have won titles at every level from juvenile to senior including Feile na nGael honours," said Carmel Tierney. "There is a very good underage structure in the club and this has led to our many successes," pointed out another club official, Mary Elliott.

"We have had great support from the Wolfe Tones GAA club over the years. They have provided facilities for us at all times and we are most grateful to them," said Tony Mulcahy, camogie club PRO, who went on to pay tribute to SFADCo for their help with providing the venue.

Thanks was also extended to St Senan's National school who allowed the club to use the 'Church field' over the years. Indeed this venue was the scene of many great successes for Shannon and Clare camogie.

"This is a fantastic pitch in summer but, in time, we

will have to do some drainage work. For now, however, we are concentrating on the building of the dressing rooms," said Mr Mulcahy.

"The immediate aim is to build dressing rooms at the venue and its estimated that this will cost about €160,000. We have put a major fundraiser in place and there are a number of ways that people can support the project," continued the chairman, Mr Lohan.

"We are running a draw at the moment and the winner will get two tickets to the eagerly-awaited Heineken cup quarter-final between Munster and Stade Francais on April 9. All of our committee members have tickets and we are confident that this draw will be well supported," revealed Carmel Tierney.

Six more immediate fundraising projects have been planned also and these include the buying of two yards

of fencing at €200, buying a brick at €100, buying a slate at €50 or the purchase of corporate sponsorship at €1,000. The finished area is designed to be drug, alcohol and nicotine free and in line with this the remaining two fundraising projects in the current scheme have been drawn up with this in mind. People are being invited to give up a day's/week's smoking and donate the savings to the camogie development fund. Similarly, people are asked to give up a night's/week's alcohol and donate the savings to the development fund.

"We are confident that this project will be a big success and we are really looking forward to a great tournament here in August. It will be great to have teams from all counties taking part and it should be great for the game and particularly for the young people interested in taking up camogie," concluded Gus Lohan.

MARCH

2004

LIMERICK COUNTY CAMOGIE BOARD A GAME NOT TO BE MISSED

Limerick v Galway

Camogie's most notable underachievers are Limerick's opponents in Ballygarra (probably) on Sunday next at 2.30pm. The Galwegians have produced outstanding players at underage and post primary levels but senior success has not followed. The reports are that this year they are making a huge effort.

Defensively and at mid-field Limerick (0-4) were sound enough v Tipperary (2-5) in Round 1 three weeks ago. However the forwards made little impression, failing to score from play. This area of the team must be improved dramatically if Limerick are to take the points on Sunday.

Aficionados should enjoy a competitive well contested game.

Training is on Wednesdays and Fridays.

INTERCOUNTY U/16

Limerick v Tipperary All Ireland B Championship winners in 2001 (manager/coach John Lacey) and 2002 (manag-

er/coach Tom Hennessy) Limerick have fared badly in the A grade, losing 90% of the time (usually at the hands of Cork). This year Limerick face the Premier in the A Championship first round semi-final. Variety is the spice of life and Limerick will be pleased to avoid the Rebel county and come up against unfamiliar opponents. The panel has been in training for a month under the guidance of Tom Hennessy, T.J. Moloney and Annette Heffernan, (also in charge in '03) and 95% of the main U/16s in the county are available. It would be nice to rattle the Premier and make it to the final.

POST PRIMARY

St. Mary's Charleville v Loughrea

Limerick camogie followers will tune in to the senior All Ireland semi-final with interest. Nine players from Limerick are on the Charleville school's panel, namely Natasha Murphy (Kilmallock, in goals), Sarah O'Mahony,

Fiona Chawke and Aislinn O'Brien (backs). Since McAvillie, Fiona Morrissey, Shannon Brosnan (forwards) and Christin O'Shea and Fiona Geary (subs).

COACHING COURSES

A foundation course is underway this week at the Newcastlewest G.A.A. clubrooms (our thanks to Newcastlewest G.A.A. for facilitating us so generously). Top Limerick coach Joe Reddington is the tutor. The first session took place on Monday last (6.30pm to 9.30pm) with part 2 (including a first aid segment) on this Wednesday from 6.30pm to 9.30pm.

A second course will follow later, probably at a venue in the city.

THIRD LEVEL CHAMPIONSHIPS

With Ashbourne (Division 1) and Purcell (Division 2) over and won, third level camogie completes its championship programme with the Maher (Division 3 Championship) this weekend at U.L. and Mary L. A number of Limerick players are in action, principal among them county senior panelists Grace McNamara, Dymphna O'Brien (I.T. Tralee), Moine Dooley and Alison White (U.L. 2). Despite its less exalted status, the Maher will generate huge intensity, commitment and excitement.

New Avonduh camogie board

CAMOGIE is celebrating 100 years of its founding and the sport at juvenile level within the greater North Cork Region is flourishing, as evident on the formation of a new Avonduh Divisional Board at an inaugural meeting in Buttevant. Clubs gave the nod of approval towards the initiation of the new regional group consisting of ten clubs from Mitchelstown, Kildorrery, Millstreet, Malinbeg, Castlemagner, Kilshearing, Buttevant, Millford, Charleville and Newtownshandrum. Officers elected at the Avonduh Divisional launch were: Chairperson — John Barry (Malinbeg); Secretary — Augusta Waters/Patricia Walsh (Ballyvaughan); Treasurer — Angie Doyle (Newtownshandrum); PRO — Veronica O'Callaghan (Millstreet).

• Currently underway are plans for an under-9/11 blitz together with an under-13/15 league while an Avonduh team will compete in the inter-divisional blitz fixed for March 27/28.



Willie Gleeson of Walsh Traders presents the winning shield to the Glen Captain at the Ballynashag U12 indoor blitz.

Carrigaline girls claim first Munster Senior Camogie title with five-point margin

THE girls from the Carrigaline Community School were on cloud nine last week following their five-point victory over Colaiste Muire, Ennis to capture their very first Munster Senior Camogie trophy on a scoreline of 4-4 to 2-5.

The game was moved from Carrigaline to Kilbenny following heavy overnight rain.

The game started with a point for Ennis that was quickly responded to by Carrigaline with a goal from Sandra Moran, followed by another three points from frees from Suzanne Lynch giving the Cork team the ideal start to the game.

Ennis slowly crept back into the game with a goal and a brace of points, eventually drawing level at the stroke of half time.

The second half saw the teams



Carrigaline Community School camogie team who won the Munster senior title by defeating Colaiste Muire, Ennis in the final played in Kilbenny recently, pictured with coaches Ollie Troy and Pat Looney.

Picture: Crowdy

exchange a point a piece early on before Carrigaline stamped their authority on the game with a goal from Terri O'Keeffe. Carrigaline were grateful for the goalkeeping skills of Laura Thompson, and from one of these counter attacks, Carrigaline scored their third goal courtesy of Jacqui O'Keeffe.

However, Ennis scored their second goal of the game to leave just a mere two points between the sides with only two minutes remaining. It took a fine goal from Terri O'Keeffe to leave the result beyond doubt at the end, giving Carrigaline their first ever Munster title.

Carrigaline: Laura Thompson, Elaine Egan, Lisa O'Driscoll, Hilary Egan, Denise Crowley, Roisin O'Herlihy, Davina O'Mahony, Jacqui O'Keeffe, Laura Kelleher, Terri O'Keeffe, Karen O'Sullivan, Michelle Cookley, Aine Dempsey, Sandra Moran, Suzanne Lynch

MARCH

2004

Understrength Clare face tough test

AFTER being so close to league and championship success last year, the Clare junior camogie team commence the 2004 season with an away league tie against Wexford on Sunday. While the squad has been in training for some weeks, up to ten members of last year's panel are unavailable for one reason or another.

Experienced centre back Noelle Comyns is now concentrating on ladies football. She plays with Ballyboden St. Endas and is on the Dublin panel. She is sure to be a huge loss to Clare but all involved will hope that she will be back in the panel before long.

Maura McMahon hasn't yet resumed training due to studies while her Newmarket clubmate Patricia O'Grady hasn't returned to action. Another who will be absent on Sunday is Shannon's Laura Linnane who announced some time ago that she will be in the US this year.

Last year's team captain Catherine O'Loughlin will be in the squad which will also include Jane Scanlan, Denise Lynch, Deirdre Murphy, Deirdre Corcoran, Clare McMahon, Ruth Kaiser and Caitriona McMahon.

"While this will be Wexford's second team, we know that this will be a stiff test," said selector Michael Maher. "We have a number of new players in the squad and home advantage is sure to be

a big help to them. However, we will be looking for a winning start."

Newmarket-on-Fergus 4-13
Clarecastle 1-3

THE Newmarket-on-Fergus senior camogie team got their league campaign off to a great start, with a comfortable win over neighbours Clarecastle.

Due to team work and excellent free taking Newmarket seemed under little pressure, even with the absence of some of their strong players. Clarecastle, who have stepped up a grade this year, held their opponents well in the opening half but Newmarket's experience and fitness proved decisive in the second half.

It was a fine start for the new Newmarket management team of Bridie O'Looney, Jim O'Leary, Johnny Collins and Tom McMahon.

Top NUIG award for Linnane

CLARE camogie star Laura Linnane will be honoured with a top accolade at NUI Galway's sports awards ceremony on

this Thursday, March 11 at the Ardilaun House Hotel at 8.30pm.

Linnane, a member of the Wolfe Tones club, who is currently on a sports bursary at the University, has had a spectacular year on the field of play. She is one of 16 young athletes to be honoured at this year's sports awards ceremony.

She was a key member of the Ashbourne shield winning team with NUI Galway for the past two years. Her impressive performances in this year's competition resulted in her selection on the Combined Universities side. Last summer she played a key role for Clare as they reached the All-Ireland junior final, where they were defeated by Galway in the replay.

In receiving a sports award at NUI Galway, Linnane follows in the footsteps of former winners from Clare, including hurler Jamesie O'Connor and footballer Brian Considine, while hurler Tony Griffin and camogie star Deirdre Murphy were both honoured last year.

Third time lucky for Glen girls

by Mary Newman

ONCE again the Walsh Traders Ballinhassig Indoor Five a Side Camogie tournament drew large crowds to the Riverstick Community centre where eight clubs enjoyed a very competitive day's camogie before Glen Rovers and Waterford's Ballyduff emerged as winners.

The groups were divided into two with Ballinora and Ballincollig getting proceedings under way and ending up all square in the opening game. Courcy Rovers showed great sharpness turning in two superb displays defeating Ballincollig and Ballinora.

Ballinhassig A showed strength and installed themselves as favourites defeating Courcy's, Ballinora and Ballincollig to top the group with Courcy's emerging in second place.

Group two saw Carrigaline defeat Ballyduff with one goal to spare

while Glen Rovers had a similar winning margin over Ballinhassig B who regrouped to record a victory over Ballyduff.

Glen Rovers had three goals to spare over Carrigaline but were defeated by Ballyduff by one goal. It was Glen Rovers who topped the group with Ballinhassig B emerging in second place following a tight finish.

It was an all club affair as Ballinhassig A and B battled it out for a place in the final before the A team emerged to defend their title. Glen Rovers despite going a goal in arrears battled back to defeat Courcy Rovers and qualify for the final for the third year in a row.

In the Shield final Ballyduff and Ballinora worked tirelessly before the Waterford girls with Michelle Kennedy, Ciara Kearney and Ashling Keane superbly held onto the titles despite the efforts of Ballinora's Su-

san Power, Maura Fitzgerald and Sinead Crowley. And so it was to the big one where the Glen girls were anxious to avenge the defeats at the hands of Ballinhassig in the previous two years.

The action was non stop with the ball moving quickly from end to end Ballinhassig A got the perfect start with a goal from captain Hayley Cullinane but Glen were soon back on level with an Alison Rea goal. Glen hit the front with a Clare Walsh goal and with Captain Ciara O'Keeffe, Sarah Clifford and Alison Rea grabbing further goals the Glen girls were on their way to collecting the Walsh Traders Trophy.

Thoughts now turn to next Sunday when the under 11's from the same clubs battle it out for the honours while at the lunchtime break the under 9's will participate in a special competition especially for the younger age group.



St Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh - County U-15 Champions.

Back Row, (L to R) - Caitriona Kennedy, Laura Maloney, Laura Seymour, Geraldine Ryan, Louise Fleming, Denise O'Meara, Anna Marie Quigley, Eimear Ryan

Middle: Emma Louise Coffey, Catherine Curtin, Sarah Kelly, Kathy Anne Mulcahy, Laura Green, Elisha Slattery, Melissa Quilligan, Leanne O'Dwyer, Aoife Molamphy, Sarah Kennedy, Ger Dillon (Manager)

Seated: Cliona Ryan, Hazel Harty, Laura Reid, Aisling Whelan, Geraldine Stapleton, Martina Gleeson (Captain), Aine Murphy, Danielle Slattery, Lorna Bergin

All-Ireland glory beckons for Scariff after easy win

Scariff Community College 7-8

Athenry Vocational School 1-0

ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES' JUNIOR CAMOGIE

SCARIFF Community college qualified for the All-Ireland Colleges junior camogie final when they turned in a superb performance against Athenry V.S. at Scariff on Saturday. In the final they will meet Castle-comer from Kilkenny on April 17.

Scariff established control from the start and were well on their way to the final when they held a 3-5 to 0-0 lead at half time.

Ashling Treacy gave them the lead when she pointed a free in the fourth minute and she repeated the feat three

more times by the 20th minute to leave her side leading by 0-4 to nil.

Then, in the space of a few minutes, Scariff had goals from Laura Brody, Ciara McDermott and Mairead Scanlan to establish that huge half-time lead.

When the second half resumed, Scariff took up where they had left off and substitute Roisin O'Brien pointed in the first minute. Ashling Treacy followed with a goal from a long range free and further goals came from Ann Marie Fitzgerald and Mairead Dooley to leave the score at 6-6 to nil.

Team captain Marian O'Brien

pointed and Ciara McDermott did likewise before Ann Marie Fitzgerald completed the winners' scoring with a goal.

The visitors had a consolation goal in the closing stages but Scariff had booked their place in the final long before this.

Ciara O'Leary and Marian O'Brien were always on top at the heart of the winners defence while elsewhere Ashling Treacy, Ann Marie Fitzgerald and Mairead Scanlan were amongst those to excel for the East Clare school.

Scariff: Susan Vaughan (Ogonnelloe); Sandra Counihan (Bodyke); Ciara O'Leary (Whitegate); Sara Myles (Scariff); Amanda Flaherty (Killanena); Marian O'Brien (Ogonnelloe), capt.; Sinead Durack (Whitegate); Ashling Treacy (Whitegate) and Louise Hayes (Bodyke); Ciara Mc-

Dermott (Whitegate); Evelyn Bowler (Broadford); Mairead Dooley (Whitegate); Ann Marie Fitzgerald (Bodyke); Mairead Scanlan (Scariff) and Laura Brody (Scariff).

Subs used--Roisin O'Brien (Ogonnelloe); Ashling Kelly (Whitegate); Sinead Flaherty (Killanena); Rosin Loughnane (Killanena) and Edel O'Grady (Bodyke).

Right: Louise Hayes, who played at midfield for Scariff Community College, is congratulated after the final whistle at the junior All-Ireland semi-final. Below: Scariff's Anne Marie Fitzgerald evades Emer Moran of Athenry.

Photographs by John Kelly



2003 Irish Examiner/TV3 National Junior Sports

Star winners



CAMOGIE

Claire Grogan, Tipperary

ONE of two winners this year picking up their second National Junior sports star award, she has shown her quality as a camogie forward from a very young age. She has been a winner since her school days and her introduction to the Tipperary senior team in 2000 while still only 14-years old created quite her stir. That year she collected her first All-Ireland win and since has been a key player in the Premier county's attack. Claire is a great opportunist and finisher as proved in the

2003 campaign. Her introduction in the Munster final was vital to Tipperary's first ever win in this competition. In the championship the more familiar centre forward acquired a new role on the wing settling well into a fast moving attack, particularly against Limerick in the semi-final scoring 1-2. Against Cork in the September showdown she used her skill to get in behind her defenders and turn provider to a lethal inside line. The Cashel lady collected her third All-Ireland senior medal last September. She then capped a marvellous season when selected on the Lynch's Hotel All-Stars Team of 2003.



Claire Grogan, Tipperary, receiving the award for Camogie from Tom Murphy, chief executive Irish Examiner.

Picture: Dan Linehan

JUNIOR SPORTS STAR WINNERS

Athletics: Ann Loughnane, Galway
Badminton: Scott Evans, Dublin
Basketball: Niall Murphy, Cork
Boxing: Eric Donovan, Kildare
Camogie: Claire Grogan, Tipperary
Cycling: Barry Woods, Kerry
Equestrian: Anthony Condon, Waterford
Golf: Aaron O'Callaghan, Cork
Handball: Maria Daly, Kerry
Hockey: Mark Gleghorne, Antrim
Horse Racing: Billy Lee, Limerick
Hurling: James Fitzpatrick, Kilkenny
Gaelic Football: Chris Bergin, Laois
Ladies Football: Kacey O'Driscoll, Kerry
Rowing: Orla Hayes, Skibbereen
Rugby: Ross Noonan, Cork
Sailing: Nicholas O'Leary, Cork
Soccer: Willo Flood, Dublin
Special Olympics: Carina McCauley, Donegal
Swimming: Barry Murphy, Dublin

CAMOGIE

Colleges All-Ireland senior semi-finals, Senior A: St Mary's Charleville 8-15 St Brigid's Vocational, Loughrea 0-3; Colaiste Bríde, Binnisoorthy 5-13 St Patrick's Maghera 1-4.
Senior B: St Rynagh's, Offaly 3-7 Cross & Passion Ballycastle 1-2; St Raphael's Loughrea 2-4 Carrigaline Com. Sch. 1-6.
National League Div.1: Limerick 1-10 Galway 2-6; Tipperary 0-8 Kilkenny 0-8. **Div. 2:** Kildare 3-12 Meath 2-1; Carlow 0-12 Roscommon 1-6; Offaly 3-5 Armagh 1-2.

Wexford 0-8 Clare 1-4; Kilkenny 1-12 Tipperary 0-7.

Charleville bid for place in final

CamogieChat

by Mary Newman

PRESENTATION Bandon's dream of All-Ireland glory came to an end when they were edged out Presentation Athenry in an exciting contest at Brinney on Saturday last. Just two points separated the sides at the final whistle but all credit to the Bandon girls who had a marvellous season taking their first Munster champions title.

WELL done to the Ballinhassig club who once again organised a superb under 12 five a side indoor blitz sponsored by Walsh Traders on Sunday last.

Eight teams participated and after a hectic day's camogie Glen Rovers and Ballinhassig A emerged to contest the final with Glen Rovers coming out on top to the delight of their mentors Dave O'Connell and Cathal Egan.

IN the plate competition Waterford's Ballyduff defeated Ballinora in an exciting final. The action continues on Sunday next when it's the turn of the under 11's, while there will be a special competition for the younger girls during the break.

Congress recently passed changes to the existing rules that will now see twenty five medals presented to the winners of the All-Ireland minor championship and this is certainly a change that will be welcomed.

Another very important change which comes into place is that all players, mentors and

officials now have to be insured under their clubs camogie personal accident scheme.

PREPARATIONS are well under way for the new season at local level and with the Senior and Junior A league set to start on the first weekend of April after the draws were made at the recent county board meeting. In a change of format the senior league will be divided into three sections two with six teams and one with seven: Barryroe, Newcestown, Milford, Bishopstown, Courcy Rovers, and Aghbullogue make up section one.

Section two will see county champions Fr O'Neills joined by defeated finalists Inniscarra, Eire Og, St Finbarrs and newly promoted junior A champions St Catherine's. Section three will contain seven teams Cloughduv, Ballinhassig, promoted senior B county champions Kilbrittan, Newtownshandrum, Ballygarvan, Glen Rovers and UCC.

The junior A league also has a new format with only six teams and given the number of teams the league will now be played on a double round basis home and away. The teams are as follows Watergrasshill, Rockban, Sarsfields, Douglas, Killeagh and Valley Rovers.

THE centenary interdivisional under 21 tournament takes place on April 4th and the draws took place at last Monday's county board meeting. Six divisions will participate;

Avondhu, Muskerry and Seandun make up section one, with Imokilly, Carbery and Carrighoun in section two.

THE new juvenile board are aiming to get the under 16 leagues up and running after the St Patrick's weekend with the under 16 blitz pencilled in for the last weekend in March.

SATURDAY is a big day for the girls of St Mary's Charleville when they travel to Loughrea in quest of a place in the All-Ireland senior colleges semi-final.

Having lost out last season the Charleville, side coached by Vincent Harrington and Ann Marie O'Keeffe are determined to get back on the All-Ireland winning trail.

However, they travel under no illusions and are very aware of the Galway challenge.

Speaking to Cork minor selector Ann Watson who daughters Marie, Emer and Aine backbone the side she tells me that it's been several years since Loughrea featured in the All-Ireland series and that they have put in a huge effort this season to emerge from Connacht.

In the second semi-final holders Leinster champions Colaiste Bríde meet the Ulster champions.

Staying in North Cork there will be a foundation level coaching course for all clubs in the division on Saturday March 20 which will be held in St Mary's Charleville.

Cork minors are out to defend their All-Ireland camogie crown

THE Cork minor camogie team begin the defence of their Munster and All-Ireland titles this afternoon against Waterford in Newtown, Waterford at 2pm.

Fielding 11 of last year's victorious All-Ireland winning panel (four of the starting 15), the signs are good for another shot at the title they have held this past three years.

To win an All-Ireland title once is a fantastic achievement; to do it two years in a row is a sign of a great team; to win three years in a row is remarkable. Full credit must go to trainer/selector John Cronin from Cloughduv.

The minor grade is an underage competition (U16), and so there is a turnaround of players, but that in itself makes John's achievement all the more credible.

Speaking during the week, John said that the constant turnaround has been helped enormously by the volume of talent coming through.

The talent is widely spread which is very encouraging for the future popularity of our game. No longer do city clubs dominate the intercounty scene. Like our GAA counterparts, the rural areas now compete for top positions and honours.

John took over coaching the minors in 1998 and brought the first All-Ireland title back to Cork after a lapse of 13 years. Cork had been very successful at this level in the '80s, pulling on magnificent talent from the 'cradles' of Cork camogie — St Patrick's and North Presentation schools.

St Patrick's provided Brian Dillon's and Glen Rovers with no fewer than seven representatives on the 1983 panel while Na Piarasigh, taking from North Pres, had three. Between them they had no less than 10 players out of a total 16.

1983 was the beginning of a three-in-a-row of minor titles for the county and then, nothing.

This walk into the wilderness was a shock for Cork camogie and it was obvious that once the St Pat's and North Pres teams faded, as happens to all the greats, so too did the young intercounty scene.

At the time the city clubs dominated and it is interesting to note that once the good times returned in 1998, the rural areas had taken over, with 11 out of 16 players representing their local parishes.

Five Minor titles in six years has seen the re-emergence of great talent, signified by the fact that 90 young hopefuls packed into Carrignavar pitch last week for this year's final selection.

And so it all begins again this evening. Playing down their present status, John is being very cautious: "It's a whole new season and we'll be taking each game as it comes."

"Waterford gave us a tough match last year out in Bishopstown; they are very fit and far more organised than they used to be."

The Cork Juniors also take to the field tomorrow when they entertain



Linda Mellerick

Offaly in their second National League game in St Finbarr's at 2pm.

Selector Liz O'Mahony of Brian Dillon's is happy with the way the team are progressing, having one victory already secured against Galway a few weeks ago.

This is all the more noteworthy when one takes into account that 2003 saw many changes in the panel due to the fact that Cork won the All-Ireland Intermediate Championship in 2002. Many players at the time featured on both teams, and the ruling is that should you win an Intermediate All-Ireland title, you are no longer eligible to play with the juniors.

I suppose the junior selectors have suffered over the years as any talent they possess is quickly snapped up by the intermediate and senior mentors. But for the county, this is a nice problem to have, and in my mind if a player is capable of playing at a higher level then under no circumstances should they be held back.

The St Patrick's Day Parade was a great success with two underage players from each of the 19 clubs marching in their club colours.

A float decorated in a Centenary banner held four young girls modelling the various attire worn by camogie players at different stages over the past 100 years.

Next weekend, Sunday, March 28, sees the arch-rivals at it again — Cork and Tipperary in a National League clash here in Cork.

Preview of the game next week but you have been warned — keep the date free!



Minor captain Anna Geary after last year's All-Ireland win. Cork go for four-in-a-row this year.

Ballincollig and Ballinhassig young stars take honours

ANOTHER exciting day's camogie at the Riverstick Community Hall saw hosts Ballinhassig take the Under 12 Indoor Five a Side title while Ballincollig edged out Ballinora in the plate final. For the second week in a row the club again put together an excellent indoor tournaments while also organising a competition for the under 9's.

Participated teams were divided into two sections with the four top teams coming out to participate in the Shield semi-finals. In the first semi-final Ballinhassig "A" defeated Glen Rovers thanks to superb displays from Emma O'Donovan and goalkeeper Eimear Cadogan, while Glen Rovers had excellent performances from a spirited Maria Sheehan and Edel O'Connell. The second semi final had Courcey Rovers ahead at the final whistle thanks to three Jacinta Crowley goal and one from Caron O'Reilly.

Before the Shield final Ballincollig and Ballinora, who finished third in

their groups, played out an exciting plate final where goals from Sinead O'Sullivan and Laura O'Driscoll gave Ballincollig the title with one goal to spare despite the best efforts of Julie Cronin and Ashling Lynch.

And so to the big one as hosts Ballinhassig went in as favourites to take the honours.

Despite trojan efforts from Ailish McCarthy, Paula Collins, Naomi McCarthy and Ashling Moloney, Courcey's had to concede defeat to a superb Ballinhassig "A" side who had impressive displays from Ashling O'Brien, Valerie Desmond, and Grace O'Callaghan.

Once again sponsors Walsh Traders were on hand to present the winners with their trophy and medals, but first it was the turn of the under 9's who during the lunch time break in the under 11's competition kept the large crowd entertained with some superb camogie. Participating clubs Ballinhassig, Ballincollig, Glen Rovers, Carriga-

line, Ballinora and Courcey Rovers all enjoyed the action and were suitably praised by Con Cadogan who presented all the young participants with medals.

Many former and present camogie players with many of the clubs took part in the day, including Marion McCarthy, former Eire Og star, leading the Ballinhassig youngsters, while Ballinora had former player Bernie Murphy, while Glen Rovers stalwart Mary O'Brien was to the fore with her young charges. Current Inter county senior player Rachel Moloney had to make a dash from inter county training to guide the fortunes of her Courcey Rovers girls, and tributes must be paid to all for putting something back into the game.

Much praise must also go to the go ahead Ballinhassig club and their huge network of volunteers who organised two excellent days for the under 9, 11 and 12 camogie players.

Cork minors open title defence

by Mary Newman

ON Saturday next Cork minors open the defence of their All Ireland crown when they travel to take on Waterford in the opening game of the Munster championship.

The Cork selectors have worked hard over the last number of week-ends to put together a panel for the clash and will be boosted by the availability of eleven of last year's

winning panel. Orla Cotter - St Catherine's, Lucey Hawkes - Valley Rovers, Jenny O'Donovan - Douglas and Aine Watson - Milford, Miriam Crowley - Bishopstown, Caoimhe Dillon and Valerie Browne - Ballygarvan, Cait Kelleher and Linda Coughlan - Blackrock, Deirdre Coomey - Ballinhassig and Michelle Brown - Mallow will be expected to bring the experience gained from last seasons campaign to

this years side while the newcomers to the panel include Erin Corkery - Eire Og, Emer O'Sullivan - Ballinhassig and Deirdre Twomey - St Catherine's.

Cork are aiming for a historic four in a row of provincial and All Ireland honours but selector John Cronin does not underestimate Waterford. The game will be played on Saturday next at 3pm at a venue to be announced later in the week.

Camogiechat

by Mary Newman

CORK MINORS OPEN DEFENCE OF TITLE

IT was a mixed weekend for the Cork Colleges on the All-Ireland front with St Mary's Charleville defeating St Brigid's Loughrea to book their place in the Senior A final and set up a meeting with holders Colaiste Brid Enniscorthy. The Watson sisters Marie and Emer and Anna Geary were to the fore as the Charleville girls ran out comprehensive winners. Unfortunately there was no joy for Carrigaline as they went out at the hand of St. Raphael's Loughrea with just two points separating the sides at the final whistle despite the best efforts of Carrigaline's Suzanne Lynch who contributed all of her side's total of 1-5.

THE weekend ahead is a busy one on the inter-county scene as the minors defend their Munster and All-Ireland crowns when they take on last year All-Ireland 'B' champions Waterford at a Waterford venue at 3 pm on Saturday. With eleven of last years panel available Cork will go in as favourites to advance to a meeting with Clare on April 3rd. Valerie Browne, Lucey Hawkes, Orla Cotter, Linda Coughlan, Michelle Browne, Jenny O'Donovan, Cait Kelleher, Deirdre Coomey, Miriam Crowley, Aine Watson and Caoimhe Dillon have gained plenty of experience from last years campaign and this certainly should be an asset to the panel. There are many newcomers on the panel including Aine Moynihan Ballygarvan, Deirdre Murphy Douglas, Charlotte Kearney Na Piarasigh, Niamh Mc Kenny St Finbarr's, Jemma O'Regan and Gerlyn Nolan Glen Rovers, Emer O'Sullivan Ballinhassig and Erin Corkery from Eire Og and they will be all pushing for inclusion on the starting fifteen. Selector John Cronin is looking forward to the defence of their title and a chance to make it a historic four in a row, however as always he is exercising caution "Waterford won the 'B' title last season and are determined to build on that success, they have nothing to lose and have been busy preparing and we will certainly be approaching Saturdays game with extreme caution, the first hurdle is always the hardest".

ON Sunday the National league action resumes when Cork Juniors entertain Offaly, following on their win over Galway in their opening game Cork be hoping to continue on the winning ways. Offaly have already recorded victories over Kilkenny and Armagh and will travel to Cork in the hope of taking full points. Because of the weather conditions at the time of going to print a venue still had to be confirmed for the game.

ANOTHER exciting days camogie at the Riverstick Community Hall on Sunday last as Ballinhassig hosted their under 11 indoor blitz. This time out the hosts gained revenge for the previous week results in the under 12 blitz as they captured the title. In the first semi-final Courcey Rovers has a goal to spare over Carrigaline with Caron O'Reilly, Jacinta Crowley and Naomi McCarthy all impressing. Meanwhile Ballincollig "A" were booking their place in the final with a victory over Glen Rovers. Before the final third place in their respective sections neighbours Ballincollig met Ballinora to decide the destination of the plate competition. Here a hectic struggle ensued before Ballincollig took the spoils with Sinead O'Sullivan and Laura O'Driscoll to the fore.

In the Shield final Ballinhassig held all the aces as they took the title with superb displays from the excellently coached Grace O'Callaghan, Emma O'Donovan, Ashling O'Brien, Valerie Desmond and goalkeeper Eimear Cadogan. It's great to see former inter-county senior goalkeeper Marion McCarthy so much involved at under-age level with the Ballinhassig club. So often it is not the case with star players who simply walk away from the game, Marion I am sure was very proud of her young charges who certainly did her proud. I know I speak for the club's who participated on both Sundays when I compliment the Ballinhassig club on the wonderful organisation on both days.

St Brigid's qualify for All Ireland Final

St Brigid's, Loughrea
St. Mary's, Charleville

0-3
8-15

ST. MARY'S Charleville senior camogie team has reached the All-Ireland final after an excellent win over an outclassed Loughrea side.

Lisa Healy and Anna Geary started very well at midfield and Anna opened the scoring with a point from play and was quickly followed by another point from play by Captain Maria Watson. The dangerous Emer Watson got her first goal of the day after a great move, which

was started by the impressive Sinead McAuliffe.

Loughrea replied with a point from a free before Anna and Maria got good individual points from play before Anna scored a good goal in the 17th minute. The hard-working Mary Coleman then got a great point from play before Sinead McAuliffe rattled the net after a great crossfield pass from Emer Watson. The deadly Emer Watson then went goalpoaching and got two great opportunistic goals before halftime. Loughrea scored one more point at the end of the half to leave

the half time score at 5-5 to 0-2 in Charleville's favour.

Emer Watson picked up where she left off in the first half by scoring the opening point of the second half from play. The enthusiastic Fiona Morrissey got a great point from out on the sideline and then Maria Watson and Sinead McAuliffe repeated this score. Anna Geary and Emer both got points from play in the middle of the second half and other points came from Mary Coleman. Maria Watson cut through the middle on a great run and finished to the net before

the impressive Shannon Brosnan became the sixth forward to score for Charleville with a skilful flick to the net. The Charleville Seniors will be playing the All-Ireland final on Saturday next against Colaiste Bride Enniscorthy.

Charleville: Natasha Murphy, Amy Morrissey, Elaine O'Riordan, Fiona Chawke, Sarah O'Mahony, Aine Watson, Edwina Waters, Anna Geary (1:4), Lisa Healy, Sinead

McAuliffe (1:2), Maria Watson (Captain) (1:4), Mary Coleman (0:2), Shannon Brosnan (1:0), Emer Watson (4:2), Fiona Morrissey (0:1), Ashling O'Brien, Jacklyn O'Connor, Michelle Walshe, Christine O'Shea, Sarah Sexton, Leonie Boyce, Tina Shanahan.

MARCH 2004

Camogie U14 selection

THE Cork Colleges U14 Camogie selectors have completed their preliminary preparation for the forthcoming All Ireland U14 James Hurley Camogie blitz scheduled for Saturday next at Ballyanley.

The panel has been selected after a series of exhaustive trials during February and March and is scheduled to meet Waterford, Kilkenny, Clare and Tipperary in the build up to the tournament.

Coach Ollie Troy expressed satisfaction at the progress to date and complimented his co-selectors John Joe Breen

(Nagle Rice), Mairéad Ni Mhaoileóin (Colaiste Dáibhéid), Ger Donovan (Charleville) and well-known referee Cathal Egan on their diligence and commitment.

Cork Colleges U14 Panel: A.M. Hawkes, S. O'Callaghan, C. O'Neill, A. O'Riordan (Bandon), E. Murphy (Buttevant), L. Ryan (Carrigaline), D. Luby (Carrigrohane), C. Galvin, M. Walsh, A. Thompson (Charleville), R. Byrne, M. O'Donovan, M. O'Donovan, L. O'Shea (Christ King), N. Dáworth, M. Healy, M. McCarthy, M. Vaughan (Coachford), M. O'Callaghan, N. O'Keefe (Col. An Phiar-saigh), C. Ryan (Col. Cholm), R. De Faite (Col. Dáibhéid), M. Foley (Glanmire), K. Hickey (Mount Mercy), A. Kavanagh (St. Als), F. O'Connell (St. Angela's).



Cork county Camogie Board and Munster Council officers at the Cork Camogie victory Dinner at the Castle Hotel

CamogieChat

with Mary Newman

MIXED fortunes for Cork teams last weekend as the minors successfully opened the defence of their provincial and All-Ireland crowns while the juniors lost out to Offaly in the National League.

Atrocious weather conditions on Saturday last almost forced the cancellation of the minor championship game in Newtown Co. Waterford but eventually it was decided to get proceeding under way.

The gale force wind made it impossible for both sides as Cork played against the elements in the opening half and inside six minutes led thanks to a Caoimhe Dillon goal.

Points from impressive full forward Michelle Brown and Deirdre Twomey settled Cork before two goals from Jenny O'Donovan stretched the lead.

Waterford worked hard and had two points from Patricia Jackman and Emma Tallon but it was Cork who led at the break 4-9 to 0-2.

On the resumption Cork continued to dominate and picking off their scores ran out comprehensive winners on a 7-14 to 0-2 score line, Clare now wait in the semi final to be played on April 3rd.

It looked as if Offaly were about to lose their unbeaten league run with seconds remaining at St. Finbarrs but a goal from Michelle Davis long range free quickly changed that as Cork were edged out by the narrowest of margins on a 3-3 to 2-5 score line.

Cork led at the break 1-3 to 0-1 with Eimear O'Farrell, Sarah O'Donovan and Miriam Deasy all getting on the scoresheet.

On the resumption Offaly came more in to the game with a Kerina Carroll goal but Cork held their lead thanks to a Miriam Deasy goal and points from Amanda O'Regan and Eimear O'Farrell.

With time running out Michelle Davis led the Offaly revival with her sides second goal but despite this it looked as if Cork would hang

on then disaster struck, and having led from the start it was most disappointing to concede a late goal with practically the last puck of the game.

With only one team to qualify from the group Cork now have it all to do in their remaining games against Tipperary, Armagh and Kilkenny.

Mention of Tipperary, the All-Ireland champions are in town on the treble next weekend when both camogie teams and the hurlers are in action.

The senior game will attract a lot of interest given the rivalry that exists between the counties and while Tipperary don't seem to be treating the league very seriously having only managed a draw with Kilkenny they like Cork will be anxious to record a win.

For the Cork Junior side a win is vital if they harbour any hopes of qualification for the later stages, but they will face a strong challenge from a Tipperary side who to date have full points.

At present a venue has to be found for the games but it is hoped the senior game may be played before the hurling game, other counties seem to have no problems with this so hopefully the powers that be in Cork will give the go ahead for this venture, while a suitable venue nearby is being sought for the junior clash.

On Friday last an enjoyable evening was held to honour the county's All-Ireland minor winning team, the under 18 and intermediate sides who took provincial honours, medals were presented to the various teams by Munster Council's Marie Kearney and Rose Malone and Cork President Sile Golden.

Next Saturday St Marys Charleville take on All Ireland Colleges champions Colaiste Bride in the All-Ireland colleges final and certainly this is going to be a cracker.

It's a repeat of last year's semi-final when the Charleville girls

lost out by seven points, since then the Wexford side have lost three of their team while Charleville have lost Aoife Sheehan Amy McCarthy and Catriona Noonan.

Colleges games are always hard to call and this one will be no exception, Mary and Una Lacey are talented performers and they are joined by Ciara O'Connor, Ursula Jacob and the Codd sisters Deirdre, Jackie and Louise, while the side is coached by former Wexford hurler Martin Storey who's daughter Ciara is the teams goalkeeper.

What of Charleville who without doubt gave been the outstanding college team of recent years? Vincent Harrington and Ann Marie O'Keefe are anxious to get back to All-Ireland winning ways and they have the talent and determination to do so.

Last year's Cork minor captain Anna Geary, Mary Coleman, Elaine O'Riordan and the Watson sisters Marie who captains the side, Emer and Aine are experienced players who know they face a huge task but losing out on three in a row last year still hurts and they are determined to reverse the result this time out, they are joined by Limerick's Sinead McAuliffe and Ashling O'Brien and I feel that this time out they will once again climb the winners rostrum which would be just reward for this talented side.

Speaking of colleges I spent a very different afternoon on Sunday last when I attended the Corn Uí Mhuiri Munster College's football final because of a family involvement.

I certainly enjoyed the experience and atmosphere, well done to Colaiste Christ Ri on their marvellous victory and good luck in the All-Ireland semi final on Sunday next.



Cork camogie captains, from left, with Marion McCarthy chairperson County Board: Anna Geary minor; Miriam Deasy, intermediate; Marie Watson, under 18.

Camogie celebrations

by Mary Newman

CORK camogie celebrated another successful season at underage and Intermediate levels with a presentation night at the Castle Hotel Blarney. It was a special night for the county's minor team who in taking the All Ireland crown made it three in a row and indeed it was the fourth time in five years that the Tailteann trophy rested Leeside.

Also feted on the night was the county's Under 18 side who retained their Munster crown, while it was a night of celebrations also for the Intermediate side who defeated Tipperary to also be crowned provincial champions. As both the under 18 and Intermediate competitions only go to provincial level there was no doubt that had the competitions gone to All Ireland level there would have been two more trophies on the table.

Among the guests on the night were Marie Kearney and Rose Malone, chairperson and

secretary of Munster council. Ms Kearney addressing the large gathering and congratulated Cork on another successful season. "The season ahead is a big one for camogie as we celebrate the centenary of our game. Hopefully Cork will bring to the fore again on the Inter county stage and that you will make it a clean sweep of All Ireland titles," she said.

Chairperson Marion McCarthy singled out the players and selectors for special mention. "You have done yourselves and your clubs proud and I congratulate you on the honours you have brought to Cork," she said.

Medals were presented to the various teams by Rose Malone, Marie Kearney and Sile Golden, president, Cork County Board.

Marion McCarthy, on behalf of the board, made presentations to the three selection committees: under 18 Ann Marie Healy, Finbarr O'Callaghan and Lelia Long, minor selectors Ann Watson, John Cronin and John Quinn and Intermediate Selectors Sile Golden, Kay Dunne and Pat Murray.

Coláiste Bríde favourites to retain camogie title

MARCH

2004

by Therese O'Callaghan

BOASTING 11 of last season's All-Ireland winning team, Coláiste Bríde Enniscorthy are favourites to retain their Senior 'A' Colleges camogie title in today's final against St Mary's Charleville at Leahy Park, Cashel, 3.15pm.

The Wexford side, are one steeped

in hurling tradition, Martin Storey's daughter Ciara plays in goals, Ursula Jacob's is a daughter of Mick while Sarah Darcy's grandfather also played with Wexford.

Margaret Leacy who was recently selected on the Team of the Century, has two daughters Una and Mary, lining out at corner forward and centre back respectively.

Meanwhile, Charleville looked most impressive in their Munster championship victory over Loreto Fermoy. Their half forward line of Sinead McAuliffe, Marie Watson and Mary Coleman may hold the key to dethroning the champions.

The B final between St Raphael's Loughrea and St Rynagh's CC Banagher will also be played in Leahy

Park. Raphael's who amassed an amazing eight-in-a-row A titles in the 80s, they will be eager to get back to winning ways.

Elsewhere, the pick of the National League ties is a repeat of the 2003 All-Ireland final between Cork and Tipperary. The game will be played in Páirc Uí Chaoimh at 1.30pm. (See digest for full list of fixtures).

Cork to ring the changes for the visit of arch-rivals Tipp

THE kingpins of Camogie battle it out tomorrow in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, at 1.30 in the National Senior League.

This match was fixed purposely to coincide with the National Hurling League decider between the same two counties hoping that it would raise the profile of the ladies game.

Just over a year ago Central Council introduced a Pilot Project Scheme encouraging counties to put on these double-headers.

The committee chose eight counties to bring Cumann Luath Chleas Gael, Cumann Camogaíochta Na nGael and Cumann Peil na mBan under the one umbrella.

The aim is that these counties would do their utmost to get as many intercounty fixtures as possible played before or after intercounty hurling matches to further enhance the games reputation and following.

Cork already played Tipp under this scheme last June when they played the Munster Senior Camogie Final before the Tipperary v Laois Senior Hurling Championship match in O'Moore Park, Portlaoise.

Cork were ahead by six points at half time. The Tipp crowd began to swell.

When the girls emerged from the dressing rooms at half time the roar that greeted the Tipp players as they ran onto the field was unbelievable (the crowd had doubled again).

Every puck of the ball was cheered by Tipp supporters. It spurred the blue and gold on.

They went on to score a hat-trick of goals and beat Cork for the first time ever in a Munster Final. (The All-Ireland series is an open draw).

Speaking to the Cork players after the game they felt that the crowd had been very intimidating and had a big bearing on their poor second half performance.

Cork are really looking forward to the tables being reversed this time around.

I just hope that the game will live up to previous encounters and that the crowd are treated to a classic.

That would do the sport a power of good in front of an audience who may never have seen an inter-county camogie game.

This is Cork's second National League game having already made the trip West and returning home with a 3-11 to 7 point victory.

New Trainer John Considine has rested many of his established players to date and has given the younger players a chance to make an impression.

That is the correct approach in my view.

Having watched from the sideline last year I felt that complacency had set in with a lot of the present squad and there's nothing like a bit of healthy competition to rid yourself of that attitude.

Cork will field approximately seven of last years All-Ireland 15 and the vacancies will be filled with last years remaining panellists and newcomers.

Cork have released dual players Mary O'Connor, Rena Buckley, Regina Curtin and Breige Corkery who are also on National Football League duty



Linda Mellerick

this weekend.

Caoimhe Harrington, now a qualified Physiotherapist, has taken up a position in London.

Oria O'Sullivan and Fiona O'Driscoll have yet to return to Inter-County training.

Denise Cronin has also retired so there are plenty of opportunities for others to stake a claim on positions.

Aoife Murray is likely to be between the posts again after an outstanding game in Galway five weeks ago.

Joanne O'Callaghan and Stephanie Dunlea are sure to fill two thirds of the full back line with the final position going to either Linda O'Connell or Rosaire Holland, back in the squad after a years break.

Sarah Hayes, Catriona Foley, Gemma O'Connor and Paula O'Connor are four contenders for the half back line.

Viv Harris may well be rested and so the midfield positions are likely to fall to Rachel Moloney and newcomer Val O'Sullivan.

Sheila Burns returns to the training panel and may be given the nod at centre forward.

If she is she will have her hands full with the strong dominating figure of Tipperary's Glara Gaynor.

She will be flanked on the wings by Emer Dillon and Jenny O'Leary.

Ciara Healy, Una O'Donoghue and Collette Desmond will complete the starting 15.

John Considine is eager to win this game and qualify for the latter stages of the league.

To lose tomorrow would put pressure on Cork to win the final two group games and tough competitive games right up to May is what Cork need to give them a picture of what's at their disposal leading into the Championship in July.

Tipp and Kilkenny met last week and only drew but this was with Tipp fielding only five of their All-Ireland winning team.

Having previously beaten Limerick they are sure to come to Cork with a stronger line out as to lose this game could see them struggle to qualify and depending on how other results go later on they could find themselves knocked out of the league.

So while many of the star players may not be on display tomorrow there is still plenty of talent on offer.

I'm sure the 'bite' between the two teams will still be evident and as always, its sure to be an exciting clash.

The junior side also take on the Tipp women but unfortunately again due to the Irish weather both games are taking place on opposite sides of the City with the Junior match fixed for 12 noon at the Mardyke.

Cork suffered a shock defeat to Offaly in the dying seconds of last Sundays encounter and need to pick up the points here to ensure their inclusion in the latter stages of the competition.

Coleman's late point earns replay for St. Mary's

Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy 0-8

St Mary's, Charleville 0-8

by Therese O'Callaghan

THIS All-Ireland senior A colleges camogie final in Leahy Park Cashel was a humdinger, the lowly count largely due to brilliant goal-keeping and serious defensive work on both sides.

Martin Storey and his Enniscorthy firing squad lay waiting as Vincent Harrington set about reinstating Charleville's pride after last year's semi-final defeat to the All-Ireland champions.

Wexford's targets were Una Leacy, Ursula Jacob, Ciara O'Connor and Jacqui Codd. For St Mary's, all eyes were on the scoring expertise of the Watson sisters, Sinead McAuliffe and

Mary Coleman.

McAuliffe was in splendid form early on, shooting Charleville into the slenderest of half-time leads, 0-5 to 0-4.

Goalkeeper Ciara Storey was inspirational for the Wexford side while her opposite number Natasha Murphy came up trumps for the Cork girls. Charleville had Elaine O'Riordan magnificent at full back while Mary Leacy was Enniscorthy's talented centre back.

At the three-quarter stage the Munster champions had edged 0-7 to 0-5 ahead but three splendid 45m frees from captain Jacob gave her side the lead entering the closing five minutes.

However, Mary Coleman came to the rescue and her injury time point fittingly ensured another meeting.

● The replay will be held next Saturday at a venue to be decided.

Scorers for Enniscorthy: U Jacob 0-5 (0-3 45m, 0-1f), S Nolan, U Leacy and J Codd 0-1 each. Charleville: S McAuliffe 0-5 (0-2f 0-2 45m), S Brosnan, M Watson and M Coleman 0-1 each.

ENNISCORTHY: C Storey; R Walsh, A Hogan, K Atkinson; S Cullen, M Leacy, D Codd; B Furlong, S Redmond; S Darcy, U Jacob (capt), C O'Connor; S Nolan, J Codd, U Leacy.

Subs: A Devereux for J Codd (60 mins).

CHARLEVILLE: N Murphy; A Morrissey, E O'Riordan, F Chawke; S O'Mahoney, A Watson, E Waters; A Geary, L Healy; S McAuliffe, M Watson (capt), M Coleman; E Watson, S Brosnan, F Morrissey.

Referee: R McGrath (Westmeath).

St Rynagh's CC, Banagher 2-7

St Raphael's, Loughrea 0-7

In the All-Ireland B final a very stylish St Rynagh's of Banagher outsmarted St Raphael's of Galway, also at Leahy Park. Outstanding

Galway county keeper Susan Eamer was captain of the Offaly side — her bravery and lengthy puck outs a major factor in this win.

Evenly balanced throughout the field the midlanders were worthy winners with Tipperary minor Kate Kennedy, Paula Kenny and Mairead Dunne to the forefront.

Scores for St Rynagh's: K Kennedy 0-6 (frees), L Madden and L Gardiner 1-0 each, D Devery 0-1.

St Raphael's: M Geoghegan 0-3 (frees), L Burke, R Maher (f), S Cooney and L Finnerty 0-1 each.

ST RYNAGH'S: S Eamer (capt); C O'Brien, M Moran, L Devery; D Duffy, L Gardiner, E Sullivan; P Kenny, A Ryan; M Dunne, A Kelly, D Devery; L Sullivan, L Madden, K Kennedy.

ST RAPHAEL'S: A Haverly; O Hynes, M Tynan, S Flaherty; C Cooney, L Finnerty, E Dervan (capt); R Maher, L Morahan; M Maher, M Geoghegan, L Burke; T Cooney, S Cooney, K Noone.

Subs: O Kelly for T Cooney (39 mins).

Referee: R Kelleher (Limerick).

Desmond goals the clinchers as Cork tame Tipp

IN Division One of the camogie league, Cork recorded a 3-7 to 1-6 victory over Tipperary in the curtain-raiser to the NHL tie at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

In a well-contested game two goals from Colette Desmond were the deciding factor. Geraldine Kinnane recorded the Tipperary major.

At the Gaelic Grounds Vera Sheehan made a buoyant return to the Limerick team after a sojourn in Australia scoring her side's only goal, but it was not enough to deny the Cats who edged home with their green flag from Marie O'Connor, 1-9 to 1-7.

Dublin hit a purple patch before half time bagging points from captain Eimear Brannigan, Ciara Duffy and Siobhan Treacy at Corrigan Park ensuring the Dubs 0-9

to 0-8 triumph. Jane Adams top scored for the northerners.

In Division Two Offaly continue to top the table with three points to spare over Galway at Shinrone, 2-9 to 3-3. Michelle Davis and Jeanette Feighery were the sharpshooters (1-0 each) and with Tipperary left to play are set to qualify for a last four spot.

Dublin's second side ensured a successful trip to Corrigan Park when defeating Antrim 4-6 to 0-5. Brona McArdle's brace of goals midway through the second half proving significant.

Clare fell to Derry at home in Newmarket-on-Fergus, 1-13 to 3-9. Aine Bradley's 54th minute strike giving the Ulster side their third goal with time running out.

Down had to yield to an unbeaten Kildare side at Kilcliff, 2-7 to 5-4 while Cork's second team defeated Tipperary at the Mardyke 5-15 to 1-10.

Miriam Deasy (two), Jenny Duffy, Sarah O'Donovan and Rosin Corcoran were the major strikers.

Carlow came away from Longwood in Meath with a

6-5 to 3-6 win. Gillian Nolan supplied the impetus with a hat-trick in the opening half to give them an unrelenting interval advantage of 5-2 to 0-5.

Elsewhere, in the Leinster minor championship round-robin series there were wins for Wicklow, Carlow and Offaly, while Kilkenny and Dublin drew.

CAMOGIE

Munster Minor Championship: Cork 7-14 Waterford 0-2; NHL: Offaly 3-5 Cork 2-6.

National junior camogie league

By Geraldine Kinane

TIPPERARY1-10

CORK5-14

The Tipperary Junior team travelled to the Mardyke in Cork on Sunday last to face stiff opposition in the presence of Cork in their League campaign.

Tipperary started well and within the first minute had a fine score from the stick of centre forward Denise Ryan. However Cork quickly settled and before long responded with points from all of their inside forward line.

Miriam Deasy then showed her skill when she

rounded her marker to fire home Cork's first goal. Tipperary were now finding it hard to contain a very balanced Cork outfit and found themselves further behind with a brace of points from the Cork attack. Towards the end of the first half Tipperary showed some of the skill they are capable of producing with Maria Harkin, Deirdre Dunne and Fianna Loughnane all getting their names on the score board.

While in defence Jackie O'Connor and Caroline Greed were very impressive making numerous decisive clearances.

Unfortunately for Tipper-

ary, Cork fired home another goal before the break. Leaving the score on the half time whistle at Cork 2-10 to Tipperary's 0-5.

In the second half Cork continued to up their performance and a further goal from Miriam Deasy put them ahead. Tipperary responded positively and Therese Maxwell scored a great goal to narrow Cork's lead. The mid-field pairing of Fiana Loughnane and Maria Jones were working well together with Maria also scoring a nice point.

Further scores from Caroline Greed and Maria Harkin who played well

throughout brought Tipperary's final tally to 1-10. However at the other end Cork were also taking their chances and three goals in the second half was enough to give them the victory.

Team: Rosanna Kenneally, Siobhan Bourke, Antoinette Davies, Claire Ryan, Una O'Rourke, Caroline Greed (0-1), Jacqueline O'Connor, Fiana Loughnane (0-1), Maria Jones (0-1), Mary Ryan, Denise Ryan (0-2), Maria Harkin (0-4), Deirdre Dunne (0-1) Caroline Ryan, Kate Kennedy.

Subs: Therese Maxwell (1-0) for C. Ryan, Annette Williams for U. O'Rourke.

SENIOR NATIONAL LEAGUE

Pairc Ui Chaoimh at 1.30

Tiobraid Arann

(Tipperary)

1

Jovita Delaney

2

Sheena Howard

3

Helen Breen

4

Claire Madden

5

Sinead Nealon

6

Suzanne Kelly

7

Lorraine Bourke

8

Angie McDermott

9

Siobhan Ryan

10

Trish O'Halloran

11

Emily Hayden

12

Joanne Ryan (Captain)

13

Geraldine Kinane

14

Eimear McDonnell

15

Claire Grogan

Subs:

16 Joanne Nolan

17 Noelle Kennedy

18 Nolette O'Dwyer

19 Deirdre McDonnell

20 Michelle Shortt

21 Meadh Corcoran

22 Danielle O'Connell

23 Deirdre Hughes

24 Eimear Ryan

25 Julie Kirwan

26 Louise Young

27 Paula Bulfin

28 Jill Horan

29 Niamh Connolly

30 Theresa Maher

31 Paula Ryan

32 Ciara Gaynor

33 Theresa Brophy

34 Una O'Dwer

35 Philly Fogarty

Manager

Ramie Ryan

Selectors

Marion Graham

Conor Ryan

First Half Score

Second Half Score

Final Score

Vs

Corcaigh

(Cork)

1

Aoife Murray

2

Joanna O'Callaghan

3

Stephanie Dunlea

4

Lynda O'Connell

5

Cathriona Foley

6

Sara Hayes

7

Gemma O'Connor

8

Val O'Sullivan

9

Viv Harris

10

Eimer Dillon

11

Sile Burns

12

Jenny O'Leary

13

Collette Desmond

14

Una O'Donoghue

15

Ciara Healy

Subs:

16 Ger Casey

17 Rosarie Holland

18 Rachel Moloney

19 Paula O'Connor

20 Emer Watson

MANAGER

John Considine

SELECTORS

Mairead O'Callaghan

Sile O'Brien

Mary Kenniffick

Seamus Coffey

First Half Score

Second Half Score

Final Score

Tipperary vs Cork

MARCH 2004

'Ring Rusty' Tipp fail to Cork

By John Gulton

Cork3-7
Tipperary1-6

MISSING six regulars including last year's captain Una O'Dwyer, All-Ireland champions Tipperary looked more than a trifle 'ring rusty' as they succumbed to a much hungrier Cork side in a tame league round at Pairc Ui Chaoimh on Sunday last.

It may have been an ideal Spring day for the game, but it failed to ignite and for the most part was played at a typical league pace. While Tipp are still in the race for league honours it is likely, following Sunday's defeat, that they will face a play off situation and they will certainly have to step up in form if they are to entertain hopes of adding the title to last year's All-Ireland crown. Their tally of eleven wides contributed significantly to their downfall.

Right now Tipp are showing all the signs of a long 2003 campaign and while they had played two matches in the run up to

Sunday's game (they defeated Limerick and drew with Kilkenny) they were very much off the pace against a Cork side who clearly have had quite a bit of preparatory work done in recent weeks. And while the rebels were without a number of regulars and did not overly exert themselves in clinching an important pair of league points they had a greater appetite for the fray in front of a 'home' following.

Cork, who defeated Tipp in last year's league final, before losing to the Premier County in the All-Ireland final, may have been under-strength on Sunday but they were determined from the outset to make the most of their opportunity. With the breeze behind them Ciara Healy (free) and Una O'Donoghue gave them an early advantage with points and before long it became all too evident that their attack, particularly the inside forward line, were going to take stopping. Having spurned a few goal chances they were soon in the driving seat after Col-

lette Desmond hit the target in 10th minute and Una O'Donoghue followed quickly with their second to leave them 2-3 clear before Tipp opened their account.

It may have taken twenty one minutes for Tipp's first score to arrive but when Geraldine Kinane finished off an Emer McDonnell centre to the net the score seemed to suggest a lift in Tipp's form. However, Cork continued to force the pace outscoring their rivals 0-4 to 0-2 to lead 3-6 to 1-2 at the break. Eimer Dillon, Collette Desmond, Una O'Donoghue and Sile Burns got their names on the scoresheet, while Emer McDonnell and Joanne Ryan accounted for Tipp's scores.

Tipp had the breeze for the second period and Claire Grogan gave them an encouraging start when she pointed a free. However, Cork continued to hold a grip, despite the fact that they only managed a single score in the second period, a point from Sile Burns after 47 minutes. To their credit Tipp lifted their

game considerably in the last quarter and were rewarded for their work on the strength of good points from Joanne Ryan, Deirdre Hughes who had been introduced as a substitute, and Claire Grogan. Emer McDonnell was in hard luck not to make contact with a goal attempt in 50th minute. A goal at that stage would have been a massive boost to the side. As matters transpired Cork eased their way towards the winning post the work of Stephanie Dunlea, Jenny O'Leary, Sile Burns, Collette Desmond, Una O'Donoghue and sub Paula O'Connor significant.

It's early days yet, and, understandably enough, after a long and memorable 2003 season Tipp have not undertaken a great deal of work in the training ground so far in 2004. Manager Raymie Ryan and selectors Marion Graham and Conor Ryan will be intensifying preparations with the squad shortly as the closing stages of the league and the start of the championship looms large on the horizon. Sun-

day's game will do no harm at all as part of the preparations and in getting the squad back into focus for serious tests ahead. Helen Breen, Sinead Nealon, Suzanne Kelly, Emily Hayden, and Joanne Ryan worked very hard as Tipp tried valiantly to over power Cork in the second half.

Tipperary: J. Delaney; S. Howard, H. Breen, C. Madden; S. Nealon, S. Kelly, L. Bourke; A. McDermott, S. Ryan; T. O'Halloran, E. Hayden, J. Ryan (0-2); G. Kinane (1-0), E. McDonnell (0-1), C. Grogan (0-2). Subs. introduced: D. Hughes (0-1), N. Kennedy, M. Corcoran, P. Bulfin, J. Kirwan.

Cork: A. Murray; J. O'Callaghan, S. Dunlea, R. Holland, C. Foley, S. Hayes, V. O'Sullivan; G. O'Connor, V. Harris; E. Dillon (0-1), S. Burns (0-3), J. O'Leary; C. Desmond (2-0), U. O'Donoghue (1-2), C. Healy (0-1). Subs. introduced: P. O'Connor, L. O'Connell, R. Moloney.

Coleman's point saves the day for Mary's

Coldiste Bride, Enniscorthy 0-8
St Mary's, Charleville 0-8

BOTH side will have to do it all again after this classic game in Leahy Park on Saturday.

While the scoring may have been low, this was due to a number of reasons.

Firstly, the excellence of both defences and secondly, the performance of both goalkeepers.

Martin Storey and his Enniscorthy girls lay waiting as Vincent Harrington set about reinstating Charleville's pride after last year's semi-final defeat to the All-Ireland champions.

Wexford's stars were Una Leacy, Ursula Jacob, Clara O'Connor and Jacqui Codd.

For St Mary's, all eyes were on the scoring expertise of the Watson sisters, Sinead McAuliffe and Mary Coleman.

However, scores were hard to come by with Mary's ahead at the break by the minimum (0-5 to 0-4).

McAuliffe was in splendid form shooting for Mary's in the first half.

The second half followed the same pattern as the first with both defences on top especially the goalkeeper's Clara Storey for the Wexford side and Natasha Murphy for St Mary's.

Charleville had Elaine O'Riordan magnificent at full back.

With 10 minutes remaining the Munster champions had edged 0-7 to 0-5 ahead but three splendid 45m frees from captain Jacob gave her side the lead entering the closing five minutes.

However, Mary Coleman came to the rescue and her injury-time point fittingly ensured another meeting.

The replay will be held next Saturday.

Scorers for Enniscorthy: U Jacob 0-5 (0-3 45m, 0-1f), S Nolan, U Leacy and J Codd 0-1 each.

Scorers for Charleville: S McAuliffe 0-5 (0-2f 0-2 45m), S Brosnan, M Watson and M Coleman 0-1 each.

ENNISCORTHY: C Storey; R Walsh, A Hogan, K Atkinson; S Cullen, M Leacy, D Codd; B Furlong, S Redmond; S Darcy, U Jacob (capt), C O'Connor; S Nolan, J Codd, U Leacy.

Subs: A Devereux for J Codd (60 mins).

CHARLEVILLE: N Murphy; A Morrissey, E O'Riordan, F Chawke; S O'Mahoney, A Watson, E Waters; A Geary, L Healy; S McAuliffe, M Watson (capt), M Coleman; E Watson, S Brosnan, F Morrissey.

Referee: R McGrath (Westmeath).



Cork's Eimer Dillon followed closely by Tipp's Trish O'Halloran in the senior camogie game at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Gavin Browne

First-half blitz puts Rebels in control

Cork
Tipperary

3-7
1-6

By LINDA MELLERICK
Camogie

CORK had a seven-point margin to spare over a lack lustre Tipperary team in the National Senior Camogie league tie in Páirc Uí Chaoimh yesterday.

Played as a curtain raiser to the National Hurling league decider between the same two counties, the game never reached the heights these two teams are capable of.

But then again it's early days in the league and both managers are testing the waters with a lot of personnel and positional switches evident.

Fielding just seven of last year's All-Ireland final 15 Cork started very impressively.

They opened up the Tipp defence and seemed to have the pace on the wings.

Both sides had a couple of wides before Clara Healy opened the scoring with a 45. By the 12th minute Cork were 1-3 to 0-0 in front, the goal coming after a great ball in from Jenny O'Leary was picked up and hand-passed to the net by Collette Desmond.

Cork were to goal again in the 16th and 20th minute with Una

O'Donoghue and Desmond netting.

Tipperary's first score of the game came with a goal a minute later after Geraldine Kinane made a burst through to hand-pass past Aoife Murray in the Cork goal.

Eimer McDonnell and Joanne Ryan added a further two points to finish Tipp's first-half scoring. The half ended 3-6 to 1-2.

The second half failed to live up to the first half's class. Both defences closed down and the open play which had been on display in the first 30 minutes, particularly from Cork, ended.

Emily Hayden played wide trying to create space for her team, but Vivienne Harris dropped back play-

ing a sweeper role and cleaned up a lot of ball across the entire half-back line.

Chances were had on both sides but some great hooking and blocking by both teams resulted in no further goals.

Cork's only score of the second half came from Sile Burns, who over the 60 minutes, won the battle between herself and Suzanne Kelly.

Two points from play and one from a free was Tipp's second-half scoring. The game finished Cork 3-7, Tipp 1-6.

Referee Morgan Conroy from Waterford did little to help the game. He blew for silly things and allowed little or no advantage. He seemed to be playing to the old camogie rules.

Deasy dominates Cork camogie victory

Cork
Tipperary

5-15
1-10

MIRIAM Deasy was the star player on view yesterday when Cork trounced Tipp in the National Junior Camogie game in the Mardyke, writes LINDA MELLERICK.

Scoring a total of 2-3 from play and also involved in many other Cork scores, she

ran Tipperary ragged.

After 20 minutes, Cork led by 1-6 to 0-3 and were never going to lose this match with Tipp's points coming from Denise Ryan, Deirdre Dunne and Marie Harkin.

A great goal by Roisin Corcoran, struck first time to the back of the Tipp net, further enhanced Cork's dominance.

Tipperary struck back

with points from Fiona Loughnane and a free from Maria Harkin to leave it 2-11 to 0-5 at half-time.

The Cork defence were extremely solid throughout with Michelle Hegarty at centre back, Marie O'Connell and Edel Foley in control.

Jenny Duffy and Val O'Keeffe were very lively at centre-field and kept the play moving quickly.

Ger Collins was also very effective up front alongside Liz Bugler and the aforementioned Miriam Deasy.

Cork ran out worthy winners, 5-15 to 1-8.

Offaly beat Kilkenny in the other tie played in Kilkenny.

With only one team progressing and unless Offaly slip up in their remaining two games, Cork may find that last week's shock defeat

to Offaly with a last minute goal may see their chances of making the knockout stages of the league over.

But you never know what might happen. Cork can do little or nothing about other teams' results.

What they can do is continue their own preparations, keep their own house in order and go all out to win the remaining games.

MARCH

2004

Cluichí Ceannais na n-Iarbhunscoileanna sa Chamógaíocht



Caiseal

27 Márta 2004

Sinsear B: 1.30 p.m.

Sinsear A: 3.15 p.m.

Ar Máiread Ní Fhearáin

Luach: € 1

Rúnaí

TEACHTAIREACHT ÓN UACHTARAN

Is breá ar fad liom é fíor-chaoi fáilte a chur roimh chách chuig Cluichí Ceannais na gColáistí sa Chamógaíocht. Táim cinnte de go mbainfidh sibh taitheamh as imeachtaí an lae inniu. Imreoirí den chéad scoth a bheidh ar an bpáirc, agus táimid ag tnúth le sár-chluichí idir St. Raphael's, Loughrea and St. Rynagh's Community College, Banagher agus Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy and St. Mary's, Charleville.

I am pleased to welcome you all to our Senior Finals day. In particular, I greet the players who are the stars of today's programme. I hope that you all perform to the pinnacle of your ability. I welcome also families and school friends who have travelled to support.

Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy won Corn Sceilg in style last season. They field a side of multi-talented players who have taken the standard of post-primary schools camogie to a very high level. They are fortunate to retain the vast majority of the team that won last year. With the confidence gained from that success, Colaiste Bride hold a firm grip on Corn Sceilg.

Their opponents, St. Mary's, Charleville, have the most impressive record in post primary schools camogie. All-Ireland champions on many occasions, they were defeated by Coláiste Bride at the semi-final stage last season. They will be very anxious to reverse that decision today and, on semi-final form, have the talent to test the champions to the limit. There is no doubt that the two top teams in post primary schools camogie are in action here today.

The name St. Raphael's, Loughrea conjures up memories of great teams and outstanding players of the eighties when eight All-Ireland senior titles in succession were claimed by the school. The present side impressed in the All-Ireland semi-final and will make a determined effort to bridge the gap to the glory days when St. Raphael's were longpins of colleges camogie.

I welcome St. Rynagh's, Banagher to their first All-Ireland Final. Great progress has been made in promoting camogie in the school. On semi-final form, they are ready to make a bold bid for the All-Ireland title.

I pay tribute to the coaches who have worked so hard to bring today's finalists to such a high level. They have given unselfishly of their time to organise and prepare their panels.

I thank those who foster camogie at colleges levels. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil leis na hoifigigh, na réiteoirí, na mxiinteoirí agus le achan duine ar son a gcabhrach. Guím gach ráth ar na himreoirí uile atá ar pháirc na himeartha inniu agus oraibh go léir.

Máire Ní Mhoráin
Uachtarán

CLÁR AN LAE

SINSEAR B

1.30 p.m.

COLÁISTE PHOBAL NAOMH RAIGHNE, BEANNCHAR

St. Rynagh's Community College, Bannagher

V

MEÁNSCOIL SAN RAFAEL, BAILE LOCHA RIAICH

St. Raphael's Secondary School, Loughrea

Réiteoir: RÓIS MÁIRE UÍ CHÉILLEACHAIR

SINSEAR A

3.15 p.m.

SCOIL NAOMH MUIRE, RÁTH LUIRC

St. Mary's Secondary School, Charleville

V

COLÁISTE BRÍDE, INIS CORTHAIDH

Enniscorthy

Réiteoir: RITA MHIC CRAITH

TODAY'S FINALISTS (Senior A and B)

COLÁISTE BRÍDE, ENNISCORTHY

Coláiste Bride is an all girls Catholic Secondary School situated on the slopes of historic Vinegar Hill in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. It was established as a secondary top in 1935 but had to wait until 1970 to attain full secondary school status. The school has 23 feeder primary schools in its catchment area, an enrolment of 719 students and a staff of 55 teachers. All sports are played by the girls with major successes in basketball, tennis, athletics, cross-country, equestrian sports and of course gaelic games - football and camogie - over the years.

We wish to thank all our supporters and sponsors and especially the Riverside Park Hotel for their ongoing support of our teams.

ST. MARY'S, CHARLEVILLE

Camogie was introduced to St. Mary's in 1984. In addition to numerous Cork Colleges titles, St. Mary's have won 49 Munster Colleges A Titles and have 27 All-Ireland Colleges titles to their credit. The first of these was in 1986 when they collected their first All-Ireland Junior title and retained their crown in 1987. They won the Junior title again in 1994, 1995, 1999 and completed a 3-in-a-row in 2001, 2002 and 2003. St. Mary's have enjoyed considerable success in the All-Ireland 7's competition, claiming the title on 13 occasions. This year, St. Mary's are going for their 7th All-Ireland Senior title since 1996. Charleville are indebted for much of their success to their local clubs, namely Ballyagran, Ballyhea, Charleville, Granagh-Ballingarry, Kilmallock, Milford and Newtownshandrum.

ST. RYNAGH

Banagher Vocational School now St. Rynagh's Community College, opened in September 1953. We celebrated our Golden Jubilee on 5th December last and in those fifty years, our school has grown from strength to strength. Banagher is situated on the River Shannon and is therefore the meeting place of three counties, Offaly, Galway and Tipperary and also three provinces Leinster, Connacht and Munster. As you can imagine, this adds great colour to the National League and All-Ireland Championship seasons!

Games are encouraged by Principal Nora Kennedy and Deputy Principal Paddy Scales in the school. We have been very successful on the hurling field having won numerous Leinster and North Leinster Finals and our First All-Ireland victory in 1984. Past pupils and All-Ireland winning captains including Martin Hanamy, Padraic Horan and Hubert Rigney.

Banagher Vocational School won the All-Ireland Vocational Schools Camogie title in their very first appearance in the final when they beat Loughrea V.S. by four points in a very exciting game at Duggan Park, Ballinasloe in 1988. Aoife Kelly's aunt, Ita Larkin played on the team that day and Catherine Byrne made an excellent captain. Pat McNamara and Nora Kennedy trained and coached that team to success in 1988 and his wisdom and experience were invaluable in getting us here again today.

Hurling and camogie are the main games played at SRCC but gaelic and ladies football and soccer teams have also been victorious of late. It is obvious that the lessons of honour, respect, determination, leadership, commitment and teamwork seen every day on the playing field transcend into the classroom too.

ST. RAPHAEL'S COLLEGE

St. Raphael's College was founded by the Clonfert Sisters of Mercy in 1917 and provided education for day-girls and boarders. In 1974, St. Raphael's amalgamated with St. Brendan's De La Salle School and the school became co-educational. The school offers a broad curriculum and a wide range of extra-curricular activities. It has a long and distinguished sporting history with national titles in Camogie, Volleyball and Hurling. The college holds the distinction of being the only Connacht College to ever win the All-Ireland Senior A Hurling title. The college's Senior A Camogie team won eight all-Ireland titles in a row from 1985-1992. To date this year the college has won the All-Ireland Senior Boys Volleyball final and the Connacht Colleges Senior B Camogie final while the Senior Hurling team are also through to the Connacht Final.

MARCH

SENIOR B FINALISTS



SENIOR B FINALISTS – St. Raphael's



SENIOR B FINALISTS – St. Rynagh's

SENIOR B

COLÁISTE PHOBAL NAOMH RAIGHNE
St. Rynagh's Community College

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1
Susan Earner
Siobhán Ní Shaoraigh | | |
| 2
Chloe O'Brien
Chloe Ní Bhriain | 3
Michelle Moran
Micilín Ní Mhorain | 4
Laura Devery
Laura Ní Dhaibhre |
| 5
Devinna Duffy
Debhinné Ní Dhufaidh | 6
Lisa Gardiner
Lisa Ní Ghairnéir | 7
Elaine Sullivan
Elaine Ní Shúilleabháin |
| 8
Paula Kenny
Póilín Ní Chonnaigh | 9
Aideen Ryan
Eadaoin Ní Rian | |
| 10
Mairead Dunne
Mairead Ní Dhuinn | 11
Aoife Kelly
Aoife Ní Cheallaigh | 12
Denise Devery
Denise Ní Dhaibhre |
| 13
Linda Sullivan
Linda Ní Shúilleabháin | 14
Lisa Madden
Lisa Ní Mhaidín | 15
Kate Kennedy
Cait Ní Chirneide |
| 16 Patricia Silke | 17 Denise Gilmore | 18 Ruth McEvoy |
| 19 Tara Cahalan | 20 Helena Bracken | 21 Carla Hynes |
| 22 Jennifer Gardiner | 23 Mairead Kelly | |
| Padraigín Ní Shíoda | Denise Ní Ghiolla Mhuire | Rút Nic an tSaoi |
| Tara Ní Chathaláin | Eibhlín Ní Bhreacáin | Carla Ní Eidhin |
| Sinéad Ní Ghairnéir | Máiread Ní Cheallaigh | |

2004

SENIOR A FINALISTS



SENIOR A FINALISTS – Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy



SENIOR A FINALISTS – Charleville

SENIOR B

MEÁNSCOIL SAN RAFAEL,
BAILE LOCHA RIAICH
St. Raphael's, Loughrea

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1
Amy Haverty
Amy Ní Abhartáigh | | |
| 2
Orla Hynes
Orla Ní Aidhín | 3
Michelle Tynan
Michelle Ní Theimhneáin | 4
Sharon Flaherty
Sharon Ní Fhlaithearta |
| 5
Ciara Cooney
Ciara Ní Chuana | 6
Lydia Finnerty
Lydia Ní Fhinneartaigh | 7
Edel Dervan (Capt)
Edel Ní Dhoirbheain |
| 8
Ruth Maher
Rut Ní Mheachair | 9
Leona Morahan
Leona Ní Mhuireacháin | |
| 10
Maria Maher
Maire Ní Mheachair | 11
Marian Geoghegan
Marian Ní Eochagáin | 12
Louisa Burke
Labhaoise de Burca |
| 13
Tara Cooney
Tara Ní Chuana | 14
Sarah Cooney
Sorcha Ní Chuana | 15
Kathleen Noone
Caitlín Ní Nuain |
| 16 Orla Kelly | 17 Máiread Loughnane | 18 Maeve Hynes |
| 19 Mary Burke | Orla Ní Cheallaigh | Máiread Ní Lachtnáin |
| | Maeve Ní Aidhín | Maire de Burca |

Pen Pictures: ST. RAPHAELS, COLLEGE

AMY HAVERTY Club: Shamrocks
ORLA HYNES Club: Sarsfields
MICHELLE TYNAN Club: Davitts
SHARON FLAHERTY Club: Shamrocks
CIARA COONEY Club: Sarsfields
LYDIA FINNERTY Club: Mullagh
EDEL DERVAN (Capt) Club: Davitts
RUTH MAHER Club: Shamrocks
LEONA MORAHAN Club: Mullagh
MARIA MAHER Club: Shamrocks
MARIAN GEOGHEGAN Club: St. Thomas
LOUISA BURKE Club: Davitts
TARA COONEY Club: Sarsfields
SARAH COONEY Club: Sarsfields
KATHLEEN NOONE Club: Kiltulla - Kilmordaly
ORLA KELLY Club: Davitts
MAIREAD LOUGHNANE Club: Shamrocks
MAEVE HYNES Club: Davitts
MARY BURKE Club: Shamrocks

Pen Pictures: BANAGHER

SUSAN EARNER our Captain plays with Eyecourt camogie team. She has won U-14, U-16 and Senior County Championships with the school as well as two Leinster medals. She plays for Galway and has won two All-Irelands with them at senior and junior level. Susan was awarded 'Galway Camogie Player of the Year' this year. Her favourite players are Brendan Cummins and Sharon Glynn.

CHLOE O'BRIEN is a 15 year old third year student who plays with St. Rynagh's. She is an excellent football player and is very interested in athletics and soccer. Her favourite player is Brian Whelehan. Chloe also has won U15, U-16 and senior county championships and two Leinster finals.

MICHELLE MORAN is another Eyecourt player. She is in Leaving Cert. and would like to be an Accountant. She plays football with the school and throws the javelin. Her heroes include Johnny Pilkington and Rita Broderick. She too won medals at all levels with St. Rynagh's Community College and plays for Galway at junior level.

LAURA DEVERY plays for Luskagh Camogie Club. She is 15 and in Junior Cert. She has won numerous medals with both clubs and school alike. She loves music and sport especially football. Her favourite players include Cora Staunton and BJ Carey. She intends to be a veterinary nurse.

DEVINNA DUFFY is 17 and from Luskagh Camogie Club. She is very interested in sport, music and athletics and would love to do a parachute jump. Her favourite player is John Troy and she would like to be a PE Teacher. Her motto is to "live life to the full". Devinna has also won U-18 and Junior championships with her club and U-14, U-16, senior and Leinster medals with our school.

LISA GARDINER is a Leaving Cert. student and plays for Luskagh Camogie Club, where she has won many honours. She plays for her native Offaly at U-18 and junior level. Lisa is an enthusiastic footballer and also enjoys walking and swimming. She greatly admires Jamsie O'Connor and is positive and committed to everything she takes on.

ELAINE SULLIVAN is 16 and plays for Luskagh Camogie Club. Her proudest moment was beating Ballycastle to earn a place in today's final. She admires Brian Whelehan and likes to take each day as it comes. She enjoys playing football and soccer and has U-14, U-16 senior and Leinster medals under her belt.

PAULA KENNY is a live wire from Eyecourt. She is multi-talented in the fields of athletics, football and soccer but can't draw. Her favourite players are Damien Hayes and Susan Earner. She has ensured wins for our team at all levels.

AIDEEN RYAN is a gifted athlete and long jumper. She plays for Luskagh and has won at all grades with her club and school team. She plays ladies football for St. Rynagh's and includes DJ Carey and Molly Dunne as her favourite players.

MAIREAD DUNNE is better known as Molly and would like to be a guard. She plays for Eyecourt and the Galway junior team. Her proudest moment was playing for Galway in the Minor All-Ireland Final in 2003 and puts her success down to the power of the jalla. Her favourite players are Susan Earner and Aine Hillery. Watch this space.

AOIFE KELLY is a repeat Leaving Cert. student who plays for Luskagh Camogie Club. Aoife has played with Offaly at all grades and has been successful with school club and county and has many successes under her belt including All-Ireland medal. Her favourite players include Brian Whelehan and Ollie Canning. Aoife is interested in being a primary or PE Teacher.

DENISE DEVERY is currently repeating her Leaving Cert. and longs to become a nurse. Her other interests include football, swimming and sailing. She greatly admires Hubert Rigney and Molly Dunne. Her proudest moment was winning the junior camogie final with Luskagh. Denise has also won medals at all grades with the school.

LINDA SULLIVAN is 14 and from St. Rynagh's Camogie Club. She is a very talented football and soccer player and was chosen to play for the Mini 7's in Croke Park in 2000. Her favourite players are DJ Carey and Molly Dunne. Her motto is 'Just do it'.

LISA MADDEN won a Leinster junior medal with St. Rynagh's at 14. She enjoys football and music and has won U-14, U-16, senior and Leinster C and B medals with the school. She is a fan of Joe Dooly and Elaine Sullivan. Lisa's motto is "SRCC is the place to be".

KATIE KENNEDY hails from Lorrha and plays for Tipperary at minor and junior level. Her heroes include John Leahy and Daire Hughes. Her proudest moment was playing in the Primary games in Semple Stadium before the Munster Final in 2000. Katie's motto is healthy mind and a healthy body and she would like to pursue a career in veterinary nursing after school.

PATRICIA SILKE is 18 and plays for Luskagh. She has won U-16, U-18 and junior medals with the club. She loves music and would like to be a cadet after school. Her favourite players include Eugene Cloonan and Kevin Broderick.

DENISE GILMORE is 16 and plays for St. Rynagh's. She has won U-14, U-16, senior and Leinster medals with the school. Her favourite players are DJ Carey and Brian Whelehan and her mother is her all time hero. Denise wants to study Arts in Galway and her motto is "don't take anything for granted".

RUTH McEVOY comes from Eyecourt and she also enjoys football. She would like to become a hairdresser and names Eugene Cloonan as her favourite player. Ruth believes it ain't what you do but the way that you do it.

TARA CAHALIN is 15 from Laurencetown. She enjoys reading and hanging out with her friends. She admires Eugene Cloonan and Joe Cooney and intends to become an Accountant after school. Tara is always in good form and is an asset to any team.

HELEN BRACKEN is from Birr and is 15 years old. She has been successful at all levels with the school teams. Her favourite players include Brian Whelehan and Johnny Pilkington. In her spare time she enjoys swimming and music and would love to be an architect after school.

CARLA HYNES is 15 from Eyecourt and has also been successful with her club and school at all levels. She thinks Ollie Canning is a gifted player and would like to qualify as a nurse after school and loves swimming and music.

JENNIFER GARDINER is 13 from Luskagh. She was involved with her club in U-14, U-16, U-18 and junior victories. Her favourite player is DJ Carey and she enjoys football and swimming. She is a first year student but would like to be a nurse after school.

MAIREAD KELLY is in first year and plays for St. Rynagh's. She enjoys football, hurling, soccer and swimming. David Francis is her all time favourite player and played in Croke Park during half time in the 2002 All-Ireland Final. She would like to be a hairdresser and her motto is "give it everything you've got".

Provincial Results and Scores 2004

(winners are named first)

CONNACHT

Senior A	St. Brigid's, Loughrea	v	Portumna Community School
Senior B	St. Raphael's, Loughrea	v	Athenry Vocational School
Junior A	Presentation, Athenry	v	Portumna Community School
Junior B	Athenry Vocational School	v	St. Cuan's, Castleblakeney

MUNSTER

Senior A	St. Mary's, Charleville	v	Loreto, Fermoy
Senior B	Carrigaline Community School	v	Coláiste Mhuire, Ennis
Junior A	Presentation, Bandon	v	St. Mary's, Charleville
Junior B	Scariff Community College	v	Ursuline, Thurles

LEINSTER

Senior A	Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy	v	
Senior B	St. Rynagh's Community College	v	Scoil Aireagail, Ballyhale
Junior A	Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy	v	St. Brigid's Callan
Junior B	Castlecumber Community School	v	Vocational School, Borris

ULSTER

Senior A	St. Patrick's, Maghera	v	St. Mary's, Magherafelt
Senior B	Cross and Passion, Ballycastle	v	Loreto College, Coleraine
Junior A	St. Mary's, Magherafelt	v	St. Patrick's, Maghera
Junior B	Cross and Passion, Ballycastle	v	Acadamh N. Pádraig, Dungannon

All-Ireland Semi-Finals 2004

(winners are named first)

SENIOR A	St. Mary's, Charleville	v	St. Brigid's, Loughrea
	Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy	v	St. Patrick's, Maghera
SENIOR B	St. Rynagh's, Bannagher	v	Cross and Passion, Ballycastle
	St. Raphael's, Loughrea	v	Carrigaline Community School
JUNIOR A	Presentation, Athenry	v	Presentation, Bandon
	Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy	v	St. Mary's, Magherafelt
JUNIOR B	Castlecumber Community School	v	Cross and Passion, Ballycastle
	Scarriff Community College	v	Athenry Vocational School

DO YOU KNOW . . .

- The first ever public Camogie game was played at Páirc Tailteann, Navan, Co Meath on July 18th 1904, at an Aeríocht organised by the Navan branch of the Gaelic League. There were 2000 spectators present. A press report went as follows:
"A Camóguidheacht match was played, which is regarded as a novelty, and may be remarked as the first inter-club contest ever played in Ireland. Both teams were composed of cailíní and belong to Dublin and the game, which aroused considerable interest, resembles Hurling, the ground being marked out something like a football field. The camóg, or hurling stick, however being much lighter and less dangerous than the ordinary camáns."
- An Cumann Camógaiochta was not formed until February 25th, 1905, at a meeting in North Frederick Street, Dublin. But there was a rather slow start for the new sport and the first inter county game did not take place until 1912 when Dublin defeated Louth by 2-1 to 0-0, at Jones's Road.
- The Ashbourne Cup, competed for by the university camogie teams, is one of the oldest sports trophies in Ireland, and UCD were the first winners in 1915.
- In 1918, following a declaration by the British army, Camogie was listed as "an illegal assembly" and games were stopped and players arrested.
- Although the first camogie game was played in 1904, it was not until April of 1925 that the inaugural Congress was held, in Parnell Square, Dublin.
- The All-Ireland camogie championship did not arrive until 1932 and the final was not staged until August of the following year when Dublin defeated Galway by 3-2 to 0-2 to take the O'Duffy Cup and claim the first of their 26 titles.
- Games only lasted 40 minutes when Dublin won out in 1932 and '33 and they were 50 minutes until 1988, from when all inter county matches have been of an hour's duration.
- The '40s was an exciting decade for camogie. In 1942 there was the first ever drawn All-Ireland final and when Dublin outscored Cork by 4-1 to 2-2, the replay was broadcast by Radio Éireann, another first for the sport.
- Between 1948 and '66 Dublin won 18 All-Ireland titles and Kathleen Mills and Una O'Connor picked up 15 and 13 medals respectively. Amusingly Dublin scored more goals than points in 16 of their 18 finals during that run of success with 11-4, 10-4 and 10-1 being among their winning totals. In the other two deciders scores of 5-5 and 2-2 gave them titles.
- In more recent years, during which the number of players on teams increased from 12 to 15, the scoring of points in All-Ireland camogie finals has caught on, with modern day forces like Cork, Tipperary and Kilkenny getting to double figures.
- Last year the All-Ireland intermediate final in which Antrim defeated Tipperary by 2-9 to 0-9 was played at Páirc Tailteann as a curtain raiser to the Dublin-Tyrone under 21 football decider.
- On Saturday, July 17th next the staging of the first ever camogie game will be honoured at Páirc Tailteann when a commemorative plaque will be unveiled and a special match played.

Noel Coogan in "The Weekender" Navan (with permission)

SENIOR A

COLÁISTE BRÍDE, INIS CORTHAIDH

Enniscorthy

1 Ciara Storey Ciara Ní Storaí	2 Ruth Walsh Rút Ní Bhreathnach	3 Aisling Hogan Aisling Ní Ógáin	4 Karen Atkinson Karen Ní Aidicín
5 Siobhán Cullen Siobhán Ní Chuillín	6 Mary Leacy Máire Ní Laigheasa	7 Deirdre Codd Deirdre Ní Choid	8 Brona Furlong Bróna Ní Fhuirlinge
9 Stacy Redmond Staciá Ní Réamoinn	10 Sarah Darcy Sorcha Ní Dhórsaigh	11 Ursula Jacob (Capt) Ursula Jacob	12 Ciara O'Connor Ciara Ní Chonchubhair
13 Siona Nolan Siona Ní Nualláin	14 A. N. Other C. Eile	15 Una Leacy Úna Ní Laigheasa	
16 Anna Murphy	17 Ann Marie Foley	18 Aine Devereux	19 Olivia Murphy
20 Lorraine O'Connor	21 Tracey Breen	22 Aileen Doyle	23 Jacqui Codd
Áine Ní Mhurchú	Áine Máire Ní Fhoghlú	Áine Máire Ní Dhéabhrús	Oilibhia Ní Mhurchú
Lorraine Ní Chonchúir	Treasa Ní Bhriain	Eadaoin Ní Dhúill	Jacqueline Ní Choid

SENIOR A

SCOIL MUIRE, RÁTH LUIRC

St. Mary's Charleville, Co. Cork

1 Natasha Murphy Natasha Ní Mhurchú	2 Amy Morrissey Amy Ní Mhureasa	3 Elaine O'Riordan Elaine Ní Riordáin	4 Fiona Chawke Fiona de Cailce
5 Sarah O'Mahoney Sorcha Ní Mhathúna	6 Aine Watson Aine Nic Uait	7 Edwina Waters Edwina Ní Thuairisc	8 Anna Geary Aine Ní Ghadhra
9 Lisa Healy Eilis Ní Éalaí	10 Sinead McAuliffe Sinead Nic Amhlaoibh	11 Marie Watson Máire Nic Uait	12 Mary Coleman Máire Ní Cholmáin
13 Shannon Brosnan Sionnán Ní Bhrosnacháin	14 Emer Watson Eimear Nic Uait	15 Fiona Morrissey Fiona Ní Mhureasa	
16 Aisling O'Brien	17 Leonie Boyce	18 Jacqueline O'Connor	19 Michelle Walshe
20 Fiona Geary	21 Christine O'Shea	22 Sarah Sexton	23 Tina Shanahan
Aisling Ní Bhriain	Leonie Ní Bhuagh	Jacqueline Ní Chonchúir	Micilín Bhreathnach
Fiona Ní Ghadhra	Cristiona Ní Shé	Sorcha Ní Sheasnáin	Tina Ní Sheanacháin

Pen Pictures: COLÁISTE BRÍDE, ENNISCORTHY

CIARA O'CONNOR (Rathnure) Age: 18. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie 2003, captain. Numerous underage medals with her club including Leinster Club Medal 2000. She has also won Leinster medals at county level for U14 and U16.

AISLING HOGAN (Rathnure) Age: 18. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie Medal 2003, All-Ireland Junior 'A' Camogie 2000. Numerous underage medals with both club and county.

DEIDRE CODD (Duffry Rovers) Age: 17. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie 2003, All-Ireland Junior 'A' Camogie 2000. Leinster medals at underage levels for both club and county.

JACQUI CODD (Duffry Rovers) Age: 17. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie 2003, County Intermediate Medal Championship and League 2003, Leinster Senior Colleges 2002. Underage intercounty success at both U15 and U16.

BRÓNA FURLONG (Duffry Rovers) Age: 17. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie 2003, All-Ireland Junior 'A' Camogie 2000, Intermediate club league and championship winners 2003. Bróna also represented Ireland in Athletics in the triple jump last year.

ANNE MARIE FOLEY (Duffry Rovers) Age: 18. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie 2003, All-Ireland Junior 'A' Camogie 2000. Leinster medals at underage levels for both club and county.

RUTH WALSH (Monageer-Booleavogue) Age: 17. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie 2003, All-Ireland Junior 'A' Camogie 2000, numerous medals with both club and county at underage level.

SARAH DARCY (Monageer-Booleavogue) Age: 16. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie 2003, All-Ireland Junior 'A' Camogie 2000, numerous medals with both club and county at underage level.

OLIVIA MURPHY (Monageer-Booleavogue) Age: 16. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie 2003, All-Ireland Junior 'A' Camogie 2002, numerous underage medals for both county and club.

ANNA MURPHY (Monageer-Booleavogue) Age: 16. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie 2003, All-Ireland Junior 'A' Camogie 2002, numerous underage medals for both county and club.

SIONA NOLAN (Monageer-Booleavogue) Age: 16. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie 2003, Leinster Junior 'A' Medals, County U16 medal and Leinster U14.

URSULA JACOB (Captain) (Oulart - The Ballagh) Age: 18. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie 2003, All-Ireland Junior 'A' Camogie 2000, County titles from U10 to Senior, All-Ireland Féile Medals, All-Ireland Pan Celtic title.

SIQBHÁN CULLEN (Oulart - The Ballagh) Age: 15. Honours: Senior County Championship Medal 2003, Junior County Championship Winner 2003, 3 All-Ireland Féile na nGael Medals.

MARY LEACY (Oulart - the Ballagh) Age: 18. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie 2003, All-Ireland Junior 'A' Camogie 2000, County titles from U10 to Senior, All-Ireland Féile Medals, All-Ireland Pan Celtic title, Leinster Colleges Junior Football 2001 and 2000.

UNA LEACY (Oulart - the Ballagh) Age: 15. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie Medal 2003, All-Ireland Junior 'A' Camogie Medal 2002, Leinster Junior Colleges Football Medal 2003, Senior County Championship Medal 2003. She has also won numerous underage medals for both her county and club.

KAREN ATKINSON (Oulart - the Ballagh) Age: 17. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie Medal 2003, All-Ireland Féile na nGael Medals in 1998, 1999, 2000, numerous medals for underage county and club titles.

CÍARA STOREY (Oulart - the Ballagh) Age: 14. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie Medal 2003, All-Ireland Club Medals U14, U16, U18, Junior and Senior County Medals 2003.

ÁINE DEVEREUX (Oulart - the Ballagh) Age: 16. Honours: Wexford Senior County Medal 2003, U14 & U16 County Leinster Titles, All-Ireland Féile na nGael U14. Numerous underage medals for county and club titles.

AIDEEN DOYLE (Rapparees) Age: 16. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie Medal 2003, Senior 'A' Leinster Medal 2003, Leinster titles with junior and senior school football.

LORRAINE O'CONNOR (Oylegate-Glenbrien) Age: 14. Honours: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie Medal 2003, All-Ireland Junior 'A' Camogie 2002.

Pen Pictures: ST. MARY'S CHARLEVILLE

NATASHA MURPHY (Kilmallock) is an experienced goalkeeper who is an excellent shot-stopper. Has won All-Ireland Junior and 7-a-side medals with the school.

AMY MORRISSEY (Ballyhea) is a very reliable defender who has won All-Ireland Junior, 7-a-side and Senior medals with the school. An opposing forward will find it hard to get an easy score off Amy.

ELAINE O'RIORDAN (Milford) is a very commanding presence in the full back line. She has won All-Ireland medals at all levels with the school and also captained Cork to All-Ireland Minor success in 2002. Played Senior Football for Cork in the last year.

FIONA CHAWKE (Granagh) is a very skilful defender. Daughter of the famous Bernie. Fiona is following in her mother's footsteps with her stylish displays on the field. Has won All-Ireland Junior titles with the school. Also won an All-Ireland Club medal with Granagh-Ballingarry in 2003 (coached by her father Mike).

SARAH O'MAHONY (Ballygran) is a very talented player and is a member of the Limerick Senior panel. Is one of the most committed players on the team and drives her team forward time and time again.

AINE WATSON (Milford) is following in her sisters footsteps in being another skilful player. Possesses an excellent first touch and has great vision. She has won Junior and 7-a-side All-Ireland medals with the school and All-Ireland Minor with Cork in 2003.

EDWINA WATERS (Ballyhea) is an all action player in our back line and has represented Cork at county level. Displaying great form this year and has won All-Ireland medals at Junior and 7-a-side level with the school and All-Ireland Minor with Cork in 2003.

ANNA GEARY (Milford) is a very fast, skilful and hard-working midfielder. She has won All-Ireland medals at county and school level. Determined and always gives 100% for the team. Is the Post Primary Schools Ambassador for Camogie in this centenary year and captained the Cork Minors to All-Ireland success in 2003.

LISA HEALY (Milford) is one of the fastest and hardest working players on the team. She has won All-Ireland Senior, Junior and 7-a-side medals with St. Mary's and an All-Ireland Minor with Cork in 2002.

SINEAD McAULIFFE (Ballygran) is one of the most skilful players one is likely to come across. Plays with the Limerick Senior Camogie team. Has won All-Ireland at all levels with the school. Will definitely be a danger to any defence. Captained Junior team to All-Ireland success last year.

MARIE WATSON (Milford) is our inspirational captain who is showing great form this year. She has captained both her County and her school to All-Ireland honours. Excellent free-taker. Has won every honour in colleges camogie.

MARY COLEMAN (Ballyhea) is a daughter of Geraldine who played Inter-County camogie with Limerick. Mary has represented Cork and is considered a very fast, dangerous and elusive forward. Has won All-Ireland medals with the school at Junior and 7-a-side levels and an All-Ireland Minor with Cork in 2003.

SHANNON BROSNAN (Kilmallock) is a hard-working player who can play in a variety of positions. She plays both football and camogie at Inter-County level with Limerick. One you can rely upon. Has won All-Ireland medals with the school at Junior and 7-a-side levels.

EMER WATSON (Milford) is a very skilful forward who has a great eye for goal. Has got all the attributes needed to be a top class player. Has won All-Ireland medals with the school at all levels and won an All-Ireland Minor with Cork in 2001 and 2002.

FIONA MORRISSEY (Granagh) is an excellent corner forward who has an eye for goal. A member of the Limerick Minor team and capable of scoring when given half a chance. Has won All-Ireland medals with the school at Junior and 7-a-side levels. Played corner forward for Granagh-Ballingarry the All-Ireland Club Champions of 2003.

AISLING O'BRIEN (Granagh) is a whole-hearted player who is known for her tight marking and no-nonsense defending. Won an All-Ireland Club medal with her club last year. She holds All-Ireland Senior, Junior and 7-a-side Medals with St. Mary's. Captained school to 7-a-side All-Ireland success in 2002.

LEONIE BOYCE (Granagh-Ballingarry) is one of the most committed players on the panel. Has All-Ireland medals with the school at Junior and 7-a-side level. One of the more experienced members of the panel.

JACQUELINE O'CONNOR (Ballygran) is one of the few 6th years on the panel who is known for her persistent defending. Possesses a great clearance and can be relied upon. Has won an All-Ireland Junior medal with the school in 2001.

MICHELLE WALSH (Ballyhea) is a tough defender who gives an opposing forward very little room to score. Has won an All-Ireland Junior medal with the school in 2002. A player who can be relied upon.

CHRISTINE O'SHEA (Granagh-Ballingarry) is a very good forward who was part of the all-conquering Granagh-Ballingarry club team that won All-Ireland honours last year. Has won All-Ireland medals with the school at Junior level.

FIONA GEARY (Granagh-Ballingarry) is an excellent defender. Was also part of the Granagh-Ballingarry club team that won All-Ireland honours last year. Has won All-Ireland medals with the school at Junior and 7-a-side levels.

SARAH SEXTON (Milford) is a skilful and stylish player. Is a key member of the ever-improving Milford club team. Has won All-Ireland medals with the school at Junior and 7-a-side levels. Was a member of last year's All-Ireland winning Cork Minor team.

TINA SHANAHAN (Newtown) is a very committed player who can play in a number of positions and still play well. Holds All-Ireland Junior and 7-a-side Medals. Has been very unlucky with injury this year. Was a member of last year's All-Ireland winning Cork Minor team.

Late Mary Coleman point earns Charleville school a reprieve in All-Ireland final

Mary's prayers answered

ST MARY'S, CHARLEVILLE
COLAISTE BRÍDE, ENNISCORTHY

0-8
0-8

AN injury-time point by Mary Coleman earned St Mary's, of Charleville, a deserved draw with Colaiste Bríde, of Enniscorthy, in this thrilling All-Ireland Colleges senior A camogie final in Leahy Park, Cashel, on Saturday last.

It was a game which throbbed with excitement from start to finish and the low scoring was due to tremendous defensive play by both sides, with the respective goalkeepers excelling.

St Mary's led by 0-5 to 0-4 at half-time and they were ahead by 0-7 to 0-5 at the three-quarter stage, with Sinéad McAuliffe their leading scorer with five points.

A two-point lead was a valuable one in the kind of game which had developed, but Colaiste Bríde hit back with three unanswered points from 45-metre frees, to lead going into the last five minutes.

St Mary's expended every ounce of energy in a heroic bid to save the day, but the Enniscorthy girls kept on defying them — until Mary Coleman sent over her priceless equalising point two minutes into injury time.

The replay takes place in Freshford, Co Kilkenny, this Saturday at 2.30pm and St Mary's are hoping to reclaim the title they last held in 2002.

They were beaten in last year's semi-final by Colaiste Bríde, who went on to outright victory.

St Mary's have actually won six All-Ireland senior titles since 1996 and they have won the last three All-Ireland junior (under-16) titles, to underline the strength of camogie in the school.

Joint trainer of the senior team (with Vincent Harrington) is Gerard O'Donovan and he was loud in his praise of the St Mary's defence and goalkeeper Natasha Murphy in Saturday's drawn game.

"They were quite outstanding and our full-back, Elaine O'Riordan, was the best player on the pitch," said O'Donovan.

"Annie Geary also put in some marvellous work at midfield and, of course, Sinéad McAuliffe made an

Colleges camogie

invaluable contribution in attack.

"Hopefully, our forwards will be able to create more room for themselves, and more opportunities, in Saturday's replay.

"It could have gone either way last Saturday and it's likely to be another thriller. Hopefully, we will edge out this time."

The point which gave St Mary's the replay was brilliantly taken by Mary Coleman. Following a good run by Marie Watson, the ball broke loose and was picked up by Coleman. She rounded two Enniscorthy players and, from an acute angle and from the wrong side for a left-hander, she guided the ball with great accuracy between the posts.

A draw was no more than the wonderful efforts of Elaine O'Riordan, Natasha Murphy, Edwina Waters, Annie Geary and Sinéad McAuliffe, in particular, deserved.

SCORERS — ST MARY'S:

S McAuliffe, 0-5; S Brosnan, M Watson and M Coleman, 0-1 each.

COLAISTE BRÍDE: U Jacob, 0-5, S Nolan, U Leacy and J Codd, 0-1 each.

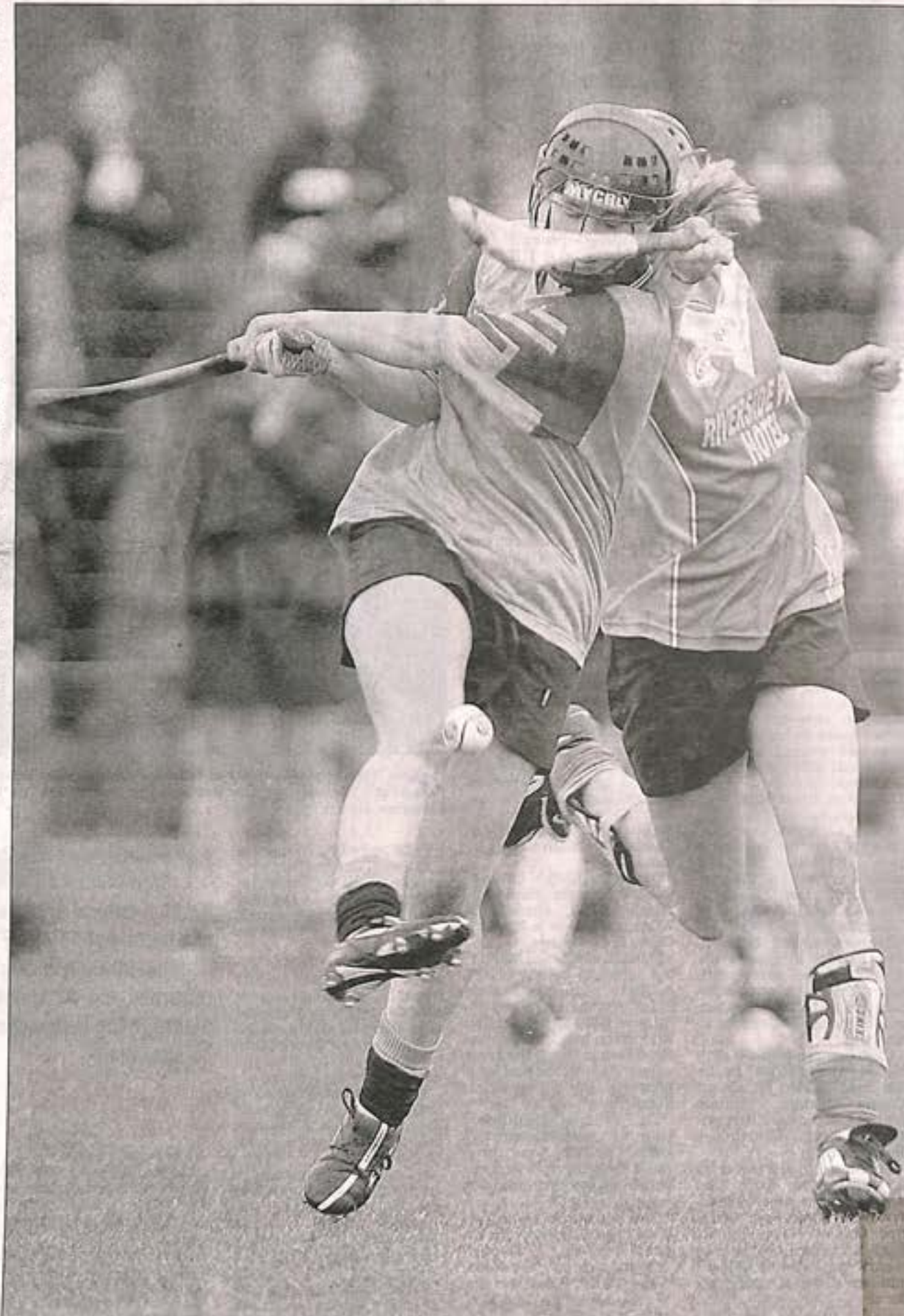
TEAMS — ST MARY'S:

N Murphy; A Morrissey, E O'Riordan, F Chawke; S O'Mahoney, A Watson, E Waters; A Geary, L Healy; M Watson (capt), S McAuliffe, M Coleman; E Watson, S Brosnan, F Morrissey.

COLAISTE BRÍDE:

C Storey; R Walsh, A Hogan, K Atkinson; S Cullen, M Leacy, D Codd; B Furlong, S Redmond; S Darcy, U Jacob (capt), C O'Connor; S Nolan, J Codd, U Leacy. SUB: A Devereux for J Codd (60 mins).

REFEREE: R Kelleher (Limerick).



St Mary's, Charleville, wing-forward Sinéad McAuliffe shoots for a score in Saturday's final against Enniscorthy's Colaiste Bríde.



The St Mary's, Charleville, side that drew 0-8 apiece with Enniscorthy's Coláiste Bríde in the All-Ireland senior A camogie final at Leamy Park, Cashel, on Saturday last. The replay is this Saturday (2.30pm) in Freshford



V. Harris (Cork) and Emily Hayden eye the ball with Eimear McDonnell supporting.

MARCH

2004

Well Done Coláiste Bríde



CamogieChat

With Mary Newman

ASUCCESSFUL weekend for the county teams who recorded national league victories over Tipperary on Sunday last, while St Mary's Charleville live to fight another day after it ended all square in the All Ireland Colleges Senior A final. It was very much a case of last gasp as Mary Coleman shot an injury time equaliser to force a re-play.

A close opening half saw Charleville hold a slender one point advantage thanks in the main to the accuracy of Sinead McAuliffe, while Elaine O'Riordan and Natasha Murphy worked hard to hold the Colaiste Bríde attack at bay. Charleville maintained their advantage throughout an exciting second half and led by two points with Shannon Brosnan and Marie Watson on target. With their defence under severe pressure the North Cork girls conceded three forty five metre frees, which Una Jacob converted to edge the champions ahead with five minutes remaining, however showing tremendous determination. Charleville fought back and it was only fitting that after such an absorbing contest that both sides get another bite of the cherry. The replay takes place on Saturday next.

SUNDAY was a busy day for Cork and Tipperary which began at the Mardyke at noon with the junior team in action in round three of the national league. A determined Cork took the game to their opponent's right from the start, and with goals from an in form Miriam Deasy and Rosin Corcoran led 2-11 to 0-4 at the break.

Cork continued to set the pace throughout the second half with Jenny Duffy, Sarah O'Donovan and Miriam Deasy all adding to the goal tally as Cork recorded a much needed victory following the disaster of the previous week against Offaly.

IT was a dash to Pairc Uí Chaoimh where the senior game went ahead before the hurling clash and certainly the big stage seemed to have an effect on both sides in a game that did not live up to pre match expectations. Tipperary fielding nine of their All-Ireland winning side were like Cork in a somewhat experimental mood, but they showed little appetite for the action. Cork led from the throw in thanks to two superb Colette Desmond goals and one from the lively Una O'Donoghue. It took Tipperary all of seventeen minutes to register their first score a goal from

Ger Kinnane.

Emer McDonnell and Stephanie Dunlea were enjoying a tremendous battle on the edge of the square and this was one of the highlights of the game with Dunlea ensuring little possession for the Tipp full forward, who did grab a point but it was Cork who led 3-6 to 1-2 at the interval.

The second half was a pretty mundane affair and it will be a source of concern to Cork manager John Considine that his charges only managed one point for the thirty minutes, that coming from Sile Burns. Tipperary with the introduction of Noelle Kennedy and Deirdre Hughes did rally and added four points to their total on a day when both sides just looked to be going through the motions in what was a typical league clash, no doubt come championship we will see two much improved sides in action.

With ten minutes to go in the game the crowds started to arrive for the hurling clash, what a pity the game could not have been confirmed earlier in the week as the curtain raiser because it was a wonderful experience and hopefully one which will be repeated.

The county minor side are in action on Sunday when they meet Clare in the Munster semi-final. In their opening game against Waterford, Cork experienced little difficulty as they recorded a comprehensive win. Following on the success of their junior side last season the game is on a high in Clare and this time out Cork will meet much stronger opposition.

SUNDAY is pencilled in for the Centenary under 21 Inter-divisional blitz; it will be played in two sections with games of forty minutes duration.

Muskerry, Seandun and Avondhu make up section one with Imokilly, Carbery and Carrighoun battling it out in section two, with the two top teams meeting in the final.

As is always the case at the early stages of the year venues are still hard to come by and they will be announced on local radio as they come to hand and they will also be available on the web site at www.cork-camogie.com

THE juvenile board got their under 16 league programme off to a start this week with a full fixture list, while the senior board have a starting date of next Wednesday April 7 for the senior league and will continue every Wednesday thereafter.

Standards of reffing must be improved

I ATTENDED the National Senior Camogie League tie last weekend between Cork and Tipp and came away infuriated once again with the poor standard of refereeing.

Now don't get me wrong. I'm not one of those people who spends my days lambasting referees. I happen to admire them for putting themselves in the line of fire the way they do. It's the association I'm cheesed off with.

The standard across the board is, at times, appalling and something has to be done. I spoke to a friend of mine, Biddy Phillips from Tipp, one of the more respected referees in the Association, and enquired as to what, if any, training she received as a referee at the highest level. Her answer: "very little".

For a lot of others I can guarantee you the answer would be "none". Two years ago a physical assessment training day was held in Mullingar. About 50% of inter-county referees turned up on the day. It was irrelevant how you fared on the day and even more irrelevant that you failed to show up.

Actually those that didn't show were the ones that got to ref the championship matches that season. That was the last time these referees were called together.

Biddy has refereed for many years now and only took a back seat from refereeing senior games in 1998 when she became selector with the Tipperary senior team.

She continues to officiate at both intermediate and junior level. During those years she never once received feedback on her performances on the field.

She told me that she would have loved constructive criticism but she never really knew how she fared. Technical training was never provided. You were handed a rulebook and off you went.

Physical training? No offence but some of the referees I encountered during my time could barely muster a trot, not to mind a gallop.

I remember one particular Munster Championship match played in Bishopstown in 2002. The gentleman who refereed was I guess, in his 60s. At no stage throughout the game was he even remotely up with play. The players deserve better.

There is no grading whatsoever when it comes to refereeing either.

You might be only officiating at club level for a year or so and all of a sudden you're given an inter-county championship match. No such thing as climbing the ladder. The number of women referees has deteriorated in the last few years.

I think number one, the association should make it more attractive to people to take up the role. There should initially be an intensive six-month training course with at least one compulsory refresher course annually thereafter.

Certificates should be graded and provided. Only over a period of time and with regular assessment at various levels should a person be



Linda Mellerick

presented with a graduation certificate and only then upon receipt of this should they officiate at senior level.

Maintaining that standard must then become a priority. Make the certificate difficult but rewarding to achieve and that will give the referees the respect they deserve.

There has been a gradual increase in the number of men refereeing camogie matches. You would think this would result in more free-flowing games, that they would referee the game like a hurling match.

Not so! The men are 10 times worse than the women.

They blow for the slightest nudge, strike, slap. They seem to think that they have to do this when it actually infuriates us. The game is pure hurling now without a shadow of a doubt. At senior level it can be as tough, hard and fast as you'll get.

The rules have been changed over the past few years to accommodate this and the last thing the game needs is someone in the middle stunting its growth.

The situation with umpires and linesmen/women is just as poor if not worse. Referees rarely if ever bring their own with them when officiating at league games.

Many a time I witnessed family and friends being pulled out of the crowd to 'fall in'. This is ridiculous.

I put this to Biddy and she told me that people just aren't interested. They get no expenses whatsoever. Referees do get travel expenses but that's all and at times it's barely enough to cover the journey.

As for meals, forget it. Biddy informs me that anytime she brings umpires, etc., with her to officiate at a game they usually stop along the way to break the journey and have a cup of tea. Because she asked them to officiate with her she feels obliged to treat them to this and does so out of her own pocket.

You wouldn't get away with this in GAA circles because the media and public outcry would be so vocal action would be taken immediately.

Apparently there was a referees' committee in place a couple of years ago but this seems to have fallen by the wayside and I don't think it was very active even when it was in existence.

We've come a long way and the Association can be very proud of that but there is a lot more to do.

The divisional U21 blitz is taking place this coming Sunday with Avondhu, Muskerry and Seandún competing in one section at 2pm in the Glen Field.

Section Two, containing Carrigdhoun, Carbery and Imokilly will take place in Ballygarvan again at 2pm.

Dublin pick up two more points and put paid to Wexford's fine run

by Therese O'Callaghan

DUBLIN put an end to Wexford's Division One unbeaten record in a tough camogie encounter at Glenalbyn yesterday. Blitzed by driving wind and hailstones, this result (2-6 to 1-7) sees Peter Leacy's team pick up their second set of points in as many weeks.

The metropolitan side were intent

from early on with a splendid goal from Valerie Heaney in the 11th minute that produced an interval lead of 1-2 to 0-3.

A second green flag from the impressive Siobhán Treacy two minutes after the restart put it up to the Slaneysiders however, they were equal to the challenge with Josie Dwyer netting soon after to leave it 2-3 to 1-5.

But with midfielder Áine Fanning in splendid form, the Dubs held out for a merited two-point win.

Meanwhile, in Division Two, the score line was reversed with Wexford running out comfortable winners, 2-7 to Dublin's 0-2. Fresh from Enniscorthy's All-Ireland Colleges victory on Saturday, Una Leacy set the scene with an early goal, while Catherine

O'Loughlin fired their second nearer the half time whistle.

In Duggan Park, Galway kept the home fans happy emerging with seven points to spare over Armagh, 2-10 to 0-9. Trailing by 0-3 to 0-7 at the break, the westerners had it all to do in the second period but with majors from Mary Kelly and outstanding half back Elaine Tannion, they were soon

back on track. Sharon Duncan top scored for the northerners with 0-4. Carlow had a torrid afternoon in Clonduff succumbing to a highly motivated Down side, 1-22 to 1-2. While the imperious Máirín McAleenan shot eight points, the day belonged to second half substitute Mary Gilmore who hit 1-5 in those closing 30 minutes.

Elaine Mahony's first half hat-trick ensured full points for visitor's Laois to Pearse Park. Amassing a big tally, they ran out winners 6-11 to Wicklow's 2-5.

● The Derry and Antrim Division One and Two games were postponed due to the death of Frankie McMullan, a brother to Majella and Sinead, who are members of the Dunloy and Antrim teams.

St Mary's stumble at final hurdle

Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy 4-7
St. Mary's, Charleville 1-4

By LINDA MELLERICK

Camogie

TWO goals within five minutes of the start signaled Coláiste Bride's intent in this All-Ireland Colleges Final replay played in Freshford, Kilkenny, on Saturday last.

St Mary's won the toss and opted to play against the strong wind. This tactic went against them as Coláiste were the first to settle and two goals from Siona Nolan and Una Leacy within the first five minutes meant Charleville had a hill to climb.

Two further points from Ursula Jacob and Una Leacy stretched Wexford's lead. Sinead McAuliffe kept Charleville in touch with two points from frees.

But close, tight, hard marking by Wexford meant scores were virtually impossible for Charleville to come by. Their defence, particularly the half back line of Siobhán Cullen, Mary Leacy and Deirdre Codd, dominated proceedings. Coláiste lead at half time 2-3 to 0-2.

Whatever hopes Charleville had of staging a comeback ended within four minutes of the second half when Coláiste, now playing against the wind, had a second Una Leacy goal. Ursula Jacob added a further point. Emer Watson got one back for St Mary's, leaving two goals between the teams but one felt at that stage that the mountain was just too big to climb.

That feeling was struck home when substitute Anna Murphy, who entered the game in the 29th minute of the first half for the injured Jackie Codd, pounced for Wexford's fourth goal on the stroke of full time.

Credit to the girls of Charleville who fought bravely to the bitter end against a physically taller, stronger Wexford outfit. They dug in from the very start, determined to be crowned All-Ireland Colleges Champions again.

Scorers: Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy: Una Leacy 2-2; Siona Nolan, Anna Murphy 1-0 each; Ursula Jacob 0-3 (frees); Ciara O'Connor, Stacey Redmond 0-1 each.

St Mary's, Charleville: Sinead McAuliffe 0-4 (frees); E Watson 1-0.

COLÁISTE BRIDE: C. Storey, R. Walsh, A. Hogan, K. Atkinson, D. Codd, M. Leacy, S. Cullen, B. Furlong, S. Redmond, C. O'Connor, U. Jacob (Cpt), S. Darcy, S. Nolan, J. Codd, U. Leacy. Subs: A. Murphy for J. Codd (inj).

ST MARY'S: N. Murphy, F. Chawke, E. O'Riordan, A. Morrissey, S. O'Mahony, A. Watson, E. Waters, L. Healy, A. Geary, S. McAuliffe, M. Watson (Cpt), M. Coleman, S. Brosnan, E. Watson, A. O'Brien.

Subs: F. Morrissey for L. Healy.

Referee: R. McGrath (Westmeath).

Leacy takes bouquets for Bride

Coláiste Bride 4-7 St Mary's, Charleville 1-4 Una Leacy was the hero with two goals as the Enniscorthy school came out best in the All-Ireland Colleges Senior A final replay in Freshford, Kilkenny, yesterday.

The Wexford school got off to a dream start with a Siona Nolan goal with only a minute gone. Backed by a strong wind they rocked the Charleville school five minutes later with their second goal from Leacy, who were 2-3 to 0-3 ahead at the break.

Charleville rallied somewhat in the second half but were very reliant on their fullback Elaine O'Riordan and Sinead McAuliffe. However, Leacy, who had her sister Mary on the team, crashed home her second goal and the contest was over.

Coláiste Bride: C. Storey, R. Walsh, A. Hogan, K. Atkinson, D. Codd, M. Leacy, S. Cullen, B. Furlong, S. Redmond, C. O'Connor, U. Jacob, S. Darcy, S. Nolan, J. Codd, U. Leacy. Subs: A. Murphy for J. Codd (injured, half time)
St Mary's: N. Murphy, F. Chawke, E. O'Riordan, A. Morrissey, S. O'Mahony, A. Watson, E. Waters, A. Geary, L. Healy, S. McAuliffe, M. Watson, M. Coleman, S. Brosnan, E. Watson, A. O'Brien. Subs: F. Morrissey for L. Healy (48 mins)
Referee: R. McGrath, Westmeath

COUNCILLOR GOES GREEN

THE Green Party has announced its sixth and final candidate for the local elections for Cork City Council.

Pat Murray, an independent City Councillor for 14 years, will contest for the South West Ward in Bishopstown, Wilton, Glasheen and Togher. Having been defeated by a narrow margin of just 36 votes in the 1999 local elections, Pat will be considered a strong contender for a seat in June.

Pat, who was approached by Dan Boyle a few weeks back, has long been associated with young people and sports in the local community. A teacher by profession, Pat is currently the Secretary of the Cork County Camogie Board as well being a coach for the past 31 years. He has also coached volleyball in UCC for the past 20 years.

Pat has been heavily involved with educational issues, having served on the Governing Body of UCC. Last year, Pat spent 14 days translating for the Puerto Rican members of the Special Olympics Team (he is a member of the Cork Spanish Circle). He has also

served as a member of the Cork Council Twinning Committee, Library Committee as well as the Finance and Planning Committee and Roads and Transportation Committee.

Speaking to *Inside Cork*, Pat said of his candidacy, "I would never have joined one of the bigger parties. They are basically too corrupt. I share and agree with the policies of the Green Party and what they stand for. I want to address many of the issues with my local area such as the vast number of student accommodation located in Bishopstown as well as the problems over traffic."

Green Party TD, Dan Boyle said, "I know him to be a conscientious and hard working councillor. I don't believe we ever disagreed on any subject and I see him as an ally. I believe a seat can be won and I look forward to Pat being part of a strong team of Green Councillors in the next City Council."

CAMOGIE

ALL-IRELAND COLLS A FINAL
Freshford: Coláiste Bride 4-7 (U Leacy 2-2, A. Murphy, S. Nolan 1-0 each, U Jacob 0-4, S. Redmond 0-1) St Mary's, Charleville 1-4 (E Watson 1-0, S. McAuliffe 0-4(f))

Brilliant St Rynagh's CC build from the back to take All-Ireland crown

All-Ireland Colleges' Senior 'B' Camogie Championship Final

St Rynagh's CC, Banagher2-7
St Raphael's, Loughrea0-7

It was a case of defence being the first line of attack for a superlative St Rynagh's CC as the Banagher school captured the All-Ireland Colleges' Senior 'B' Camogie title for the first time on Saturday.

Because their inspiration was provided by goalkeeper and captain Susan Eamer, as her school over-

half. But Rynagh's - inspired by their captain - weathered the storm for victory.

Already an All-Ireland camogie medal winner with Galway, the accomplished keeper made some memorable saves throughout and her striking from frees and puck-outs, and general all round assurance was top notch.

However, while their captain was outstanding, this was also a huge team performance from the fiercely



The St Rynagh's Community College team and mentors celebrate after winning the All-Ireland Senior B Championship in Cashel last Saturday.

cluding half it seemed as though the title was safely in the bag.

But St Raphael's, winners of eight All-Ireland VS titles in the eighties, weren't going down without a fight and they played themselves back in to contention. With ten minutes remaining they were only a goal behind, 1-6 to 0-6.

It was at then that Rynagh's showed their true grit and a pointed free by the very skilful Tipperary girl Kate Kennedy, followed by a cracking 58th minute Lisa Gardiner goal sealed victory for them.

This Offaly school draws its stars, not just from three counties - Offaly, Galway and Tipp - but also three provinces. And they have fashioned a cohesive unit that will set standard for the rest to follow.

The level of play and skill

over the 60 minutes was exceptional, with defences on both sides giving little away easily. Indeed, Rynagh's tallied 2-1 from play, with Raphael's grabbing only 0-2 from play.

That's how tight things were and it was the brilliance of Susan Eamer that insured the Rynagh's goal remained intact.

Saturday's success in fact could be the first of a possible treble All-Ireland dream for St Rynagh's CC as their junior and senior hurlers are also through to All-Ireland semi-finals.

And if that treble was achieved wouldn't it be something very special for St Rynagh's CC to celebrate in the school's Golden Jubilee year - Banagher VS opened in September 1953.

In front of "Captain Fantastic" Susan Eamer, Rynagh's possessed a very solid full back in Michelle Moran who kept a tight rein on Sarah Cooney.

Aoife Kelly - daughter of Offaly legend Joachim - helped relieve much pressure after she switched back to strengthen the defence in the second half, with Devinna Duffy and Chloe O'Brien being tenacious throughout.

Aideen Ryan and Paula Kenny gave of their all at mid-field, and in attack ace free taker Kate Kennedy and industrious half forwards Mairead Dunne and Denise Devery provided the Raphael's rearguard with plenty of anxious moments.

And Lisa Gardiner, who switched from defence to attack late on, dispatched her goal clinically.

St Raphael's best performers included Michelle Tynan, Lydia Finnerty and Ruth Maher.

The Rynagh's girls, with teachers Pat McNamara and Kathleen Gleeson at the helm, started impressively and within eight minutes they had established a 0-3 to no-score lead.

Denise Devery pointed after only 51 seconds, and this was followed by a brace of frees from the deadly Kate Kennedy.

Raphael's opened their account in the 13th minute as Louisa Burke showed style and skill to drop over a point. But Rynagh's were quick to respond as Kennedy pointed another free.

Susan Eamer demonstrated her class in the 18th minute when she stopped a Sarah Cooney shot and a minute later Ruth Maher knocked over Raphael's second point from a free.

The Offaly school broke through for their opening goal in the 23rd minute. Kate Kennedy drilled in a low delivery and full forward Lisa Madden cutely got to the sliothar ahead of the Raphael's goalkeeper to flick it to the net.

The Raphael's girls dug deep in their efforts to respond. A Ruth Maher shot came

off the upright and as Susan Eamer soloed clear of her goal to safety she was stopped by a 'chop down' from Sarah Cooney who was cautioned. The half ended with Kate Kennedy tapping over her fourth free and this gave Rynagh's an interval advantage 1-5 to 0-2.

The determined Rynagh's girls stretched their lead to seven points within five minutes of the restart as Devinna Duffy was fouled and the ever-reliable Kate Kennedy hit the target.

But Rynagh's weren't to score again until the 52nd minute as Raphael's fought back.

Indeed only a fabulous double save from Susan Eamer after 40 minutes denied Louisa Burke and then sub Orla Kelly at the expense of a '45 which Geoghegan pointed.

Geoghegan then converted a pair of frees and Sarah Cooney raised another white flag in the 50th minute to leave resurgent Raphael's just a goal adrift, 1-6 to 0-6.

The pressure was mounting on the Rynagh's girls but they held their shape and discipline and were rewarded in the 52nd minute when Kate Kennedy got on the end of a Paula Kenny delivery and was fouled. Kate pointed a free herself, her sixth of the final, to leave her side with a four-point lead.

Raphael's refused to yield. Geoghegan missed a free and in the 55th minute Rynagh's Aoife Kelly, now back operating in defence, made a really brave block down on Raphael's strong full forward Sarah Cooney.

Rynagh's wrapped up their historic triumph in the 58th minute. Kate Kennedy and Denise Devery traded passes as they pierced through the

heart of the Raphael's rearguard and Kate then slipped a clever pass to Lisa Gardiner who drilled the sliothar to the net and put Rynagh's seven points in front, 2-7 to 0-6.

Raphael's did have the final say with a pointed Lydia Finnerty free, however, it was Rynagh's who were smiling and there were great scenes of jubilation as Susan Eamer accepted the spoils of victory.

Scorers

St Rynagh's CC - Kate Kennedy (0-6, frees), Lisa Madden (1-0), Lisa Gardiner (1-0) and Denise Devery (0-1).

St Raphael's - Marian Geoghegan (0-3, 0-2 frees, 0-1 '45), Sarah Cooney, Ruth Maher (free), Lydia Finnerty (free) and Louisa Burke (0-1 each).

Teams

St Rynagh's CC - Susan Eamer (capt), Chloe O'Brien, Michelle Moran, Laura Devery, Devinna Duffy, Lisa Gardiner, Elaine Sullivan, Paula Kenny, Aideen Ryan, Mairead Dunne, Aoife Kelly, Denise Devery, Linda Sullivan, Lisa Madden, Kate Kennedy.

St Raphael's - Amy Haverty, Sharon Flaherty, Michelle Tynan, Orla Hynes, Edel Dervan (capt), Lydia Finnerty, Ciara Cooney, Ruth Maher, Leona Morahan, Louisa Burke, Marian Geoghegan, Maria Maher, Tara Cooney, Sarah Cooney, Kathleen Noone. Sub: Orla Kelly for T Cooney (39 minutes).

Referee

Rosemary Kelleher



St Rynagh's Paula Kenny stoops to gather the sliothar before being challenged by St Raphael's Orla Kelly in this action shot from last Saturday's Senior B Schools All-Ireland Camogie Final in Cashel.

challenge of St Raphael's.

Loughrea in a highly entertaining final at Cashel's Leahy Park.

Make no mistake, the winners had to earn their title the hard way as the Galway side hit them with everything they could in a do-or-die second

Rynagh's girls.

They led by 1-5 to 0-2 at half-time and when they extended this lead further, 1-6 to 0-2, in the opening minutes of the con-

First-half goals power Coláiste Bríde to title

Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy
St Mary's Charleville

4-7
1-4

by Therese O'Callaghan

TWO first-half goals powered Coláiste Bríde to victory in the All-Ireland Colleges Senior "A" camogie championship final replay at Freshford on Saturday.

The strikes from Siona Nolan and Una Leacy and the free taking of skipper Ursula Jacob helped the Wexford girls to a commanding seven point lead at the break (2-3 to 0-2) which the Cork side could never overturn.

St Mary's did not settle until Sinead McAuliffe pointed from a placed ball in the 14th minute — their slow start was mainly due to the dominance of Siobhan Cullen, Mary Leacy and

Deirdre Codd in the Wexford half back line.

On the restart Leacy landed her second goal but within minutes Charleville's Emer Watson replied to narrow the gap to two goals (3-3 to 1-3).

With goalkeeper Ciara Storey unyielding, and Aisling Hogan, Jacob, Stacy Redmond and Ciara O'Connor adding much needed weight outfield the title was heading to Wexford long before substitute Anna Murphy struck for their fourth green flag on full time.

Scorers Enniscorthy: U Leacy 2-2, U Jacob 0-4, S Nolan and A Murphy 1-0 each, S Redmond 0-1.
Charleville: S McAuliffe 0-4 (frees), E Watson 1-0.

ENNISCORTHY: C Storey, R Walsh, A Hogan, K Atkinson, S Cullen, M Leacy, D Codd;



Coláiste Bríde's Mary Leacy tries to dispossess St Mary's Mary Coleman during the All-Ireland Colleges camogie final replay.

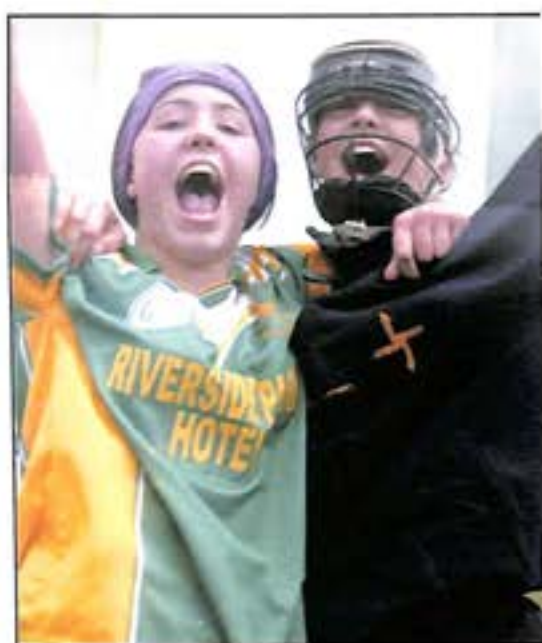
Picture: Dylan Vaughan

B Furlong, S Redmond; S Darcy, U Jacob (capt), C O'Connor; S Nolan, J Codd, U Leacy. Subs: A Murphy for J Codd (29 mins inj).

CHARLEVILLE: N Murphy, A Morrissey, E O'Riordan, F Chawke; S O'Mahoney, A Watson.

E Waters; A Geary, L Healy; S McAuliffe, M Watson (capt), M Coleman; E Watson, S Brosnan, A O'Brien.

Subs: F Morrissey for L Healy (48 mins). Referee: R McGrath (Westmeath).



Delighted Coláiste Bríde's Una Leacy and Ciara Storey after their win against St. Mary's Charleville's in the All Ireland schools camogie final replay in Freshford, Co Kilkenny on Saturday. Photo: Jim Campbell.



Delighted Coláiste Bríde's players after their win against St. Mary's Charleville's in the All Ireland schools camogie final replay in Freshford, Co Kilkenny on Saturday. Photo: Jim Campbell.

APRIL 2004



Miriam O'Callaghan, president of Cumann Camogaíochta na hÉireann, makes a presentation to President Mary McAleese to mark their centenary year. Picture: Brendan Moran/Sportsfile

Leinster look strong

Máire Uí Scolai
Camogie

THE inaugural Colleges Interprovincial All-Star Tournament takes place today in Naomh Mearnóg, Dublin, at 11.30 and should provide top class entertainment.

Recently crowned All-Ireland Senior Colleges champions Coláiste Bríde of Enniscorthy have eight players on the Leinster panel. Ciara O'Connor and Ursula Jacob, daughters of Wexford hurlers Teddy and Mick, will feature for Leinster, who take on Connacht in the opening match.

Connacht will rely heavily on senior inter-county player

Susan Keane and St Raphael's star Marian Geoghegan and must be in top form if they are to overcome this strong Leinster side.

In the second semi-final, a strong Munster side will comprise players from Limerick, Cork, Waterford, Clare and Tipperary, and plenty of representatives from All-Ireland finalists St Mary's Charleville.

Opponents Ulster will be hoping the midfield partnership of twins Brónagh and Orla McDonnell strikes form. They will also have the assistance of the Lavery sisters Aileen and Kate, who have plenty of experience with St Mary's Magherafelt.

St Als save the day and take the crown

St Als (Cork) 0-8
Scariff Comm College 0-5

ST ALS were crowned Munster Colleges Intermediate Champions for 2004 after a nailbiting game against Scariff Community College recently.

Five minutes into injury time Scariff were awarded a free 25 metres out, almost directly in front of goal. Trailing by three points, ace Scariff full forward Emer Hickey struck the ball well but St Als' captain Grace Mulqueen saved the sliotar and the day.

Scorers
St Als: R Buckley 0-7 (0-4 frees, 0-1 45s), M O'Herlihy 0-1.

Teams
St Als: K O'Mahony (Inniscarra); V Russell (St Finbarrs); M Buckley (Inniscarra); A Kavanagh (Inniscarra); A Hayes (St Finbarrs); G Mulqueen (Blackrock) (Capt); MT Cullinane (Ballinhassig); R Buckley (Inniscarra); M O'Herlihy (Eire Ogi); S Ni Riain (Inniscarra); T Murphy (Eire Ogi); J Cullinane (Ballinhassig); A Murphy (St Vincens); R O'Sullivan (Douglas); R O'Riordan (Inniscarra); J Clair (Inniscarra) (for A Murphy); N McDoragh (Ballincollig); C Philpott (St Finbarrs).
Referee: T Sheehan (Mayfield).



Coláiste Daibhéid team from Cork who took part in the Gaelcholáistí blitz for the Gael Linn Cup in Charleville. Coláiste Daibhéid defeated Laurel Hill Coláiste from Limerick in the semi-final and qualified to play Gaelcholáiste Uí Chonbá from Newcastle West, who had beaten Gaelcholáiste an Chláir, Ennis in their semi-final. The Limerick side were too strong for the young Cork girls and won easily in the end. Seán Ó Ceallaigh from Gael Linn presented the GaelLinn trophy to Gaelcholáiste Uí Chonbá and the runner-up medals to the Coláiste Daibhéid captain Róisín deFaoite.

CIARA STOREY, goalkeeper

'This is unbelievable - to win two All-Ireland seniors, and back-to-back too'

RUTH WALSH, right corner-back

'We showed loads of heart, and were disappointed not to have won on the first day'

AISSLING HOGAN, full-back

'Martin (Storey) said to us at half-time, 'Girls, you'll show that you're true All-Ireland champions if you win the second-half by eight points' - we won it by 12'

KAREN ATKINSON, left corner-back

'To win two All-Irelands is great, but to do it by beating Charleville in the final is very special'



Coláiste Bríde captured back-to-back All-Ireland senior 'A' camogie championships on Saturday last, with victory over St. Mary's of Charleville in the replayed final at Freshford, County Kilkenny. Back row (l-r): Siona Nolan, Tracey Breen, Aine Devereux, Jacqui Codd, Mary Leacy, Deirdre Codd, Siobhan Cullen, Ursula Jacob (capt.), Anne-Marie Foley, Stacey Redmond, Karen Atkinson, Olivia Murphy, Una Leacy. Front row (l-r): Ciara O'Connor, Brona Furlong, Sarah Darcy, Aileen Doyle, Anna Murphy, Ciara Storey, Lorraine O'Connor, Aisling Hogan, Ruth Walsh. (Pic: Jim Campbell)

Simply the best, as the Bríde retain All-Ireland in a cracker

A DREAM start, a dream finish, and boundless commitment in between culminated in tremendous back-to-back All-Ireland senior 'A' camogie championships for Coláiste Bríde's all-star brigade, following a rip-roaring replayed final at Freshford, County Kilkenny on Saturday afternoon last.

While Charleville challenged with great enthusiasm, and posed plenty of threat, the whip-hand was firmly within the grasp of Coláiste Bríde throughout, following an unbelievable goal start straight from the throw-in, before they added another major in the sixth minute, to stretch clear by 2-0 to 0-0.

They were ahead 2-3 to 0-2 at the break, and the closest Charleville, the six-time winners of the championship between 1996 and 2002 inclusive, came was 3-3 to 1-3, when Marie and Emer Watson combined to unlock the vigilant Enniscorthy defence to find the net.

Otherwise Charleville couldn't find the range from play - Sinead McAuliffe pointing four frees - which, given the very impressive stature of these Cork players, serves as a tremendous tribute to the tireless work of the Coláiste Bríde girls, who had also restricted the usually highly efficient St. Mary's scoring machine to just eight points in the drawn tie, the previous Saturday.

All round, Coláiste Bríde did themselves proud in achieving one of sport's greatest challenges -

retaining a championship, and an All-Ireland at that!

And to do so while totalling all their scores from play in a rematch is amazing, but also a recognition of just how classy this bunch are - they don't have to rely on frees.

To have retained the championship in camogie's Centenary Year makes this victory that extra bit special, and the senior feat will now hopefully act as a spur for the juniors to go on and win back the under-16 All-Ireland later this month, when they will challenge Presentation of Athenry for a piece of silverware which Coláiste Bríde were kept away from a year ago, following a penultimate round loss to Charleville.

To have won the junior in 2000 - when many of the current seniors were on board - and now two senior championships has been a well deserved end product for the diligent work of manager Elva Moriarty, whose focussed approach during the late 90s helped transform Coláiste Bríde into the major contenders they are now.

They finished as runners-up to Charleville in the senior finals of both '98 and '99, before feeding off those experiences to grow in stature, and now find themselves standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Cork's finest on the honours list to-date in the new millennium; the challenge now is to stretch clear of St. Mary's on that front.

Aside from the obvious quality of the Coláiste Bríde players, a very important

COLÁISTE BRÍDE

4-7

ST. MARY'S CHARLEVILLE

1-4

Ronan Fagan

move undertaken by Ms. Moriarty was to surround the team with a very strong support crew, including Martin Storey, and this leave-nothing-to-chance approach, definitely contributed to the team now standing as the Queenpins of the School's game for successive years.

Classy corner-forward Siona Nolan displayed unbelievable composure to set the defending champions on their way with a goal just 15 seconds into Saturday's rematch.

Una Leacy gave the telling pass, before the apparently nerveless Nolan tapped the ball round the advancing 'keeper, and then coolly slammed a ground stroke to the empty net.

The efforts of the players were not helped by rain showers - some of a very heavy nature - which dominated the game, and made the surface greasy.

But Coláiste Bríde kept Charleville on the back-foot

during the opening minutes, and the Slaneysiders had forged a 2-0 to 0-0 lead by the sixth minute.

Wing-back Deirdre Codd cleared the first threat posed by Charleville, releasing the ball to captain Ursula Jacob, who worked it through to Una Leacy, and the Oulart-The Ballagh ace determinedly won the ball back after seeing it slip away, to lash home goal number two.

Ruth Walsh made a key interception moments later to deny Charleville a possible goal. But the Cork contingent (which has a Limerick influence too) finally got on target in the 14th minute, when Sinead McAuliffe made amends for an earlier miss by pointing a free.

Either side of that score, Charleville had two lucky escapes in front of their goal, before the first of Ursula Jacob's four personal points made it 2-1 to 0-1 in the 18th minute.

McAuliffe narrowed the gap to five points after 22 minutes.

But Coláiste Bríde finished the half strongly, and while Ursula Jacob and Una Leacy pointed in the 23rd and 27th minutes respectively, they could have bagged a third goal in between, when the latter saw her point-blank shot come back off a Charleville limb at the end of a defence splitting move.

Anna Murphy replaced Jacqui Codd just before the break, the Duffry Rover having demonstrated Coláiste Bríde's drive by playing both games through the undoubted pain of a back injury, which

had sidelined her for the semi-final win over Maghera.

During the interval, and as Coláiste Bríde rested upon a 2-3 to 0-2 lead, Martin Storey challenged the defending champions to "win the second-half too", which, indeed, they did, by 2-4 to 1-2.

But that's not to mask the fact that the Charleville girls again attacked with plenty of vigour, and no small amount of promise, only to be thwarted time and again by the sheer resolve of this Coláiste Bríde bunch.

Stacey Redmond brilliantly spoiled an early goal threat from Charleville, before opponent Sinead McAuliffe cut the difference to 2-3 to 0-3 in the 33rd minute with another pointed free.

But then Coláiste Bríde struck a key blow, with their third goal in the 34th minute, which carried particular importance given how Charleville replied in kind in the 35th minute.

Una Leacy was responsible for Enniscorthy's third major. Her sister Mary, who was inspiring brilliantly from centre-back, cleared to Siona Nolan, whose delivery from the right was met by Anna Murphy, who fed it along to the left edge of the square, where Una Leacy had worked herself into an unmarked position, and finished with aplomb (3-3 to 0-3).

The gap was almost instantly back down to six points however, when Marie Watson hand-passed to her sister, Emer, for a well executed goal.

But Coláiste Bríde held out brilliantly under lots of pressure for the remainder, conceding just one more score, in the form a pointed 49th minute free by McAuliffe, while adding 1-4 themselves, to polish off their consecutive All-Ireland wins.

Points from Ursula Jacob and Stacey Redmond, thanks to good work by Sarah Darcy, opened-up a 3-5 to 1-3 lead after 43 minutes, before the weather turned horrid.

But that didn't deter Enniscorthy's brilliant support, whose chants of 'Coláiste Bríde, Coláiste Bríde' seemed to get even louder.

And after McAuliffe had made it 3-5 to 1-4, the champs soaked up the pressure, while weaving a few insurance scores, even despite the fact many of the Bríde's attack were dropping back to help ensure Charleville were getting nothing easy in this action-packed game.

Ursula Jacob's fourth point made it 3-6 to 1-4 after 52 minutes, and following a lot of hard work, Una Leacy fired over another point in the 57th.

On the stroke of full-time, meanwhile, substitute Anna Murphy placed the cherry slap bang on top of the cake, as she dispatched a cross from the Stand side by the ever hard working Ciara O'Connor to the net.

The final whistle soon followed, and the torrents of rain didn't stop all concerned with Coláiste Bríde from celebrating such an outstanding achievement, before the

heroines of the day eventually retreated to the shelter of the Stand to regain the Corn Sceilg, which captain Ursula Jacob declared, upon receiving: "Ms Moriarty - this is for you".

A fine dedication to a fine coach, who has always had these players close to her heart.

Well done girls. But, please, can we have some more?

Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy - Ciara Storey (Oulart-The Ballagh), Ruth Walsh (Monageer-Boalavogue), Aisling Hogan (Rathmore), Karen Atkinson (Oulart-The Ballagh), Siobhan Cullen (Oulart-The Ballagh), Mary Leacy (Oulart-The Ballagh), Deirdre Codd (Duffry Rovers), Brona Furlong (Duffry Rovers), Stacey Redmond (Oulart-The Ballagh, 0-1), Ciara O'Connor (Rathmore), Ursula Jacob (Oulart-The Ballagh, capt., 0-4), Sarah Darcy (Monageer-Boalavogue), Siona Nolan (Monageer-Boalavogue, 1-0), Una Leacy (Oulart-The Ballagh, 2-2), Jacqui Codd (Duffry Rovers).

Subs: Anna Murphy (Monageer-Boalavogue, 1-0) for Jacqui Codd (inj); Ann Marie Foley (Duffry Rovers), Aine Devereux (Oulart-The Ballagh), Olivia Murphy (Monageer-Boalavogue), Lorraine O'Connor (Oylegate), Aileen Doyle (Rapparees), Tracey Breen.

St. Mary's of Charleville, Cork - Natasha Murphy, Amy Morrissey, Elaine O'Riordan, Fiona Chawke, Sarah O'Mahoney, Aine Watson, Edeina Waters, Anna Geary, Lisa Healy, Sinead McAuliffe (0-4 frees), Marie Watson, Mary Coleman, Shannon Brosnan, Emer Watson (1-0), Fiona Morrissey.

Referee - Rita McGrath.

STACEY REDMOND, midfield

'For the school to have come back and won two All-Irelands having lost the '98 and '99 finals is special. Let's hope the juniors complete the Double'

CIARA O'CONNOR, right wing-forward

'We had to get in there - stick in legs, hurls, anything - to make sure we won. And the juniors have just as good a chance in their All-Ireland'

URSULA JACOB, centre-forward (capt.)

'The early goals really helped, and we grew even more determined in the second-half. This was a wonderful team effort'

SARAH DARCY, left wing-forward

'We all played so well. This is brilliant. It was great to win last year, but this - beating Charleville in the final - is the icing on the cake'

DEIRDRE CODD, right wing-back

'We should have won the first day. But to win by 12 points is a bonus'

MARY LEACY, centre-back

'We knew we'd win - there wasn't the same nerves or pressure as in the drawn encounter. Beating Charleville in the final makes it extra special'

SIOBHAN CULLEN, left wing-back

'This took everybody hurling for each other, and we'll try our best now to win the three-in-a-row'

BRONA FURLONG, midfielder

'This is sweet, because we've beaten Charleville in the final. There was no slackening-off'

'This win is extra special', says captain Ursula

"WE HAD to fight even harder in the second-half," declared Ursula Jacob, Coláiste Bríde's latest All-Ireland senior 'A' camogie championship winning captain, following last Saturday's tremendous high against Charleville, in Freshford, County Kilkenny.

The drive to stay atop the Schools' camogie ladder was especially demonstrated by Ursula, the only girl to have formed a link between Coláiste Bríde's beaten All-Ireland finalists of '98 and '99 and the all-conquering crews of the past two battles.

She was goalie for the '99 showdown, but a high scoring poacher for the last two.

"And all the girls from '98 and '99 were here, shouting us on, supporting us, and that was great," Ursula beams. "Even though they had missed out on the All-Ireland, I would say they are very happy now, and especially that we have managed to beat Charleville in the final." The Cork side having visited grief upon Ursula and company those short few years ago.

While comparing last year's historic final win over Maghera to the '04 version, she suggested: "This one was even tougher. There was more pressure on us, with everyone saying, 'You're All-Ireland champions...you've only lost a few players...you really have to beat Charleville, so go on and do it'."

"And this win is extra special, because Charleville had defeated us in the '98 and '99 finals. Now we've got one over on them, and really this particular win had been long awaited."

The captain was overjoyed with Síona Nolan and Una Leacy's early goals in the rematch, particularly when considering that "we had missed a few early chances the last day, and those goals really helped us to keep going - they gave us real belief."

"This was an outstanding team effort, and everyone played their



RONAN FAGAN

hearts out - the backs were brilliant again, the midfield would run for Ireland, Ciara Storey made some class saves, and the forwards defended too."

The Enniscorthy brigade led by 2-3 to 0-2 at half-time, but Ursula's crew weren't about to let up. "Not for a moment - we had to work harder and harder, which we did, and when Anna Murphy got a goal after coming on, it proved the strength in depth of the squad."

Ciara O'Connor, last year's captain, was "just delighted" to finish off the job once more, and in some style too.

"Whether you're captain or not, you're part of a team, and that's how we played today," remarked the sister of Aoife, Ciara and Niamh, all members of the teams of the late-Nineties.

"This was an even better win than last year's, because a year ago we had won by a cricket score. This year's final was tougher all the way, and although we won by 12 points in the end, it was still a huge fight, and an extremely tough game to come through."

Sadly neither girl will be flying the Coláiste Bríde flag next year. But that doesn't stop them dreaming of a three-in-a-row.

"I'll be a big supporter," laughs Ciara. "We have a very talented bunch, and the juniors are now preparing for their All-Ireland, which if they win would give whatever

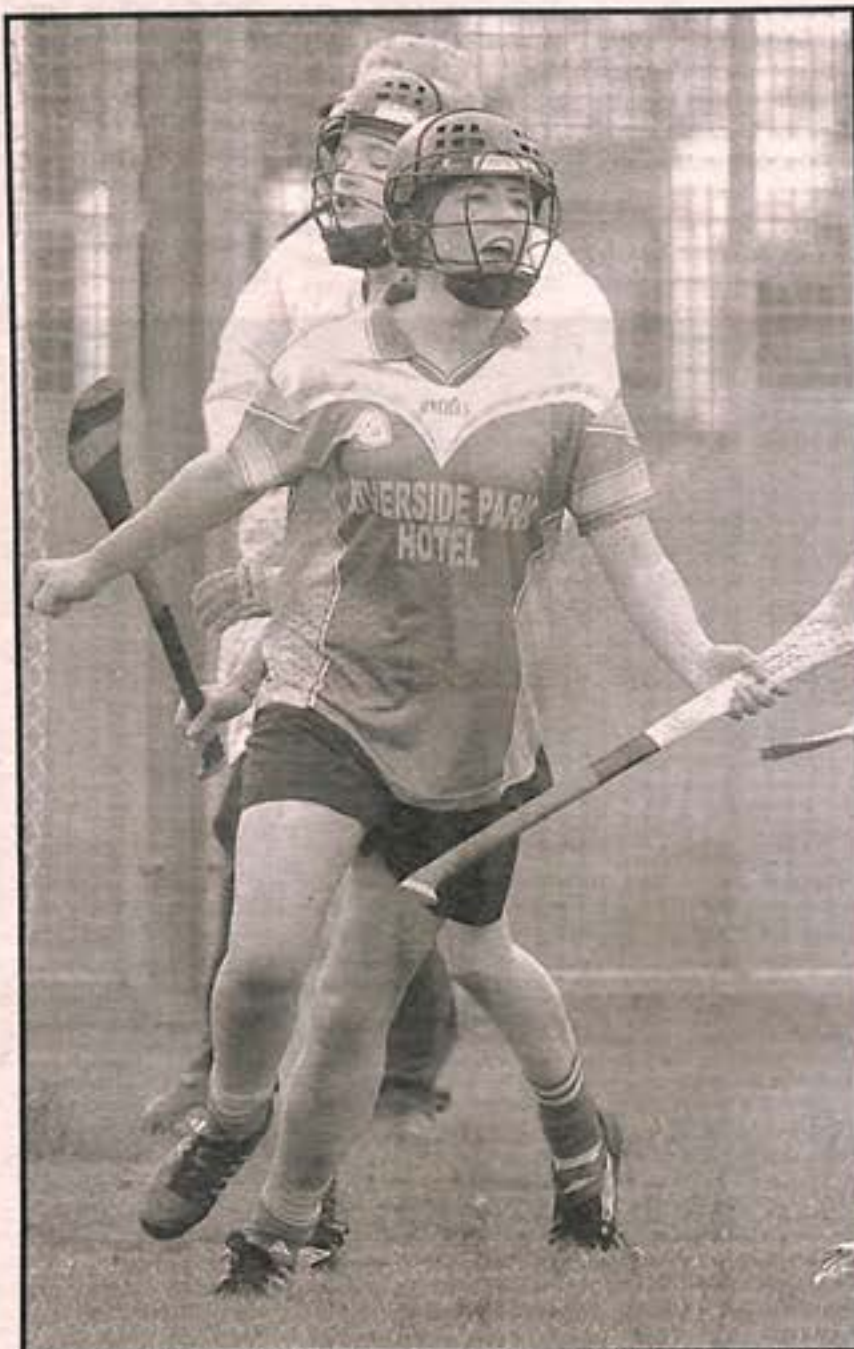
players are replacing those departing the senior squad this year a magnificent boost coming into next year's senior campaign."

Over to Ursula: "I know the juniors will be extra determined now to make it a Double, especially with this being camogie's Centenary Year."

"And I think they will succeed, because they have some brilliant players, like Una Leacy, Síona (Nolan), Stacey (Redmond) and Ciara (Storey)."

"Those girls will have gained so much from the senior campaign that they will be very hard to stop."

Coláiste Bríde's victorious captain Ursula Jacob raises the All-Ireland Schools senior 'A' camogie trophy aloft, together with selector Jimmy Guinan, after Saturday's replayed success. (Pic: Jim Campbell).



Una Leacy wheels away in delight after netting her second and Coláiste Bríde's third goal in Saturday's replayed All-Ireland at Freshford, County Kilkenny. (Pic: Jim Campbell).



Coláiste Bríde's Stacey Redmond comes under pressure from Sarah O'Mahony in Saturday's replay. (Pic: Jim Campbell).



Coláiste Bríde's brilliant centre-back Mary Leacy bursts through the combined challenge of Charleville pair Lisa Healy (left) and Anna Geary in the All-Ireland final at Freshford last Saturday. (Pic: Jim Campbell).

Storey now wants junior gold

Ronan Fagan

MARTIN STOREY, who joins forces with manager Elva Moriarty on the Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy backroom team, wants to see them complete an All-Ireland Schools camogie Double after they retained the senior 'A' championship last Saturday.

"And wouldn't it be something very special to win the Double in camogie's Centenary Year," the hurling legend says.

Martin was happy to note the improvement in Coláiste Bríde's performances between the previous Saturday's 0-8 apiece drawn tie and the replay.

"If you take Mary Leacy's (centre-back) performance as an example - she was disappointed with how she did last week, although she told me she did all right in the last 10 minutes!"

"But today Mary was outstanding, and Deirdre (Codd) and Siobhan (Cullen), the other half-backs were too."

"Ciara Storey, in goal, made no mistakes, and the full-back line of Karen (Atkinson), Aisling (Hogan) and Ruth (Walsh) let nothing by them, despite coming under considerable pressure from Charleville."

"In the middle-of-the-field, Stacey (Redmond) was outstanding, and Bróna (Furlong) demonstrated just how much this game meant to the girls by racing from an All-Ireland athletics meet this morning to be here."

Coláiste Bríde actually delayed coming out for the game by ten minutes, as they waited for Bróna to arrive. "We were determined to all go out together, and for Bróna to have come from an athletics meet and still have turned in a performance as good as that was amazing."

The Duffy Rovers girl, a top athlete, actually had to opt out of one of the events at the meet to ensure she'd be with Coláiste Bríde.

"Then there's the half-forwards, where Ciara (O'Connor), Ursula (Jacob) and Sarah (Darcy) displayed tremendous work-rate, hooking, blocking, and basically never allowing Charleville to effect the amount of clearances they had in the drawn tie."

"Síona Nolan too was outstanding at corner-forward, and Una (Leacy) went well at full-forward before also starring at wing-forward, and scoring 2-2, while Jacqui (Codd) also got through some good work. Anna Murphy also did well after coming in, and she grabbed a fine goal."

"This was a job well done, by everyone."

SÍONA NOLAN, right corner-forward

'This will give us (the juniors) more confidence to win our All-Ireland. We worked so hard. We deserve this'

UNA LEACY, full-forward

'This was an outstanding team effort - it wasn't about me scoring 2-2, or whatever. This was about 22 players, and the back-room team'

JACQUI CODD, left corner-forward

'I was just delighted to play after all my injury problems, and we weren't going to slip up after letting the drawn tie slip'

ANNA MURPHY, attacker

'Every player put everything into ensuring we'd hold onto the title - and it's a tremendous feeling to have won it again'

The Award Winning

Walsh's Hotel
Maghera

Ulster Colleges

CENTENARY ALL STARS 2004

2004



Colleen Comiskey
St. Patrick's High School
Keady



Ellis O'Doherty
St. Patrick's College
Maghera



Grainne McGuckin
St. Pius X High School
Magherafelt



Stephanie O'Kane
Cross & Passion College
Ballycastle



Niamh Gavin
St. Patrick's Girls Academy
Dungannon



Kelly Maybin
Cross & Passion College
Ballycastle



Michaela Convery
St. Mary's Grammar School
Magherafelt



Rhona Torney
St. Genevieve's High School
Belfast



Mairead Rainey
St. Louise's Comp. College
Belfast



Aileen Laverty
St. Mary's Grammar School
Magherafelt



Camógaíocht



Kate Laverty
St. Mary's Grammar School
Magherafelt



Orla McDonnell
Cross & Passion College
Ballycastle



Marion Toner
St. Columba's College
Portaferry



Bronagh McDonnell
Cross & Passion College
Ballycastle



Clare McCloy
St. Patrick's College
Maghera



Briege Convery
St. Patrick's College
Maghera



Michelle McGuigan
St. Patrick's High School
Keady



Aisling Diamond
St. Mary's College
Clady



Claire Kinsella
St. Patrick's High School
Keady



Katie McAuley
St. Mary's Grammar School
Magherafelt



Members of Cumann Camogaiochta na hÉireann with President Mary McAleese at Áras an Uachtaráin to mark centenary year of the organisation. Brendan Moran

Millea to miss Cats' Galway tie

by Therese O'Callaghan

KILKENNY will be without key player Sinead Millea for Sunday's National League crunch tie against Galway having broken her finger in their drawn encounter with Tipperary two weeks ago.

The game, which will serve as a curtain-raiser to the Division One NHL clash between Kilkenny and Offaly at Nowlan Park, is crucial for the Black and Amber who have only dropped one point to date. A win would place them in a strong position ahead of their last home fixture against table-toppers Cork on April 25.

Elsewhere, tomorrow evening Limerick travel to Ballyhea where they hope to salvage their second set of points from a disappointing run for the Shannonsiders. Even though they will be up against an experimental Rebel side, they still have to be in top form to upstage the home team. Recently-selected Colleges Allstar Sinead McAuliffe will be to the fore-



Sinead Millea: a huge loss for Kilkenny.

front for the visitors, while Vera Sheehan has settled back to her midfield role after her winter absence. Meanwhile, in Division Two, Athleague will house another GAA/camogie double-header on Sunday with the ladies clash involving Roscommon and Down preceding Roscommon and Meath. If the north-erners reproduce the exceptional form of last weekend, it will be difficult to see the home side advance, especially with sharpshooter Mairin McAleenan in such splendid form.

Armagh meet Cork's second string in Douglas at noon. Having dropped two points to Offaly the red and white bounced back with a fine win over Tipperary. Kilkenny and Galway's B teams also have a midday start at the James Stephens' grounds. Kildare will meet neighbours Carlow at Myshall.

Clare entertain Antrim at Newmarket-on-Fergus while Tipperary face a stern test from Division Two leaders Offaly at The Ragg. The Munster minor championship semi-final between Tipperary and Limerick will kick-start events there at 1.30pm.

APRIL 2004

Avondhu and Carrigdhoun meet in final

by Mary Newman

IT WAS an historic day for Cork camogie on Sunday last with the Centenary under 21 Interdivisional blitz at Ballygarvan and Glen Rovers, where six divisions battled for the honours of contesting the first camogie final at under 21 level.

Proceedings got underway early in Ballygarvan, with Imokilly and Carbery meeting in the first game in a group that also included Carrigdhoun.

Carbery, with Cork seniors Collette Desmond and Jennifer O'Leary to the fore, held the upper hand over an Imokilly side that had Roisin Corcoran, Maire O'Neill and Gearoidin Kearney.

Goals from Sarah O'Donovan and Catriona Kelly plus good performances from Deirdre Daly and Marion Jaego helped Carrigdhoun record 3-5 to 0-7 victory over Carbery.

Carrigdhoun pulled out all the stops to run out winners over Imokilly on 5-7 to 0-2, Noelle Collins, Marion Donovan and Mairead Holland impressing.

Attention turned north side for the afternoon to Glen Rovers pitch where Seandun, Avondhu and Muskerry were in action. First into the fray were Avondhu and Muskerry. Avondhu were victorious on a 0-9 to 0-4 score.

Muskerry picked up the pace for their meeting with Seandun to run out winners 3-7 to 0-2.

Avondhu just needed a win to ensure qualification to the final but it was Seandun who made the early running in the last game of the afternoon. However Avondhu rallied enough to make it through on a 4-5 to 1-5 winning margin. Avondhu and Carrigdhoun will contest the final on Easter Monday. On the same day the divisional under 15 blitz will take place at the same venue.

St Finbarr's U-16s get the better of Blackrock

LEAGUE action continued at under 16 and senior level in the week gone by with the opening games in the senior league on Wednesday night last while the under 16s were into round two.

Results to date in the under 16 B league saw St Finbarr's defeat Blackrock 4-4 to 1-3 victory. Courcy Rovers failed by the narrowest of margins to neighbours Ballinascarty 2-5 to 2-4 and then found the going tough against a strong Ballincollig side who won 5-5 to 1-2.

Cobh made their intentions clear for the year as they looked very strong in the meeting with Brian Dillons in their opening game of the Under 16 C league, notching up a victory with a 5-1 to 1-0 margin. Bride Rovers' defence was superb as they had 1-4 to spare over Castletons Newcomers Millstreet in their first season in under 16 competition performed well despite going down to Grenagh by five points where it finished 2-2 to 1-0, but there was no similar story for the young St Vincent's side who had to give best to a more experienced stronger Slabh

Rua side 9-4 to 1-0.

In the senior league it was a repeat of last year's county semi-final as Inniscarra and St Finbarr's met, Inniscarra continuing to hold the upper hand recording a 2-6 to 0-8 victory. Courcy Rovers ran out winners in their meeting with Aghbullogue. Just two points separated Eire OG and Carrigaline in another exciting game with the Carrigaline girls edging it to

take the points with two to spare 2-3 to 0-7. Glen Rovers and Ballygarvan also played out an exciting clash in Ballygarvan where a goal three minutes from full time clinched the points for the home side on a 4-4 to 3-3.

League action continues in the week ahead for the under 16s and seniors, while the under 14 league is set to start on April 24.

Moynihan injury blow to Cork Minors ambitions

by Mary Newman

CORK Minors continue their bid for four in a row provincial and All Ireland titles when they meet Clare tomorrow evening in the Munster semi-final.

Cork were dealt a severe blow earlier in the week when corner back

Aine Moynihan was injured. Aine is a big loss having performed superbly in the opening game and she will be hard to replace. However, Coach John Cronin is more than ready for the clash: "We played well against Waterford but will have to improve even more to advance to a final meeting with Limerick."

Ursuline Secondary School, Thurles - Munster Senior Camogie Champions and All-Ireland Colleges Finalists 2004 - 2005

Back row, left to right: Ms Olivia Hogan (Trainer / Coach), Therese Hearn, Olivia Flynn, Ceire Deevey, Elaine Crosse, Danielle Campion, Grace Glendennen, Siobh-n Butler, Antoinette Kennedy, Maura O'Regan, Elaine Ryan, Sarah Ryan, Elaine Sweeney, Laura Medley, Rachel Clegg, Ashley Ryan, Nicola O'Brien, Laura English.

Front row, left to right: Amy O'Gorman, Katie O'Gorman, Eimear Sheehan, Georgina Kennedy, Siobh-n McGrath, Laura Kavanagh, Therese Shortt, Patricia McGrath, Ciara Johnston, Linda Fanning, Ciara Callinan (Captain), Sinead Shelley, Kate O'Dwyer, Mary Rose Flanagan, Theresa Burke, Niamh O'Connell





Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael

All Ireland Colleges



**Centenary
Interprovincial Tournament
Wednesday 7th April 2004**

Camog's Prayer

GRANT ME O LORD, A CAMOG'S SKILL
WITH STRENGTH OF ARM AND SPEED OF LIMB
UNERRING EYE FOR THE FLYING BALL
AND COURAGE TO MATCH THEM WHATE'ER BEFALL.

MAY MY AIM BE STEADY, MY STROKE BE TRUE
MY ACTIONS BRAVE AND MY MISSES FEW
AND NO MATTER WHAT WAY THE GAME MAY GO
MAY I PART IN FRIENDSHIP WITH EVERY FOE

WHEN THE FINAL WHISTLE FOR ME IS BLOWN
AND STAND AT LAST AT GOD'S JUDGEMENT THRONE
MAY THE GREAT REFEREE, WHEN SHE CALLS MY NAME
SAY, "YOU PLAYED WITH COURAGE -
YOU PLAYED THE GAME!"

APRIL 2004

Fixtures and Venues . . .

All Ireland Centenary Interprovincial Tournament 2004

Venue: Naomh Mearnog Club

Portmarnock
Dublin

12.00 pm

Match 1: Munster V Ulster

Match 2: Leinster V Connaught

LUNCH

2.00 pm

Match 3: Winners 1 V Winners 2

Match 4: Runners up 1 V Runners up 2

Focal On Uachtaran . . .

2004 is a special year in the history of Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael. It is a time to reflect on the past, celebrate its achievements and plan for the continued expansion and promotion of our game. Camogie is an outstanding game. It surpasses all other games in terms of skill, excitement and enjoyment.

Camogie was born in 1904 of a spirit of national resurgence. Twenty years after the founding of the Gaelic Athletic Association, Irish girls were still without a national game. At the time, the Gaelic League was thriving. The Keating Branch of the Gaelic League in Dublin included hurling and football in its promotion of activities. Lady members of the branch complained that there was no Irish game available to them. The Branch committee took up the challenge and set about inventing a new game based on the ancient game of hurling.

In the early days, the playing pitch was small and the match only lasted forty minutes. The dress of the early players was very different from that worn by our players today. Long hobble-skirts frequently tripped up the wearers. Laced or buttoned boots, which often came well up the leg, tended to hamper movement.

The game was played much more on the ground in the early days than at present. The shape of the stick lent itself to good ground strokes. It was in later years that the nose of the hurley was thinned to facilitate lifting the ball. Players concentrated on scoring goals. Points came from frees, rarely from play. Yesterday's players remained in their places and let the ball do the work. Today's players love to catch or pick the ball and run with it.

Dominican College, Muckross Park, Dublin was the first school to take up camogie. In 1912, two cork schools, St Angela's College and Ursuline Convent, Blackrock joined the ranks. Two years later, the Cork Schools Championship commenced. Ulster was the first province to commence colleges provincial championships. The first All-Ireland Colleges Championship was played in 1969.

I am delighted to welcome the eighty top colleges to Dublin today. I congratulate you on the standard that you have already reached in our game. I look forward to a superb exhibition of camogie and to the selection of the 2004 Colleges All-Stars. You, the crème of the class of 2004, are a tremendous asset to the Camogie Association. I wish you all a long and enjoyable career in the game.

I wish to thank all who helped organise today's interprovincial series. In particular, I thank our Secretary, Sr Mairead, Catriona Scott, of St Patrick's College, Maghera and our generous sponsors.

Is mise, Maire Ni Mhorain.



Connaught

All-Star Team 2004



	Name	School	County
1	Sarah Dervan	St Brigids Loughrea	Galway
2	Therese Manton	St Brigids Loughrea	Galway
3	Phylis Hayes	Mercy Woodford	Galway
4	Colette Gill	Seamount Kinvara	Galway
5	Maureen Finnerty	St Brigids Loughrea	Galway
6	Jessica Gill	Pres Athenry	Galway
7	Nicola Lawless	Portumna C.S.	Galway
8	Caroline Kelly	Mercy Woodford	Galway
9	Sarah Noone	Mountbellew V.S.	Galway
10	Cathy Bowes	St Brigids Loughrea	Galway
11	Brenda Hanney	Portumna C.S.	Galway
12	Susan Keane	Portumna C.S.	Galway
13	Niamh Kilkenny	H.R.C. Mountbellew	Galway
14	Linda Gohery	Mercy Woodford	Galway
15	Colette Hardiman	St Brigids Loughrea	Galway
16	Michelle Tynan	St Raphaels Loughrea	Galway
17	Noreen Coen	Pres Athenry	Galway
18	Catriona Cormican	Mercy Ballinasloe	Galway
19	Marion Geoghegan	St Raphaels Loughrea	Galway
20	Ciara Kilroy	Mountbellew V.S.	Galway



Munster

All-Star Team 2004



	Name	School	County
(1)	Valerie McCormac	Loreto, Fermoy	Cork
(2)	Julie Kirwin	Col.Pobal Roscrea	Tipperary
(3)	Elaine O' Riordan	St Mary's, Charleville	Cork
(4)	Pauline Cunningham	Mercy, Waterford	Waterford
(5)	Ciara Murphy	Coachford College	Cork
(6)	Catriona Foley	Glanmire	Cork
(7)	Michelle Short	Ursulnes, Thurles	Tipperary
(8)	Rena Buckley	St Aloysius	Cork
(9)	Anna Geary	St Mary's, Charleville	Cork
(10)	Marie O'Neill	Loreto, Fermoy	Cork
(11)	Sinead McAuliffe	St Mary's, Charleville	Limerick
(12)	Briege Corkery	St Mary's, Macroom	Cork
(13)	Mary Ryan	St Mary's, Nenagh	Tipperary
(14)	Marie Watson	St Mary's, Charleville	Cork
(15)	Siobhan Kiniry	Scariff	Clare
(16)	Joanne Nolan	St Mary's, Nenagh	Tipperary
(17)	Jacqui O'Keefe	Carrigaline	Cork
(18)	Emer Watson	St Mary's, Charleville	Cork
(19)	Mary Coleman	St Mary's, Charleville	Cork
(20)	Claire Mulcahy	Laurel Hill	Limerick



Leinster

All-Star Team 2004



	Name	School	County
(1)	Karen Atkinson	Mercy, Enniscorthy	Wexford
(2)	Grainne Brennan	Mercy, Callan	Kilkenny
(3)	Deirdre Codd	Mercy, Enniscorthy	Wexford
(4)	Aine Connery	Loreto, Kilkenny	Kilkenny
(5)	Ann Dalton	Presentation, K'Kenney	Kilkenny
(6)	Margaret Darcy	Loreto, Wexford	Wexford
(7)	Aine Fahey	Loreto, Kilkenny	Kilkenny
(8)	Eileen Fitzpatrick	Loreto, Kilkenny	Kilkenny
(9)	Jacqui Frisby	Mercy, Callan	Kilkenny
(10)	Brona Furlong	Mercy, Enniscorthy	Wexford
(11)	Phena Heffernan	Mercy, Callan	Kilkenny
(12)	Aisling Hogan	Mercy, Enniscorthy	Wexford
(13)	Ursula Jacob	Mercy, Enniscorthy	Wexford
(14)	Mary Lacey	Mercy, Enniscorthy	Wexford
(15)	Danielle Minogue	Loreto, Kilkenny	Kilkenny
(16)	Therese Muldowney	Mercy, Callan	Kilkenny
(17)	Clara O'Connor	Mercy, Enniscorthy	Wexford
(18)	Miriam O'Keefe	Castlecomer Comm Sch,	Kilkenny
(19)	Ruth Walsh	Mercy, Enniscorthy	Wexford
(20)	Julie-Anne Woodcock	Mercy, Callan	Kilkenny



Ulster

All-Star Team 2004



	Name	School	County
(1)	Ellis O'Doherty	St Patrick's College, Maghera	Derry
(2)	Marion Toner	St Columba's College, Portaferry	Down
(3)	Stephanie O'Kane	Cross and Passion, Ballycastle	Antrim
(4)	Bronagh McDonnell	Cross and Passion, Ballycastle	Antrim
(5)	Michelle McGuigan	St Patrick's High, Keady	Armagh
(6)	Briege Convery	St Patrick's College, Maghera	Derry
(7)	Grainne McGuckin	St Pius X High, Magherafelt	Derry
(8)	Katie McAuley	St Mary's Grammar, Magherafelt	Derry
(9)	Clare McCloy	St Patrick's College, Maghera	Derry
(10)	Claire Kinsella	St Patrick's High, Keady	Armagh
(11)	Aisling Diamond	St Mary's College, Clady	Derry
(12)	Niamh Gavin	St Patrick's Girl's, Dungannon	Tyrone
(13)	Rhona Torney	St Genevieves High, Belfast	Antrim
(14)	Kate Lavery	St Mary's Grammar, Magherafelt	Derry
(15)	Aileen Lavery	St Mary's Grammar, Magherafelt	Derry
(16)	Colleen Comiskey	St Patrick's High, Keady	Armagh
(17)	Mairead Rainey	St Louise's Comp, Belfast	Antrim
(18)	Kelly Maybin	Cross and Passion, Ballycastle	Antrim
(19)	Orla McDonnell	Cross and Passion, Ballycastle	Antrim
(20)	Michalea Convery	St Mary's Grammar, Magherafelt	Derry

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS ON LA NA CLUB

LA Na Club, Senior and junior national league will dominate Easter Weekend while on Wednesday next it's Munster Minor championship semi final and a meeting with Clare.

Saturday is the day set aside for clubs to celebrate the Centenary and there are several activities lined up not just for Saturday but over the weekend as one hundred years of camogie is honoured. When the idea of a club day was mooted the idea behind it was that clubs would do something different to their normal activities and certainly looking at the list of events to hand there will be no shortage of activities.

In Barryroe the club are hoping to hold a walk with members of the community joining the camogie members along the way.

Fr O'Neill's are holding the final of their Indoor under-age competition and Margaret Hyde has advised that they will also have a surprise on the day for all their members.

Courcey Rovers are holding an under age skills competition on Saturday morning and down in Carrigaline Tom Kiely tells us that an under age fun day will be enjoyed by their many members.

The Dungourney girls will be busy practicing their skills in the lead up to their under age Puck Fada which they hope to hold on Saturday afternoon.

Out in Bishopstown, Eithne Duggan has arranged a huge calendar of events to keep the day running smoothly.

The Douglas, Ballinhassig



The Community Games All-Ireland U-14 winning Team at the Douglas Camogie Club Awards Dinner at the RPH

Picture: Gerard McCarthy

and Glen Rovers club members will be busy both indoors and outdoors.

The Douglas girls will be in the Douglas Court Dunne's Stores doing bag packing, while it's a similar story both for Ballinhassig who are in Super Valu at Roches Stores Wilton and the Glen Rovers girls who are in the Patrick Street/Merchants Quay branch of Roches Stores. Parent and club members will be lending a hand as the players pack the bags and here the company's who give the facility to the club's are to be applauded for helping the youngsters promote the game, so if you see the girls over the weekend at any of the above

mentioned don't be shy with your euros.

Ann Dorney tells us that out in Ballinhassig a fun evening will take place for the younger girls while the older girls are busy bag packing and it's the same at the Glen Field where Mary Sheehan and Catriona Boyle have an under age blitz organised for their youngsters and here Centenary Team of the Century players Linda Mellerick and Sandra Fitzgibbon will be on hand to present the youngsters with their prizes. One division are holding a La Na Club event and that is Seandun who have an under 10 blitz in

Bishopstown on Friday starting at 1.30pm.

Just a sample, I am sure, of the many events listed so whoever or where ever you are get to your local club join in and enjoy the moment.

On Sunday Armagh Juniors are in town for a meeting with Cork the game is timed for 12 noon with a venue to be named. The senior team have a meeting with Limerick and while the fixture is for Sunday at the time of writing there was possibility of the game coming forward to Saturday.

The junior side will be hoping to pick up two further but they will be severely tested by a strong Armagh side that are going well in the competition. A win for the senior would almost guarantee qualification to the semi final stage with just one game to be played that against Kilkenny on April 25.

On Wednesday evening the minors will go in quest of a place in the Munster final when they meet Clare. Cork recorded a big victory over Waterford in their opening game while it Clare's opening game. Minor level is hard to predict but going on their performances to date Cork will be expected to book a place in the final.

Looking back on last weekend the centenary under 21 tournaments saw activities at Ballygarvan and Glen Rovers with Carrigdhoun and Avondhu emerging to contest the final which is pencilled in for the last weekend in April.

There was no joy for St Mary's Charleville in the replayed of the

All Ireland Colleges Senior final in Freshford.

Two goals inside the first five minutes from Siona Nolan and Una Lacey gave the Wexford side a dream start, but trailing at half time 2-3 to 0-2 having elected to play against the strong wind the Charleville girls were in with a shout.

Unfortunately two quick goals from Una Lacey and substitute Anna Murphy gave the Colaiste Brid side a great cushion and despite the best efforts of Anna Geary, Sinead Mc Auliffe and Emer Watson the champions retained their crown on a 4-7 to 1-4 score line.



Aine O'Donovan from Douglas at the Douglas Camogie Club Awards Dinner at the Rochestown Park Hotel

Picture: Gerard McCarthy

Easy win for Cork girls over Limerick

by Therese O'Callaghan

CORK preserved their perfect National Camogie League record when defeating Limerick at Ballyhea on Saturday evening, (4-5 to 1-7).

Goals from Roisin Corcoran (2), Miriam Deasy and Una O'Donoghue powered the Rebels to an easy victory.

Elsewhere, Kilkenny capitalised on home advantage in front of their county's NHL tie at Nowlan Park, where they emerged with four points to spare over Galway (3-9 to 4-2). Captain Marie O'Connor and Emily Darmody were both impressive.

Meanwhile Carlow and Kildare played out a thriller at Myshall in Division Two. Carlow who were eight

points behind at half time, made a storming comeback before going down (2-10 to 4-11).

Clare overran Antrim in Newmarket-on-Fergus (3-18 to 1-5) with Catherine O'Loughlin making a welcome return from injury and scoring four points. The Banner County got off to the best possible start with a goal from Ann Keane in the second minute

but it was their brilliant second half performance yielding 2-10 that proved to be crucial.

Roisin Corcoran had a busy weekend for the Rebels lining out again on Sunday in Douglas with the county's second string and her contribution of 1-0 plus two green flags from Sarah O'Donovan ensured an emphatic 3-13 to 2-7 triumph over Armagh.

Kilkenny made it a double victory with a 3-12 to 1-2 win over Galway at James Stephen's. Down hammered Roscommon 4-19 to 1-2, while Offaly kept their unbeaten record intact against Tipperary, 0-16 to 2-8.

In the Munster minor championship, Limerick defeated Tipperary, 3-7 to 2-7, Niamh Mulcahy goaling three minutes from time.

Plenty of Camogie Action

EASTER weekend was a busy one with senior and junior national league, La Na club and the under 16 inter-divisional tournament all on the agenda. Ballyhea hosted the meeting of Cork and Limerick on Saturday evening as Cork recorded a third national league victory, and remain the only unbeaten side in the competition, that almost certainly guarantees them of a semi-final spot and with just one game to go against Kilkenny. Once again fielding an experimental side in their continued quest to unearth new talent Cork proved to strong for a determined Limerick side.

First half goals from Una O'Donoghue and Roisin Corcoran ensured Cork of a half-time advantage as they led 2-3 to 0-2. The opening quarter of the second half saw two evenly matched exchange points on three occasions before goals Roisin Corcoran and Miriam Deasy finally quelled the Limerick challenge on a 4-5 to 1-7 score line. Cork will travel to Kilkenny for their last game on April 25th.

In Junior, Armagh made the long journey to Douglas on Easter Sunday and had to give best to a determined Cork. It was level 1-4 to 2-1 at the interval after Sarah O'Donovan and Bernie Mc Bride had swapped first half goals. Cork upped the pace in the second half and inspired by a seventh minute Roisin Corcoran goal and good play from Amanda O'Regan, Val O'Keefe, and Anna Geary ran out winner 3-13 to 2-7.

With Offaly having recorded a two point victory over Tipperary in their final game on Sunday last it guarantees them a place in the play off's and with only one team going through Cork have cause to regret the concession of a late goal to Offaly come back to haunt them.

However the selection committee will be pleased with their charges and can look ahead with confidence to their Munster championship clash with holders Clare on May 3rd.

Muskerry took the inter-divisional under 16 trophy defeating Avondhu in an exciting final in Carrigrohilly.

Earlier in the day in section one Muskerry had three points to spare over Carbery before defeating Seandun 2-2 to 0-2, while Seandun had a 3-4 to 2-2 win over Carbery.

Over in Coachford section two saw Avondhu beat Imokilly, while they also had a three point win over Carrigdhoun.

The scene was set for the final as by now two tired teams lined up for the last match of the day. Muskerry's Elaine Vaughan gave them an early advantage with a goal and with Niamh Dilworth, Margaret O'Herlihy and Elaine Vaughan adding points they led 1-4 to 0-1 at the break the Avondhu point coming from Tracy O'Reilly.

Avondhu battled hard throughout the second half but found the going tough against the strong Muskerry defence, two goals from Leah Weste and Niamh Dilworth put the result beyond doubt, while Muskerry's Brid Twomey was named as player of the tournament following splendid performances. Well done to the juvenile board and chairperson Tracy Sheehan for the splendidly organised day's camogie and to all the divisions whose efforts ensured the success of the competition.

With the evenings getting longer league games are now in full swing and some results to hand, at under 16 St Finbarrs had a 4-4 to 1-3 win over Blackrock, Ballincollig defeated Courcey Rovers 5-5 to 1-2, Glen Rovers had a vic-

CamogieChat

With Mary Newman

tory over Douglas 4-3 to 2-0, while Ballinascarty had a point to spare over Courcey Rovers. Cobb proved too strong for Brian Dillon's with a 5-1 to 1-0 winning margin while Grenagh defeated Millstreet 2-2 to 1-0 and Sliabh Rua were too strong for St Vincent's. Rockban already have two big wins under their belts defeating Brian Dillon's 6-4 to 0-1 and Ballincollig's second team while Ballygarvan took the points at the expense of Inniscarra. One result from the Junior A league also saw Rockban take the points with a victory over Watergrasshill.

In the opening games in the senior league St Finbarrs with new signing Vivienne Harris making her debut had to give way to Inniscarra 2-6 to 0-7 when the sides met in Togher.

Courcey Rovers had a big win over Aghabullogue, two points separated the sides as Carrigaline took the points at the expense of Eire OG, Ballygarvan and Glen Rovers played out an exciting hour in Ballygarvan with the home side denying the visitors a share of the spoils on a 4-4 to 3-3 margin.

Best wishes are extended to Cork minor, Ballygarvan's Aine Moynihan and to Glen Rovers Sinead Kelly both who received serious hand injuries in recent under 16 and senior game with their clubs, hope both are back in action again soon.

Monday night will be a big one in Pairc Uí Chaoimh as the county championship draws for 2004 are made it's the night when clubs get to know who will provide the main stumbling block to their ambitions. The draws will be carried on 103 FM County Sound after 9.30 pm on Monday night next so be sure to listen in to hear your clubs fate for 2004.

CAMOGIE

Colleges Centenary Interprovincial Tournament, Naomh Míseóg, Dublin.
Munster 6-7, Leinster 1-8. Semi-finals: Munster 3-12, Ulster 2-2. Leinster 3-12, Connacht 4-6.
Following the final the first ever Colleges Allstar team was announced: M Tynan (Connacht), E O'Riordan (Munster), P Hayes (Connacht), C Kelly (Connacht), M Leacy (Leinster), B Convery (Ulster), A Geary (Munster), R Buckley (Munster), K Mc Auliffe (Ulster), C Mc Cloy (Ulster), B Corkery (Munster), M Ryan (Munster), U Jacob (Leinster), J Frisby (Leinster).
Scorers: Munster 6-7 A Geary 2-1, S Mc Auliffe 1-2, R Buckley, J O'Keefe, C Murphy 1-0 each, E Watson, M Watson 0-1 each.
Leinster 1-8 U Jacob 0-5, A Fahy 1-0, J Frisby, C O'Connor, T Muldowney 0-1 each.



Up and coming Glen Rovers stars Mikela Hyde and Emma Curran make a presentation to Linda Mellerick and Sandy Fitzgibbon in recognition of their selection on the Camogie team of the century.

Considine chasing Centenary camogie medal

Former Cork hurler John Considine is the new Cork Camogie manager and takes over from Pa Finn who brought the Rebel county to All-Ireland success in 2002. By Máire Uí Scolaí



Fiona O'Driscoll will captain the Rebel camogie team in 2004

National League champions for 2003 they will face Galway in their opening round away while they will entertain the old enemy Tipperary at home in the second round of the League. Early April will see them host Limerick and then they will travel to Kilkenny. It would then be a major shock if they were not in the latter stages of the League by then.

To win the O'Duffy Cup this centenary year will surely be the dream of so many camogie players. One Cork player who would surely give her right hand to walk the steps of the Hogan Stand on September 19th would surely be this year's Fiona O Driscoll who captain's Cork for the very first time.

Fiona, a member of the Fr. O'Neill's club has been honoured with the captaincy following their first ever senior county championship victory last season.

John, who won a senior All-Ireland medal with the Rebels in 1990 was also honoured with a National League medal in his first year in senior inter-county camogie management, but is looking forward to it. There is much talk about the centenary and how it would be nice to win the All-Ireland but first we must look at the League commented John, who has already been involved with UCC in their preparations for the Ashbourne Cup of 2000, 01 and 2002.

Now lecturing in Economics in UCC he has the opportunity to see some of his charges in action in college matches, but the busy man is also assisting the Fitzgibbon team in the College! While he will have plenty of National League action to keep him busy over the spring he also has to find time for his wife Valerie who played camogie up to the age of fourteen who between them now have three young children, 6 year old Alison, two year old Darragh and three months old Jessica. Most likely they will see many camogie and hurling sidelines over the years.

In his preparation for the National League Considine is hoping to introduce some new young players to the panel and he will try to see as many matches as he possibly can. When approached by the Cork Board the former corner back did not have to think long about managing the Cork team. He commented by saying it is a pleasure to work with the girls, they are generally much more self sufficient than their counterparts in GAA as they usually have to do a lot more to promote themselves and to assist in the running of the game.

It is generally recognised that there is a wide gap in the senior championship as indeed is the story with hurling in terms of likely All-Ireland winners. This is something that the new manager is conscious of and he would like to see the gap narrowing between Cork, Tipperary and the other counties in terms of standard. The other counties have to get their act together and bring their game up a couple of



New Cork camogie boss, John Considine

levels was his opinion.

It will be difficult to access the League for the first couple of weeks until players get back into the swing of action, but the Rebels should be capable of taking two league opening points from Galway who disappointed greatly last season.

While John was talking about the League he did not finish the conversation without reference to how nice it would be to be in Croke Park on September 19th next. Perhaps this is an indication of further things to come in the season, but it is most likely that Tipperary who are still under Raymie Ryan will have a word or two to say on that!

Looking at the other teams in Division 1, John was impressed with Limerick last season but feels it may take them still a couple of years to come good yet. Without a doubt many will be hoping for a much better League campaign from Galway, Limerick and Kilkenny who disappointed a lot last season following their Junior All-Ireland success of 2002.

Major upset as Banner lower Cork colours

Clare
Cork

3-0
2-2

by Therese O'Callaghan

THERE was a major upset in Mallow last evening when Clare dramatically toppled All-Ireland champions Cork in the semi-final of the Munster

camogie championship. A persistent Banner outfit bagged all their scores in the opening 30 minutes, outwitting the Rebels.

Wind-assisted Clare set about ending their drought when Fiona Lavery struck for their opening goal after 16 minutes. This score came in reply to a Jenny O'Donovan green flag six min-

utes earlier and when Marie Raftery netted the visitors' second goal, confidence within the camp began to grow. Danielle Sheedy completed the goal-rush close on half-time and the tideholders were in arrears by five points, 3-0 to 1-1. However, urged on by Lucy Hawkes at centre-back the Cork girls rallied in the second half

and when captain Aine Watson netted at the three-quarter stage, it looked as if the outcome would be settled in a replay. But Clare — managed by Fintan McNamara — remained unyielding and, producing some high-class defending, earned a historic tilt at Limerick in the forthcoming Munster final.

CLARE: S. Vaughan; I. Kaiser, A. McInerney, A. Garry; C. O'Leary, E. Solan, J. Moloney; L. Hayes, M. O'Brien; M. Raftery, (1-0) E. Hennessey, L. Fahy; D. Sheedy, (1-0) F. Lavery, (1-0) A. Treacy.
CORK: E. White; G. O'Regan, E. O'Sullivan, S. Sexton; O. Neville, L. Hawkes, O. Cotter; A. Watson, (1-0) M. Crowley; C. Long, D. Cronin, S. Lynch; D. Twomey, M. Browne, (0-1) J. O'Donovan (1-1).
Subs: C. Dillon for S. Lynch, E. Corkery for M. Crowley, C. Kearney for D. Twomey.
Ref: E. Browne (Tipperary).

MUNSTER MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP LATE LIMERICK RALLY SPOILS THE PARTY TIPPERARY 2:7 LIMERICK 3:7

A late Limerick rally which yielded two goals saw them defeat the home side and advance to the Munster minor final after a thrilling encounter in the Ragg.

Tipperary went into this game well-prepared and hoping for victory. However they came up against very stiff opposition in a strong Limerick outfit. Limerick signaled their intentions right from the start when corner forward Aisling McAuliffe sneaked in for a goal within the first minute. Tipperary soon settled and Ciara Johnson who lined out at wing forward replied with a point. Minutes later Ciara won a free along the side line which she duly slotted over. Therese Shortt was playing a captain's role in midfield setting up Ailish Lonergan who finished with a point to put the sides level.

Then just when it looked like the game was going to finish in a draw a long range free by Niamh Mulcahy deceived everyone in the Tipperary defence and went all the way to the back of the net to the joy of the opposition.

It was heart breaking for Tipperary to lose by a single goal so late in the game, however without doubt this was a very strong Limerick team which never let Tipperary really find their stride and play to their full potential. Tipperary can take heart in the fact that they gave a huge effort and came very close to victory in what was an entertaining game of camogie.

Team: Ciara Heffernan, Andrea Davis, Ciara O'Sullivan, Deirdre Ryan, Ciara Johnson (2.4), Siobhan Bourke, Michelle Kirwan, Lorraine Davis, Mairead Luttrell, Therese Shortt, Ailish Langton, Alison Lonergan, Fiona Ryan, Aoife Moloughney (0.2), Catriona Maher (0.1).

Subs: Roseanne Quirke, Sinead Quinlan, Lilly O'Connor, Eileen Harty, Siobhan McGrath, Louise O'Brien, Sarah Morrissey, Tara Murray, Patricia McGrath, Ciara Ryan, Sarah Ryan, Linda Fanning, Antoinette Kennedy, Helena Ryan, Laura Coughlan, Fiona Kennedy, Marie Ryan, Catriona Walsh.

throughout and good passing from Elaine Darmody lead to some fine scores by Maggie Lynch and Sharon Daly. As the half progressed Tipperary battled hard and began to narrow Offaly's lead. In defence Mary Looby was having a commanding game while Rosanna Kenneally pulled off some trademark saves to keep the home side in the game. In attack the forwards began to play with some urgency with substitute Ann-Marie O'Brien and Fiana Loughnane both slotting over points. Then Toomevara's Therese Maxwell collected a pass from Geraldine Kinane and blasted her shot past the Offaly keeper. Offaly's response was impressive with two quick points from Orla Casey and Maggie Lynch. Tipperary were determined not to give up without a fight and a pointed free by Maria Harkin meant there was five points between the sides. This was narrowed to just two points when Caroline Ryan took her chance and fired home a goal. Then the score of the game came when Caroline Greed made a solo run all the way out of defence dodging numerous Offaly players before striking the ball coolly over the bar. However Offaly also showed their class by finishing strongly and scoring two points to win the match. This was a much improved Tipperary performance especially in the second half and an encouraging one with the championship just around the corner.

Team: Rosanna Kenneally, Caroline Greed (0.1), Antoinette Darcy, Mary Looby, Teresa Maher Helena Costigan, Jackie O'Connor, Fiana Loughnane (0.2), Katie Kennedy, Geraldine Kinane, Denise Ryan, Maria Harkin (0.4) Deirdre Dunne, Therese Maxwell (1.0), Libby Twoomey. **Subs:** Caroline Ryan (1.0) for Deirdre Dunne, Ann-Marie O'Brien (0.1) for Katie Kennedy, Claire Ryan for Helena Costigan.



SHINING STARS: Back row (left to right): Anna Geary (Cork), Katie McAuley (Derry), Brieghe Convery (Derry), Claire McCloy (Derry), Elaine O'Riordan (Cork). Middle row (left to right): Michelle Tynan (Galway), Caroline Kelly (Galway), Phyllis Hayes (Galway), Sinead McAuliffe (Limerick), Rena Buckley (Cork). Front row (left to right): Mary Ryan (Tipperary), Brieghe Corkery (Cork), Jacqui Frisby (Kilkenny). Closest to camera (left to right): Ursula Jacob (Wexford), Mary Leahy (Wexford). Picture: Lorraine O'Sullivan

NATIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE TIPPERARY 2:8 OFFALY 0:16

Tipperary went into this encounter without yet securing victory in the league while Offaly had won all their games. So everyone involved knew it was going to be a difficult task. However it was Tipperary who started the brighter and an early attack led to a 45 which Maria Harkin made no mistake in scoring. Disappointingly for the home side this was to be their final score of the first half. Offaly soon found their rhythm and 6 unanswered points meant they went in at half time with a comfortable five point lead.

Nevertheless it could have been more if it wasn't for some good defending by Teresa Maher and Caroline Greed. In the second half Tipperary upped their performance and began to have a greater impact on the game with points from Fiana Loughnane who was playing well at midfield and Maria Harkin. The Offaly attack posed a constant threat



Well done to the Cork College under 14 squad who won the Clare tournament on Sunday last and to Cork Colleges players Brieghe Corkery, Anna Geary, Elaine O'Riordan and Rena Buckley, and who were honoured by the Colleges with selection on the centenary college's all star team.

Colleges Centenary All-Star Team 2004

ULSTER	Katie McAuley, Clare McCloy, Brieghe Convery,	St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt St Patrick's College, Maghera St Patrick's College, Maghera
MUNSTER	Elaine O'Riordan, Anna Geary, Sinead McAuliffe, Rena Buckley, Mary Ryan, Brieghe Corkery,	St Mary's, Charleville St Mary's, Charleville St Mary's, Charleville St Aloysius, Cork St Mary's, Nenagh St Mary's, Macroom
LEINSTER	Jacqui Frisby, Mary Lacey, Ursula Jacob,	Mercy, Callan Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy
CONNACHT	Phyllis Hayes, Caroline Kelly, Michelle Tynan,	Mercy, Woodford Mercy, Woodford St Raphael's, Loughrea

The Women's Pitch

with Paul O'Neill

APRIL
2004

MARY O'CONNOR is convinced that John Considine is the right man to steer Cork back to the top in camogie.

Considine has taken over the reins at Cork from Pa Finn, who stepped down after their defeat against Tipperary in last season's All-Ireland final.

And already Considine - who bagged an All-Ireland medal in hurling as a Cork player before bossing the county's minor hurling team to All-Ireland glory - has been busy preparing for the forthcoming Championship.

He has been weighing up the players available to him during training and in the National League campaign - and defender O'Connor believes he will certainly get the best out of them.

She admitted: "I have been hugely impressed with John so far - and I think the same goes for all of the rest of the players."

"He has introduced some fresh ideas and added new players, too and he quickly won the respect of the squad because of what he has achieved in hurling."

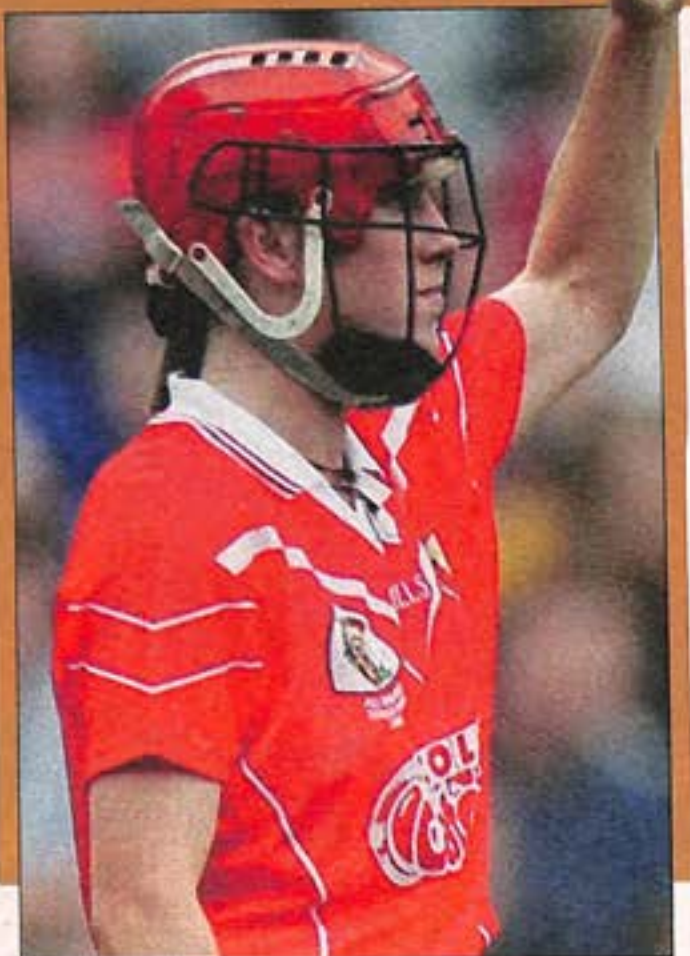
"All in all, we are very upbeat about our chances for the Championship and even though last year is now well in the past, hopefully we can learn from what went wrong."

FOR example, perhaps we peaked too early in the Championship and, as a result, we didn't really do ourselves justice against Tipperary.

"It was hugely disappointing because we were the reigning champions going into last year's Championship and we were anxious to hold on to the title."

O'Connor is caught up in a hectic schedule because, apart from playing camogie with Cork, she also lines out for the county football side as a forward.

And with Cork tipped to



FIST CLASS... Cork's Mary O'Connor backs Considine

challenge strongly for games. There have been clashes with fixtures before but I just deal with them as best as possible.

"I have to say the respective managements I play under are very understanding - which is a big help for me."

NEW YORK is ready to welcome 30 of the top ladies footballers for the first-ever Allstars trip.

The players will join the Ladies Gaelic Football Association's top brass and coaches for a week-long stay in the Big Apple - the highlight of which will be a special exhibition game.



CONSIDINE... busy

Fashion show for the ladies' football team

THE CORK ladies' football team, in conjunction with the Marie Keating Foundation, are holding a fashion show to raise funds for both the football team and the foundation for cancer awareness.

The action takes place on April 23 at 8pm at the Mallow Park Hotel in Kildorrery. MC on the night will be Claire Cullinane (as seen on *Off The Rails* on RTE).

Models on the night will be professional models from the Illusive Model Agency, intercounty GAA stars and local models.

There is a cheese and wine reception on arrival. On the day itself the Marie Keating foundation will have their cancer information and awareness unit outside the hotel from 11am to 3pm and everyone is encouraged to avail of this. Tickets at €15 are available from the Mallow Park Hotel, May Cotters, Contempo or any club member. Despite the general belief that camogie and ladies' football are in direct competition, this is not the case.

Camogie has been on the go now for 100 years and boasts 130,000 members nationwide. The association has taken great strides in recent years to bring the game to a higher level, taking on a more professional approach in particular to the administrative side of the game.

This move with the times was a long time coming with many afraid of change. But I think the realisation finally dawned, particularly with live television coverage of the All-Ireland final, that if the association didn't move forward they would be left behind.

The one fear I have and I have said it before is that Cork and Tipperary are too far ahead of the rest.

Of course shocks happen all the time but realistically Cork and Tipp will dominate the next three or four years.

Not good at all for our game or any game for that matter.

Promotion at underage level continues to be the only solution, but the only counties really pushing this are the counties who are strong already. The Association need to address this, and quickly. More full-time camogie coaches are needed; development officers are needed in the likes of Clare, Wexford, Limerick, Galway, and other counties. How this is funded is another day. Ladies' Football has been in existence for 30 years and boasts 90,000 members in 32 counties, and is growing. They are certainly ahead of camogie when it comes to development and promotion and will soon surpass them in terms of members.

Football, whether it's men or women participating, is played in 32 counties. Hurling and camogie is not. Okay the odd club may play a hurling game or two but the county is generally a footballing county.

These counties play hurling and camogie at some level but they are recognised footballing counties, just as Kilkenny is a hurling one.

Football is an easy sport to take



Linda Mellerick

up for many reasons.

If you teach in a school which has no outdoor activity and you want to introduce it the chances are you'll choose an easy and cheap option. You can immediately get involved in a football game and have fun; not so hurling because unless you master the skill it can be extremely frustrating to play.

Football is also a lot cheaper to take up. Get a ball and off you go. With underage hurling, it's the hurley, the helmet, the shin pads, etc. There is also the fear attached. Many young girls and indeed boys if they get a wallop in the early stages will walk away before the game has had time to take a grip on them.

The dual player issue has come up for debate numerous times. From a single-code player's point of view, I don't agree with it.

I love most sports and when it comes to Cork, I will support all fellow Corkonians in their endeavours no matter what their chosen field is.

My reason for not agreeing with the dual player is this. I played senior camogie with Cork for 18 seasons and I can honestly say that during that time, both mentally and physically, I couldn't have given more than I did.

I training extremely hard and prepared myself to the best of my ability. I expected my team-mates to do the same. That meant train when we were training and rest when we were resting. After a grueling training session the reason players are given a day off in between is so that they can recharge, give their bodies and minds a break and then come back the following day and do it all again refreshed and enthusiastic.

What I witnessed over the years were dual players trying to squeeze in training with their football team, play challenge and championship football matches and then come back to intercounty camogie a shadow of the player they could be.

To me that meant they were letting me and the rest of the team down. We needed them to be at their best. All the sacrifices we were making, they were throwing away. Rightly or wrongly I thought it selfish. The risk of injury increases, the hunger can't be maintained and overall their performance drops.

I'm saying this from a camogie player's point of view but I'm quite sure that the footballers feel the same when their players return to them after camogie commitments. But what can you do? You can't make the player choose. You still want them. Many eventually realise that they can't maintain the dual status and drop one.

That doesn't mean I don't support ladies' football. I most certainly do. I'll be at the Kildorrery fashion show next Friday lending my support to the club.

Carrig ladies look the part on the field

By HOWARD CROWDY

Carrigaline camogie

The Carrigaline Senior B Camogie panel were the beneficiaries of a sponsorship deal from Tim Keane of Michel the Jewellers, Cork, in the form of new kit bags and polo shirts for the team at a reception and presentation which was held in the meeting room of Carrigaline GAA Club recently.

Carrigaline's fortunes in the Cork camogie scene have been particularly good of late, having qualified for the senior grade in the past couple of years, with up-and-coming players even being watched by county selectors.

Tim Keane said that he was delighted to be associated with the Carrigaline club, and wished the senior B team well in the future league and championship campaigns. Present at the presentation were team officials Tom Kiely, Angela Egan, Kay Murphy and Jackie O'Connor with club Chairman Philip O'Doherty, team members and captain Caroline O'Keeffe who accepted the gear on behalf of her team.

The team wore their new casual wear at the Pua-Celtic tournament in Tralee, involving teams from right across the country, and despite not coming home with the trophy, certainly looked smart in their new casual gear.

Another win for Iniscarra

Cork Co. Camogie.

Inniscarra	1-8
Carrigaline	1-4

INNISCARRA continued their winning run in the senior camogie league in Ballynaly last Saturday against Carrigaline.

Inniscarra had the better of the early exchanges and by the 20th min had five points on the board without reply. Carrigaline turned the game over making better use of their chances were in for 1-1 within two minutes and cutting the deficit to the minimum.

Inniscarra regained their composure when Irene O'Keeffe's goal and a Marie O'Connell point gave them a half time lead of 1-6 to 1-2.

The second half was yielded two points for both teams, with Inniscarra's last score a spectacular point came from the impressive Ger Casey.

APRIL

2004

Having fun now the Lá of the land

IF you are out at a GAA pitch this weekend, don't be surprised to see a nun belting a sliotar for all it's worth, or a little old witch cutting a dash as she booms down the sideline being chased by Cinderella.

For the Lá na gClub event, which started last Saturday, continues apace as the centenary year celebrations for the Camogie Association have finally got underway.

And it's a case of the stranger the better as clubs from all over the country battle it out for a prize fund of €3,000, which has been put up by AIB.

Every club was asked to allocate one day to organise special events and games, with the most imaginative plans being shortlisted for a top prize.

The winners will be announced in Croke Park on All-Ireland final day, September 19.

Effort

"Some clubs have come up with marvellous ideas and it is great to see the effort and thought that has been put into it," said Camogie Association official Maire Ni Seolai.

"The aim of this club day was to take it straight back down to grassroots level, because clubs are everything in the Association."

In Dublin, the Round Towers Clondalkin club hosted a successful Lá na gClub event last weekend, with over 70 people participating throughout the day.

There were novelty mixed matches, a poc fada event, a fancy dress competition and a disco. "It was such a success that the kids have been on at us to do it again already. Everybody really enjoyed themselves and it was great craic," said club senior player Valerie Kelly.

Meanwhile, two National Camogie League games take place this weekend, while the Dublin senior and junior teams

Cian Murphy reports

travel to Derry to face their Oak Leaf counterparts.

Dublin are currently unbeaten in Division One, and under new manager Peter Lucey appear to be a side heading in the right direction.

They have already accounted for 2003 All-Ireland intermediate champions Antrim and a strong Wexford side.

The Dubs have decided to play in the All-Ireland Junior Championship this year, and if they continue their recent form then they will be among the favourites for this year's title.

THERE will be plenty of camogie played in Tralee today, as the Feile Pan Cheilteach concludes in Austin Stack Park.

The competition is a cultural celebration of the Celtic nations, which includes dance, song and camogie.

By the time of today's final, a total of 40 nationwide camogie clubs will have taken part.

FANCY SKILLS: Niamh Drummond at the Round Towers party



Muskerry camogie news

MUSKERRY 3-6 CARRIGDHOUN 2-7
THE first final of the Cork under-21 camogie blitz took place in St Vincent's pitch on Friday evening. The game was a joy to watch with both sides giving it their all. In the first half Aoife Murray in goal brought off some great saves which really was the winning of the game for Muskerry. Muskerry backline which consisted of Joan Twomey, Joanne and Orla O'Callaghan and Cathriona Foley were outstanding. The second half brought a change when Emer Dillion who played her heart out for Carrigdhoun, assisted by Mairead Holland gained most of the possession at centre field. Cathriona Kelly also picked off some lovely scores. Up front Muskerry still had the edge with Sheila Burns and Margaret McCarthy outstanding. But despite all Carrigdhoun efforts the Muskerry backs stood firm and Muskerry carried the day.

SCORERS — MUSKERRY: M Buckley 1-0, S Burns 1-2, M McCarthy 1-1, R Buckley 0-2, L Dorgan 0-1.
CARRIGDHOUN: C Kelly 1-6, E Dillion 1-1.

UNDER-14 LEAGUE: CLOUGHDUV 5-2 BLARNEY 3-2
SATURDAY was another day for camogie with the meeting of Blarney and Cloughduv in the under-14 league. Both sides fought hard for the winning of this game as both sides swapped scores in the first half. In the second half Cloughduv gained the lead with Sarah Pearse completing her hat-trick. Blarney fought back hard but the Cloughduv backline stood firm and denied them on several occasions. Best for Cloughduv were Sarah Pearse, Niamh Carroll, Eva Dunne, Danielle McDonald and Eimear Sullivan. Best for Blarney were Yvonne Hourigan, Leanne Madden, Laura Walshe and Sarah McCoy.

SCORERS — CLOUGHDUV: S Pearse 3-1, A Murray 2-0, N Carroll 0-1.
BLARNEY: L Madden 2-0, L Walshe 1-0, Y Hourigan 0-1.

Carrig are defeated

● **DIVISIONAL GAA:** Despite a gallant effort in the second half, the Carrigdhoun team were defeated by Muskerry in a nail-biting finish to the Inter Divisional Under 21 tournament, the final of which was played at the St Vincent's GAA pitch recently writes HOWARD CROWDY.

The first half proved to be a disaster for the Carrigdhoun girls, who could not settle into the rhythm of play, and at half time, found themselves 3-4 to 0-3 in arrears, with Muskerry dominating in all areas of play.

However, in the second half the Carrigdhoun team slowly but surely came back into the game, and it was only a matter of time to when Carrigdhoun would take the lead, such was their dominance throughout. Goals from Cathriona Kelly from a 20 metre free and a cracking goal from Eimear Dillon brought only a couple of points between the sides at one stage late in the game.

However, Muskerry scored almost at the death to secure the trophy, on a scoreline of 3-6 to 2-7.



Sheila Golden, President Cork County Camogie Board, seen presenting Jenny Vaughan, captain Muskerry, with the U21 Inter Divisional trophy after her side had defeated Carrigdhoun in the Final played at St Vincents GAA pitch recently

CamogieChat

With Mary Newman

Dissappointment for Minors

A DISAPPOINTING week gone by as the county minor side relinquished their provincial and All-Ireland crowns to Clare in Mallow on Wednesday last.

Appalling weather conditions made conditions extremely difficult for both sides as Clare playing with the aid of a gale force wind grabbed three early goals to lead 3-0 to 1-1 at the interval. Cork fought back with a goal but failed to breach the gap against a strong Clare defence who dug deep to hang on to record a historic victory. It's a sign of the upsurge in the game that for the first time in the history of the provincial minor championship neither Cork nor Tipperary will contest the final.

After the game coach John Cronin announced his retirement from minor activities, John has had a wonderful record coaching the side to three provincial and All Ireland titles in a row and indeed brought five titles in six years, a host of the players have gone on to grace the senior inter county arena and all will readily acknowledge John Cronin's involvement in their success story. However John had no sooner announced his retirement than the intermediate selectors stepped in and secured his services for their side. Tributes must be paid to John's fellow selectors Ann Watson and John Quinn who have been part of a superb selection committee.

On Monday night last clubs learned their fate when the championship draws took place.

Briefly we will take a look at your clubs fate:

IN the senior championship Bishopstown face a tough opener when they will face divisional side Carrigdhoun, and it's Barryroe versus another divisional side Muskerry.

Glen Rovers have a tough draw facing last years defeated county finalists Inniscarra, county champions Fr O'Neills will be expected to advance against Avondhu, while county finalists in 2002 Cloughduv and St Finbarrs will again renew rivalry in what will be one of the glamour clashes of the championship.

Courcy Rovers are reported to be going well in the league to date and they have a championship date with Carbery a division they are familiar with.

The winners of the preliminary round game between Bishopstown and Carrigdhoun face another tough test against the students from U.C.C. who backboned by a host of inter county stars will be one of the favourites.

It will be an all divisional clash between Seandun and Imokilly, while last year senior B champions newly promoted Kilbrittan/Timoleague are drawn against the 'B' champions of 2002 Milford.

The senior 'B' draws are as follows:

BALLINHASSIG versus Eire Og, Aghbullogue meet the junior county champions of 2003 St Catherine's, Newtownshandrum take on Ballygarvan while Carrigaline and Newcestown will meet in a repeat of last years clash.

In junior 'A' there were just six teams Douglas meet Watergrasshill with the winners meeting Killeagh in the semi final, newly promoted junior 'B' champions from 2003 Rockban meet Sarsfields with the winners meeting Valley Rovers in the second semi final.

The junior 'B' pairings are:

ST. FANAHAN'S v Youghal, Clonakilty v Ballinora, Kildorrey v Brian Dillon's, Sliabh Rua v Tracton, Na Piarasigh v Dungourney, Kilshannig v Ballincollig, Ballyhea v Delaney's, Buttrvant v Blackrock.

Dates will be fixed at the county board meeting on Tuesday, May 3.

The weekend ahead has the inter-divisional Centenary under 21 final down for decision on Friday night with Carrigdhoun taking on Muskerry.

The Mid-Cork division were successful in their objection against the Avondhu team that had qualified for the final and as a result they will now contest the decider at a venue to be announced.

Cork travel to Kilkenny on Sunday for junior and senior national league games.

For the juniors it very much a chance of a good game before championship as Offaly have already qualified from their section. The seniors are through to the semi finals but it's a game that the selectors will no doubt use to again continue their quest to unearth new talent against a Kilkenny side who have been going well in the league and Leinster competitions to date.



Muskerry (left) and Carrigdhoun (right) who who competed the U21 Inter Divisional camogie tournament final which was played at St Vincents GAA grounds recently

Pictures: Howard Crowdy

UCC have the best team, but only on paper

THE eagerly-awaited Cork County Senior Championship draws were held last Monday night with a couple of mouth-watering ties in prospect.

The most exciting first round clash has to be the meeting of Cloughdun and St Finbarr's.

County champions in 2001 and 2002, Cloughdun suffered a setback last year when beaten by UCC at the first round stage and certainly won't want a repeat this time.

Last year, many felt however that Cloughdun may have had their day and that 2003 would not see them hailed champions for the third year in a row.

While retaining many of the same team, the hunger seemed to have gone from the mid-Cork side and the threat they had posed in previous years was not so evident. The predictions proved to be correct.

Much talk was made of St Finbarr's too last year.

They had a magnificent victory over a star-studded UCC outfit and after that, more or less, had their name on the cup.

But Inniscarra had other ideas and in what was probably the shock defeat of the season the Barrs lost out to the Ovens side in the semi-final.

The luck of the draw has a lot to do with success especially in camogie circles where we have no back door.

Teams get fitter and better as the championship progresses.

Lady Luck shone on Fr O'Neill's last year as they seemed to get the better side of the draw.

You still have to go out and win the matches of course but with Cloughdun, UCC and St Finbarr's all knocking each other out and Inniscarra taking the final scalp, the path was open for O'Neill's to win their first senior championship title and there wasn't a single person in the county who begrudged them their success.

They seem to have avoided the 'big guns' again this year. However, being champions brings its own pressure.

They are there to be knocked now and many teams will give it everything to be the ones to do it.

Milford will be O'Neill's biggest threat in reaching the final.

While many talk about St Finbarr's rising to the top, I feel Milford are the dark horses and believe that if they can win one title, they will be in there for many more.

On paper UCC should win the county championship. They are a star-studded side containing many intercounty players from top camogie counties such as Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Galway.

The only obstacle in their way is the demands on the players as they try to juggle their own club commitments within their respective counties, their intercounty commitments and college commitments.

Of course, with many of them heading home for the summer the chances of them even attending a squad training session are slim.

There were doubts last year up to



the last minute that the college would be able to field a team at all as individual clubs began to pull their players ahead of their own county championships.

Then there's that thing called 'heart'. There is no way these players would literally 'die' on the field to win a county title in the same way that a person having grown up with their team-mates and club would do.

So maybe that's where the College threat will stay — on paper.

Time will tell but it makes for an exciting summer. Sunday next sees both the senior and junior teams head to Kilkenny where they will play the Cats in the final game of their respective rounds.

The juniors take to the Thomas-town field at 1pm with the result irrelevant as Offaly have their total amount of games played and finished on full points. Only one team progresses.

Cork still travel with a full squad taking the game seriously ahead of their first round championship clash with Clare next weekend.

I actually find this hard to believe, that the championship is commencing while the National League is still in progress.

Had Cork forced a playoff with Offaly they would have been expected to fulfil this fixture either the day before or the day after next weekend's Championship encounter. Ludicrous.

Throw-in for the senior game is 2.30pm.

Cork are already on full points going into their final game and are the team to advance to the knockout stages regardless of Sunday's result.

They will be very happy with this considering the fact that throughout the campaign Coach John Considine and his management team have given many newcomers the chance to stake a place for the championship and still came out on top in all games.

The reward is at least one or maybe two extra games against hopefully better opposition before the major competition commences.

Senior Championship Draw
(Dates to be finalised)

Bishopstown V Carrighdoun Barryroe V Muskerry Inniscarra V Glen Rovers Avondhu V Fr O Neills Cloughdun V St Finbarrs Courcy Rovers V Carbery UCC V Bishopstown or Carrighdoun Seandun V Imokilly Kilbrittan V Milford.

Quarter-finals

1. Kilbrittan or Milford V Barryroe or Muskerry 2. Seandun or Imokilly V Courcy Rovers or Carbery 3. Avondhu or Fr O Neills V Inniscarra or Glen Rovers 4. UCC/B'Town or Carrighdoun V Cloughdun or St. Finbarrs.

CORK had no problems in casting aside the challenge of Kilkenny in their National Senior League tie played in Clara yesterday.

The game was completely one-sided as Cork ran out comprehensive winners on a scoreline of 5-17 to 2-8.

Four goals came from youngster Emer Watson and with seven players in total contributing to Cork's scoring the rebel side were in full flight from the throw-in.

Cork emerge from their group on full points and now face Dublin in the league

Scorers for Cork: E Watson 4-0, C Healy 1-1, R Moloney 0-6 (0-1), E Dillon and E Burke 0-4 each, J O'Leary 0-2, S Burns 0-1.

Kilkenny: C Doherty 2-0, A Neary 0-5 (0-3), 0-1 '45, B Mulally 0-1, E Maher and L Lyng 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray, J O'Callaghan, S Dunlea, R Holland, P O'Connor, C Foley, G O'Connor, V Harris, E Burke, R Moloney, E Dillon, E Watson, S Burns, J O'Leary, C Healy.

KILKENNY: C Ryan, E Lyng, M Gos-

semi-final on May 8. Tipperary and Kilkenny battle it out in a playoff situation next weekend to decide who will advance to meet Wexford in the other semi.

Both sides met and drew earlier in the league but with that bit more training under their belt Tipperary will be expected to take the points this time around.

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KILKENNY: C Ryan, E Lyng, M Gos-

PLAY-OFF NEEDED:

Kilkenny and Tipperary face a play-off for the remaining semi-final spot in Division 1 of the National Camogie League. Both teams ended on equal points after yesterday's final round games. Cork, Dublin and

Wexford are already through to the penultimate stages on May 9.

The Cats, who needed to win at home in Clara, fell heavily to an in-form Rebel side, 5-17 to 2-8. The Black and Amber were rocked by four goals from St Mary's student Emer Watson while Ciara Healy hit 1-1.

Catherine Doherty was the Kilkenny goal scorer. They now have to meet a Tipperary side that kept their hopes alive with a hard-earned 1-10 to 0-7 win over Galway at Duggan Park, Ballinasloe. Leading 1-4 to 0-6 at the break, they were thankful to a bright start from Emily Hayden that yielded 1-1. Claire Grogan finished the game with six points.

APRIL

2004

CAMOGIE

National League Division 1: Cork 5-17 (E Watson 4-0, C Healy 1-1, R Moloney 0-6, E Dillon, E Burke 0-4 each, J O'Leary 0-2, S Burns 0-1) Kilkenny 2-8 (C Doherty 2-0, A Neary 0-5, B Mulally 0-1, E Maher, L Lyng 0-1 each)

Tipperary 1-10 (S Hayden 1-1, C Grogan 0-6, E Mc Donnell 0-2, N Kennedy 0-1) **Galway 0-7** (A Hilary 0-4, AM Hayes 0-2, B Hanney 0-1)

Division 2: Dublin 0-11 (C Lucey 0-4, G Mc Cluskey 0-3, J McCluskey 0-2, M Reid, E Brannigan 0-1 each) **Clare 1-7** (E Gallyery 1-0, D Murphy 0-3, C O'Loughlin, M O'Halloran 0-2 each)

Galway 0-8 (K Ryan 3-2, S Dervan 2-0, S Keane 1-2, S Murphy, C Glynn 0-2 each) **Tipperary 4-8** (M Harkin 1-5, D Ryan 1-2, F Loughane, C Ryan 1-0 each, K Kennedy 0-1)

Cork 1-11 (E O'Farrell 1-1, V O'Keefe 0-4, R Corcoran 0-3, M Deasy 0-2, M Jago 0-1) **Kilkenny 1-9** (T Muldowney 1-4, D Delaney, L Murphy 0-2 each, E Fitzpatrick 0-1)

Cork Centenary Inter-Divisional U21 tournament: Muskerry 3-6 Carrighdoun 2-7; **Senior League:** Eire Og 2-7 St Catherine's 1-7; **U16 League:** Courcy Rovers 6-4 Blackrock 2-1; Eire Og 3-6 Valley Rovers 1-3; Eire Og 4-7 Courcy Rovers 2-1; Mallow 3-3 Ballyhen 0-2; St Catherine's 4-9 Ballinacorney 4-7; St Catherine's 6-15 Inniscarra 0-1; Ballinacorney 5-5 Courcy Rovers 1-3; Eire Og 5-4 Clonakilty 1-2; Ballinacorney 2-9 Clonakilty 3-2; Clonakilty 5-4 Ballinacorney 0-4; Dungourney 9-12 Watergrasshill 1-2; **U14 League 12-a-side:** Cloughdun 5-2 Blarney 3-2.

Under 16s take on neighbours for first provincial crown

by SEAMUS HAYES

CLARE camogie is most definitely on the up, and history is in the making this May Bank Holiday weekend as Clare's under 16 team compete in their first ever Munster A final.

The match will take place in Charleville at 3 pm on this Saturday against Limerick and it is hoped that they will be well supported on the day.

To reach the final, Clare beat Cork who were firm favourites to win the competition outright, as they have done for the past six years. Clare travelled to Mallow and in very poor weather conditions took the lead with goals in the first half from Danielle Sheedy, Marie Raftery and Fiona Lafferty. They led at half-time on a

scoreline of 3-0 to 1-1.

Cork only managed 1-1 in the second half and great credit must go to the Clare girls as Cork were aided by a strong breeze. Despite failing to score in the second half Clare won out on a scoreline of 3-0 to 2-2.

Clare now meet Limerick and, as with all games between neighbours, this will no doubt be a very competitive game. Limerick will provide strong opposition and will have to be favourites going into this game, having beaten Clare earlier this year in a challenge game.

However, Clare with seven girls from the newly crowned All-Ireland schools' champions, Scariff Community College, on the panel will be well up for the challenge.

A strong performance from Amy McInerney (capt.), Ellen Solan, Lisa Fahy and Fiona Lafferty will be needed

if Clare are to progress to an All-Ireland semi-final.

Regardless of the outcome of this game this panel of girls will enter the history books of Clare camogie as the first ever team to contest the Munster A final. This, in itself, is a huge achievement and another step up for Clare camogie.

The panel comprises: Susan Vaughan, Amy McInerney, Iris Kaiser, Asling Garry, Ellen Solan, Ciara O'Leary, Jennifer Maloney, Louise Hayes, Marian O'Brien, Lisa Fahy, Eireann Hennessy, Asling Treacy, Danielle Sheedy, Fiona Lafferty, Marie Raftery, Enid O'Loughlin, Sinead O'Loughlin, Sharon Ryane, Ann Marie Fitzgerald, Lorraine Lynch, Siobhan Lee, Muireann Kelleher, Roisin Kennedy, Caitriona Power, Stephanie Taaffe, Mimi Flynn, Stephanie Regan, Avril O'Dea.

Cork sides too strong for Kilkenny

Cork 5-17
Kilkenny 2-8

CORK had no problems in casting aside the challenge of Kilkenny in their National Senior League tie played in Clara yesterday.

The game was completely one-sided as Cork ran out comprehensive winners on a scoreline of 5-17 to 2-8.

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KILKENNY: C Ryan, E Lyng, M Gos-

By LINDA MELLERICK

National Camogie Leagues

sello, B Brennan, C Delaney, B Mulally, U Walton, E Alyward, K Kinahan, A Neary, L Lyng, E Maher, E Dermody, M O'Connor, J Frisby.

Cork 1-11
Kilkenny 1-9

Cork ran out winners by two points in the National Junior League yesterday when they played Kilkenny in their final league outing for 2004.

The final scoreline was irrelevant for the Cork girls as their only defeat in the league campaign against Offaly a few weeks ago meant that they would not qualify regardless

of yesterday's result.

A win however would give the squad a major morale boost ahead of their Munster Championship clash with Clare next weekend.

Because of this Cork took the game seriously and went all out for victory. Dominating play Cork went in at the break two points ahead, 1-5 to 0-6 but really the margin should have been wider as several missed chances from Cork kept the Cats in contention.

Cork led by four points entering the final six minutes of the game when Kilkenny snatched a Teresa Muldowney goal which increased their urgency as they went all out to steal a draw. Cork, however,

upped the level again and tapped on a further point to ensure that they go into next week's championship game on the back of two important wins.

Scorers for Cork: V O'Keefe 0-4 (0-1), 0-1 '45, E O'Farrell 1-1, R Corcoran 0-3, M Deasy 0-2, M Jago 0-1.

Kilkenny: T Muldowney 1-4, D Delaney and L Murphy 0-2 each, E Fitzpatrick 0-1.

CORK: E Clifford, A Corcoran, N Goulding, E O'Riordan, E Foley, M Hegarty, M O'Connell, A Geary, V O'Keefe, V O'Sullivan, S O'Donovan, G Collins, E O'Farrell, R Corcoran, M Deasy. **Subs:** M Coleman for G Collins, A O'Regan for E Foley, M Jago for E O'Farrell, M Buckley for R Corcoran (inj).

KILKENNY: B Alyward, A Treacy, L Comerford, C Alyward, D Minogue, G Brennan, A Fahy, J Woodcock, P Heffernan, T Muldowney, B Murphy, D Delaney, E Fitzpatrick, M O'Keefe, L Murphy.

Cluichí Ceannais na n-Iarbhunscoileanna sa Chamógaíocht



Móinteach Míl
24 Aibreán 2004
Sóisear B: 1.30 p.m.
Sóisear A: 3.15 p.m.

Ar Máiread Ní Fhearáin

Luach: € 1

Rúnaí

APRIL 2004

FOCAL ÓN UACHTARÁN

Is breá ar fad liom é fíor-chaoi fáilte a chur roimh chách chuig Cluichí Ceannais na gColáistí sa Chamógaíocht. Táim cinnte de go mbainfidh sibh taithneamh as imeachtaí an lae inniu. Imreoirí den chéad scoth a bheidh ar an bpáirc, agus táimid ag trúth le sár-chluichí idir Scariff Community College agus Castlecomer Community School agus idir Choláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy agus Presentation Secondary School, Athenry.

I am pleased to welcome you all to our Junior Finals' day. In particular, I greet the players who are the stars of today's programme. I hope that you will all perform to the pinnacle of your ability. I welcome also families and school friends who have travelled to support.

I welcome newcomers, Castlecomer. Great progress has been made in promoting Camogie in the school. On semi-final form, they are ready to make a hold bid for the All-Ireland title.

Fáilte speisialta to Scariff Community College on their first visit to All-Ireland Colleges championship day. They have already made a bid for an All-Ireland title when they were runners-up in the Seven-aside competition a few years ago.

Presentation, Athenry are no strangers to All-Ireland Colleges finals, having already won the Junior in 1974, 1976 and 1977, the Senior in 1974, 1975 and 1978 and been Senior runners-up in 1973, 1976, 1977 and 2003. Today, they will be trying to keep up their tradition of not being runners-up in the Junior Championship!

I pay tribute to the coaches who have worked so hard to bring today's finalists to such a high level. They have given unselfishly of their time to organise and prepare their panels.

I thank those who foster Camogie at colleges levels. Ba mbaith liom buíochas a ghabhail leis na hoifigigh, na réiteoirí, na múinteoirí agus le gach duine ar son a gcabhrach.

Guím gach rath ar na himreoirí uile atá ar pháirc na himeartha inniu agus oraibh go léir.

Máire Ní Mhóráin
Uachtarán

CLÁR AN LAE

SÓISEAR B

1.30 p.m.

POBALSCOIL CHAISLEÁN AN CHOMAIR

Castlecomer Community School

V

COLÁISTE PHOBAL NA SCAIRBHE

Scariff Community College

Réiteoir: BRÍD MHIC CIONAOITH

SÓISEAR A

3.15 p.m.

MEÁNSCOIL NA TOIRBIRTE, BAILE ÁTHA AN RÍ

Presentation Secondary School, Athenry

V

COLÁISTE BRÍDE, INIS CORTHAIDH

Enniscorthy

Réiteoir: LIAM MAC DAIBHÉID

TODAY'S FINALISTS

COLÁISTE BRÍDE, ENNISCORTHY

Coláiste Bríde is an all girls Catholic Secondary School situated on the slopes of historic Vinegar Hill in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. It was established as a secondary top in 1935 but had to wait until 1970 to attain full secondary school status. The school has 23 feeder primary schools in its catchment area, an enrolment of 719 students and a staff of 55 teachers. All sports are played by the girls with major successes in basketball, tennis, athletics, cross-country, equestrian sports and of course gaelic games - football and camogie - over the years.

We wish to thank all our supporters and sponsors and especially the Riverside Park Hotel for their ongoing support of our teams.

CASTLECOMER CAMOGIE

Camogie was established in Presentation Convent Castlecomer and involvement continued when the Community School was established in 1987. There had been provincial successes-both at Minor and Senior B in the 1970's and 1980's.

A county colleges title was secured in 1988/89, a Leinster Senior B in 1995. Leinster minor in 2000; defeated junior C finalists in 2000, success came in 2001 at this level and also Senior C.

Apart from competitive successes, C.C.S. has maintained continuity in the playing of camogie in the parishes of North East Kilkenny. Currently its students play with the St. Martin's club mainly, but some are also involved with Lisdowney, Freshford and Castlecomer.

PRESENTATION COLLEGE, ATHENRY

Presentation College, Athenry is a mixed school of almost 570 pupils. There is a long history of camogie in the College, going back to the late 1960's. The school's glory days in this respect must surely belong to the teams of the mid-seventies when three Junior 'A' titles were brought back to Athenry, in 1974, '76 and '77. Two Senior 'A' titles were also won during these years. The Connacht Senior 'B' title was won in 1986, 1987, 1998 and 2003. The Connacht 1st Year 'A' title was won in 2003 and provides for the majority of today's team. Presentation College, Bandon were worthy opposition for the semi-final but Presentation Athenry were victors on the day. Many of our past and present students have played for Galway with distinction.

Many thanks to Caroline Carr and Eoin McGillicuddy for their dedication and encouragement. Thanks too to the school for all its support and to local clubs on whose successes the team builds.

SCARIFF COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Scariff Community College is a co-educational school nestling by the shores of Lough Derg in East Clare.

The organisation and practice of Gaelic Games has always been endemic in the culture of the college and college girls have always been treated equally in this respect.

Camogie has been played since the 1970's but today is the first time at this level of a Camogie Competition. In the 1990's the college girls contested the Munster Senior A Final twice but had to settle for second place.

Today as the Junior Camogie girls hit the ground running they will carry vast memories of bygone days with them of and many past pupils who proceeded to leave their mark on the camogie fields everywhere. Let everyone enjoy the occasion.

APRIL

2004

JUNIOR A

COLÁISTE BRÍDE, INISCORTHAIDH

Enniscorthy

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| | 1
Vikki Murphy
Vicci Ní Mhurchú | |
| 2
Sara Nolan
Sara Ní Nualláin | 3
Johanna Breen
Siobhán Ní Bhraoin | 4
Kerri Dunne
Kerri Ní Dhuinn |
| 5
Louise O'Leary
Labhaoise Ní Laoire | 6
Siobhan Cullen
Siobhán Ní Chuilín | 7
Lorraine O'Connor
Lorraine Ní Chonchúir |
| | 8
Siona Nolan
Siona Ní Nualláin | 9
Stacey Redmond
Stacey Nic Réamonn |
| 10
Ciara Storey
Ciara Ní Storai | 11
Una Leacey (Capt)
Una Ní Laitheasa | 12
Yvonne Walsh
Ailbheann Bhreathnach |
| 13
Meave Freyne
Méadhbh de Fréine | 14
Aine Devereux
Áine Ní Dheabhús | 15
Ciara Garaghy
Ciara Ní Fhearaigh |
| 16
Katie Murphy | Caitríona Ní Mhurchú | |
| 17
Tracey Breen | Treasa Ní Bhraoin | |
| 18
Louise Hore | Labhaoise de Hóra | |
| 19
Jenny Fenlon | Sinéad Ní Fhionnaláin | |
| 20
Sandra Carr | Sandra Ní Cheara | |
| 21
Emma O'Connor | Emma Ní Chonchúir | |
| 22
Kelly O'Connor | Kellie Ní Chonchúir | |
| 23
Marguerite Casey | Máiréad Ní Chathasaigh | |

JUNIOR A

MEÁNSCOIL NA TOIRBIRTE

Baile Átha an Rí

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| | 1
Madelene Nic Dhonnacha
Madelene McDonagh | |
| 2
Rachel Kelly
Rachel Ní Cheallaigh | 3
Mary Ward
Máire Nic an Bhaird | 4
Marie Caroll
Máire Ní Chearbhaill |
| 5
Rachel Waidron
Rachel de Bhaldrathie | 6
Jessica Gill
Jessica Ní Ghioll | 7
Ciara Kennedy
Ciara Ní Chinnéide |
| | 8
Darina Ryan
Dairíne Ní Riain | 9
Louise Callanan
Louise Ní Challanáin |
| 10
Maeve Carr
Méadhbh Ní Cheara | 11
Noreen Coen
Nóirín Ní Chadhain | 12
Laura Loughnane
Laura Ní Lachtnáin |
| 13
Laura Walsh
Laura Bhreathnach | 14
Stephanie O'Dwyer
Stephanie Ní Dhuibhir | 15
Jacqueline Green
Jacqueline Ní Uaithne |
| 16
Rachel Kennedy | Rachel Ní Chinnéide | |
| 17
Alison Healy | Alison Ní Éalaí | |
| 18
Kayla Hallissey | Kayla Ní Aileasa | |
| 19
Katie O'Dwyer | Cáit Ní Dhuibhir | |
| 20
Aishling Melia | Aisling Ní Mháille | |
| 21
Deirdre Fahy | Deirdre Ní Fhathaigh | |
| 22
Deirdre Ryan | Deirdre Ní Riain | |
| 23
Audrey Slevin | Audrey Ní Shléibhín | |
| 24
Rebecca Dillon | Rebecca Ní Dhiolúin | |

Pen Pictures: ENNISCORTHY

- SÍONA NOLAN** Siona Ní Nualláin (Club: Monaghan - Bookavogue) Age: 16. Honours: All Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie Medal 2003, Leinster Junior 'A' Medals, County U16 Medal and Leinster U14.
- SIÓBHÁN CULLEN** Siobhán Ní Chuilín (Club: Oulart - The Ballagh) Age: 15. Honours: Senior County Championship Medal 2003, Junior County Championship Winner 2003, 3 All Ireland Féile na nGael medals.
- UNA LEACY** Una Ní Laitheasa (Club: Oulart - The Ballagh) Age: 15. Honours: All Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie Medal 2003, All Ireland Junior 'A' Camogie Medal 2002, Leinster Junior Colleges Football Medal 2003, Senior County Championship Medal 2003, She has also won numerous underage medals for both her county and club.
- CIARA STOREY** Ciara Ní Storai (Club: Oulart - The Ballagh) Age: 14. Honours: All Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie Medal 2003, All Ireland Club Medals U14, U16, U18, Junior and Senior County Medals 2003.
- ÁINE DEVEREUX** Áine Ní Dheabhús (Club: Oulart - The Ballagh) Age: 16. Honours: Wexford Senior County Medal 2003, U14 & U16 County Leinster Titles, All Ireland Féile na nGael U14. Numerous underage medals for county and club titles.
- STACEY REDMOND** Stacey Nic Réamonn (Club: Oulart-The Ballagh) Age: 15. Honours: 4 Féile na nGael Medals, Senior County Medal 2003, Senior Schools All Ireland 'A' Camogie Medal 2003, numerous underage medals for both county and club.
- KATIE MURPHY** Caitríona Ní Mhurchú (Club: Rathnure) Junior County League Medal 2003, U14 Leinster Medal with county, 2 Leinster Schools Medals Camogie 2004, Football 2003, 2 all Ireland Community Games Medals.
- KELLY O'CONNOR** Kellie Ní Chonchúir (Club: Rathnure) Age: 15. Honours: 2 Leinster School Junior Titles, U14 Leinster County Medal, 2 All Ireland Community Games Medals.
- SANDRA CARR** Sandra Ní Charna (Club: Rathnure) Age: 15. Honours: Leinster County Medal 2003, 2 All-Ireland Community Games Medals, Junior 'A' Leinster Camogie Medal 2004.
- EMMA O'CONNOR** Emma Ní Chonchúir (Club: Rathnure) Age: 14. Honours: 2 All Ireland Community Games camogie Medals, Junior County Final Medal 2003, Numerous underage Medals at both club and county level.
- MARGUERITE CASEY** Máiréad Ní Cathasaigh (Club: Rapparees) Age: 15. Honours: Minor Leinster Medal 2003, Rackard League Medals with club.
- SARA NOLAN** Sara Ní Nulán (Club: Rapparees) Age: 16. Honours: County U14 Medal 2002, Leinster U14 medal 2002, Junior Leinster Medals for both camogie and football.
- JOHANNA BREEN** Siobhán Ní Bhraoin (Club: Monaghan-Bookavogue) Age: 15. Honours: Junior Leinster Schools Football Medal 2003, Numerous underage medals at both county and club level, Senior 'A' School's Camogie All Ireland Medal 2003.
- KERRY DUNNE** Kerrie Ní Dhoimín (Club: Oulart-The Ballagh) Age: 16. Honours: 4 All Ireland Féile na nGael Titles, Junior County Championship Medal 2003, U14 Leinster Medal with County 2002.
- LORRAINE O'CONNOR** Lorraine Ní Chonchúir (Club: Oylegate-Glenbrien) Age: 14. Honours: All Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie Medal 2003, All Ireland Junior 'A' Camogie 2002.
- TRACEY BREEN** Tracy Ní Bhraoin (Club: Rapparees) Age: 15. Honours: All Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie Medal 2003, Leinster Junior 'A' Medal 2004, Leinster Junior Football Medal 2003, U14 titles with club and county.
- MEAVE FRAYNE** Méadhbh de Fréine (Club: Rathnure) Age: 15. Honours: County Junior League Medal 2003, Leinster Junior Schools Football Medals 2003, 2 All Ireland Community Games Medals.
- YVONNE WALSH** Ailbheann Ní Bhreathnach (Club: Monaghan-Bookavogue) Age: 16. Honours: Leinster Junior Football Title 2003, Rackard League Medals, Junior 'B' County Championship Medal.
- CIARA GARAGHY** Ciara Ní Fheargh (Club: Monaghan-Bookavogue) Age: 15. Honours: Community games Medals, Junior Leinster Medal with County in 2002, numerous underage medals.
- VIKKI MURPHY** Vicci Ní Mhurchú (Club: Monaghan-Bookavogue) Age: 15. Honours: Community games Medals, Junior Leinster Medal with County in 2002, numerous underage medals.
- JENNIE FENLON** Jennie Ní Fhionnaláin (Club: Monaghan-Bookavogue) Age: 14. Honours: Community games Medals, Junior Leinster Medal with County in 2002, numerous underage medals.
- LOUISE O'LEARY** Labhaoise Ní Laoire (Club: Rathnure) Age: 15. Honours: Junior County League Medal 2003, U14 Leinster Medal with county, 2 Leinster Schools Medals Camogie 2004, Football 2003, 2 all Ireland Community Games Medals.
- LOUISE HORE** Labhaoise de Hóra (Club: Rapparees) Age: 14. Honours: Minor Leinster Medal 2003, Community Games Medals.

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Pen Pictures: PRESENTATION COLLEGE ATHENRY

- MADELENE McDONAGH** (Athenry) Senior B Connacht Colleges '03, Junior A Connacht Colleges '04, U-13, 16, 18 runners up, U-18 county final '03 and Community Games '02.
- MARIE CARROLL** (Athenry) Connacht Colleges 1st year and Junior, 2 All-Ireland Community Games and 1 Féile.
- MARY WARD** (Athenry) Senior B Colleges '03, U-13, 16, 18 runners up, U-18 county final '03 and Community Games.
- LAURA WALSHE** (Turloughmore) 1st year 9-a-side, U-13, 14, 16 runners up and U-12 county final.
- RACHEL WALDRON** (Athenry) U-18 county final '03, U-13, 14, 16, 18 runners up and Community Games '02.
- JESSICA GILL** (Athenry) U-12, 13, 14, 16 runners up, U-18 and Senior county finals, money, mini 7's in Croke Park, 2 Community Games, Connacht Colleges - Senior B, 1st year and Junior A. Played U-14 for Galway in '01, '02 and was captain in '03. Galway minor '03.
- CIARA KENNEDY** (Kilimordaly) Connacht Colleges Junior A '04 U-12, 13, 14 county final, 1st year 9-a-side and Junior A Connacht Colleges.
- LOUISE CALLANAN** (Clarebridge) Connacht Colleges Junior A '04 U-12 county finalists, U-18 county final and 1st year 9-a-side.
- MEABH CARR** (Athenry) Connacht Colleges - Junior A, 1st year 9-a-sides, 2 All-Ireland Community Games and Féile.
- DARINA RYAN** (Kilimordaly) Connacht Colleges - Junior A, 1st year 9-a-sides, Senior B, U-10, 12, 13 county finals. Played for Galway U-14 in '01, '02 and '03.
- STEPHANIE O'DWYER** (Athenry) Connacht Colleges - 1st year, Junior A and Senior B, U-10, 12, 14, 16, 18 county finals, All Ireland Community Games, Féile and played for Galway's U-14.
- ALISON HEALY** (Athenry) U-10, 12, 14 county finals, All-Ireland Community Games, County schools medal and 1 Féile.
- LAURA LOUGHNANE** (Athenry) U-12, 14, 16, 18 county finals, All-Ireland Community Games and Féile, Connacht Colleges - 1st year and Junior A.
- NOREEN COEN** (Athenry) Connacht Colleges - Senior B, 1st year and Junior A, U-12, 14, 16, 18 county finals, 2 All-Ireland Community Games and Féile, Played U-14 for Galway.
- JACQUELINE GREENE** (Craughwell) School Shield County Final.
- RACHEL KENNEDY** (Craughwell) Connacht Colleges - Junior A '04, 1st year, U-12 county finalists and runners up in mini 7's.
- RAYCHEL KELLY** (Craughwell) Connacht Colleges - Junior A '04.
- AUDREY SLEVIN** (Craughwell) Connacht Colleges - Junior A, 2 City Final medals and a runner up county final medal, U-12 with Castlegar.
- KATIE O'DWYER** (Athenry) Connacht Colleges - Junior A '04, U-10, 12, 14 county finals, 2 All-Ireland Community Games, 1 Féile and a schools county medal.
- DEIRDRE FAHY** (Turloughmore) Connacht Colleges - Junior A '04, U-12 county finalist.
- DEIRDRE RYAN** (Craughwell) Connacht Colleges - Junior A '04.
- KAYLA HALLISEY** (Athenry) Connacht Colleges - Junior A '04, 2 All-Ireland Community Games, Féile, Schools and county medals.
- AIKLING MELIA** (Athenry) Connacht Colleges - Junior A '04, U-10, 12, 14 county medals, All Ireland Community Games, County schools medal and 1 Féile.
- REBECCA DILLON** (Athenry) Connacht Colleges - Junior A '04, All-Ireland Community Games, Féile and county medals.

JUNIOR A FINALISTS



JUNIOR A FINALISTS – Presentation Secondary School, Athenry

JUNIOR B FINALISTS



JUNIOR B FINALISTS – Castletomer Community School



JUNIOR A FINALISTS – Enniscorthy



JUNIOR B FINALISTS – Scariff Community College

JUNIOR B

POBALSCOIL CHAISLEÁN AN CHOMAIR

Castletomer Community School

1 Marie-Therese O'Neill Maire-Threasa Ní Néill		
2 Claire Haughney Clár Ní Fhachtna	3 Marie Dollard Máire Ní Dhallard	4 Eilis Cantwell Eilis Ní Chantual
5 Noreen O'Keeffe Nóirín Ní Chaoimh	6 Mariga Nolan Mariga Ní Nualláin	7 Sarah Shore Sorcha Ní Shoire
8 Hannah Maher(Capt) Siobhán Ní Mheachair		9 Rosemarie Maher Róis Máire Ní Mheachair
10 Sinead Murphy Sinéad Ní Mhurchú	11 Aideen Dwyer Éadaoin Ní Dhuibhir	12 Ann Marie Walsh Aine Máire Bhreathnach
13 Mairead Corrigan Ryan Máiread Corrigan Ní Ráin	14 Marie Dargan Máire Ní Dheargáin	15 Mary Bergin Máire Ní Aibheargáin
16 Claire Dunne	Clár Ní Dhuinn	
17 Aine Molloy	Aine Ní Mhaolmhaidh	
18 Aisling Cass	Aisling Ní Chas	
19 Lorraine Cass	Lorraine Ní Chas	
20 Michelle O'Keeffe	Michelle Ní Chaoimh	
21 Danika Dunne	Danika Ní Dhuinn	
22 Theresa Walsh	Treasa Bhreathnach	
23 Joanne Kelly	Siobhán Ní Cheallaigh	
24 Niamh James	Niamh Ní Shéamais	
25 Sinead Butler	Sinéad de Builéir	
26 Mary Rose Lyng	Máire Róis Ní Loing	
27 Madeline-Ann Fogarty	Madeline-Aine Ní Fhógartaigh	

Pen Pictures: CASTLETOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

- SINEAD BUTLER** (St. Brigid's) u-12 blitz, Leinster junior schools.
- MARIGA NOLAN** u-14 feile and county, u-16 county u-14 Leinster with Kilkenny, Leinster junior schools.
- MARY BERGIN** u-16 county, u-14 feile and county, Leinster schools.
- NIAMH JAMES** (Ladowney) u-12 county blitz, Leinster junior schools.
- AIDEEN DWYER** Leinster final with school, U-21 roinn b, u-18 roinn b with club.
- ROSEMARY MAHER** Leinster final with school, primary school county final, u-21, u-18 roinn b with club.
- HANNAH MAHER** Primary school medal, Leinster final with school, u-18, u-21 with club.
- CLAIRE DUNNE** (Ladowney) Two county medals, Leinster final with school.
- SARAH SHORE** Primary school medal, u-18, u-21 with club, Leinster final with school.
- MARIE DOLLARD** (St. Martin's) All-Ireland Feile medal, u-12, three u-14 two county feile and Leinster final with school.
- NOREEN O'KEEFFE** (St. Martin's) u-14, two county feile and Leinster final with school.
- MAIRE-THERESE O'NEILL** (St. Martin's) Leinster final with school, two u-18 medals, one u-21 with club.
- MARIE DARGAN** Leinster junior medal with school, two county medals, Leinster medal with Kilkenny.
- JOANNE KELLY** (St. Martin's) Three county final medals, five tournament medals and Leinster medal with school.
- ANN MARIE WALSH** (St. Martin's) Represented the county, u-12, 14, 16, 18 and 21 medals with the club, Leinster final with the school.
- MAIREAD CORRIGAN RYAN** (St. Martin's) Leinster junior medal with school, one Carlow co. medal.
- AINE MOLLOY** (Castletomer) Numerous tournament medals, Leinster junior medal with the school.
- LORRAINE CASS** (St. Lachtain's) u-16 county final, Leinster junior medal with school.
- MARY-ROSE LYNG** (St. Martin's) Leinster junior medal with school.
- AISLING CASS** (St. Lachtain's) u-16 county medal, Leinster junior medal with school.
- MICHELLE O'KEEFFE** (St. Martin's) Primary school medal, numerous county medals and Leinster junior final with school.
- THERESA WALSH** (Castletomer) Leinster junior medal with school.
- SINEAD MURPHY** (St. Martin's) Leinster junior medal with school.
- DANIKA DUNNE** (Conaghy) Club medal and Leinster junior medal with school.
- ELLIS CANTWELL** (St. Martin's) One county medal and Leinster junior medal with school.
- CLAIRE HAUGHNEY** (St. Martin's) Primary school county medal, Leinster medal with school.
- MADLINE-ANN FOGARTY** (Ladowney) One county medal, Leinster junior medal with school.

* The following is a list of younger members who are part of the extended panel: Sarah Fitzgerald (Monkenroe), Aoife Dwyer (Castletomer), Lisa Nolan (St. Lachtain's), Nicola Hennessy (St. Martin's), Annette Morrissey (St. Martin's), Joanne Healy (Castletomer), Fiona Morrissey (St. Martin's) and Denise Comerford (St. Martin's).

APRIL

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JUNIOR B

COLÁISTE PHOBAL NA SCAIRBHE

Scariff Community College

	1 Susan Vaughan Siún Ní Mhacháin	
2 Sarah Myles Sorcha Ní Mhaolmhúire	3 Ciara O'Leary Ciara Ní Laoire	4 Catherine McNamara Caitriona Nic Conmara
5 Sinead Durack Sinéad Ní Dhuraigh	6 Marian O'Brien (Capt) Muiréann Ní Bhriain	7 Amanda Flaherty Amanda Ní Fhlaitheartaigh
8 Aisling Treacy Aisling Ní Threasaigh	9 Louise Hayes Louise Nic Aodha	
10 Ciara McDermott Ciara Ní Dhiarmada	11 Mairead Dooley Máiread Ní Dhúlaigh	12 Roisin O'Brien Róisín Ní Bhriain
13 Anne-Marie Fitzgerald Aine-Máire Nic Gearailt	14 Mairead Scanlan Máiread Ní Scannláin	15 Laura Brody Laura Nic Bhruaidí
16 Lorraine Lynch	Lorraine Ní Loingsigh	
17 Sandra Coughlan	Sandra Ní Chuanacháin	
18 Barbara Burke	Bairbre de Búrca	
19 Roisin Loughnane	Róisín Ní Lachtnáin	
20 Edel O'Grady	Edel Ní Ghrada	
21 Eibhlín Bowler	Eibhlín Ní Bhodhléir	
22 Aisling Kelly	Aisling Ní Cheallaigh	
23 Sinead Flaherty	Sinéad Ní Fhlaitheartaigh	
24 Lisa Chapman	Lisa Ní Sceic	
25 Michelle Dooley	Michelle Ní Dhúlaigh	
26 Lisa Donnellan	Lisa Ní Dhónallain	
27 Triona Kelly	Triona Ní Cheallaigh	
28 Niamh O'Connor	Niamh Ní Chonchúr	

Pen Pictures: SCARIFF COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- MARIAN O'BRIEN** (Ogonnelloe) – Captain of the team at centre back; also a member of the Clare Minor team.
- LOUISE HAYES** (Bodyke) – As well as being an accomplished camogie player she is also a National Handball Champion.
- AILSLING TREACY** (Whitegate) – A versatile camogie player who is also a member of the County Camogie Panel.
- SUSAN VAUGHAN** (Ogonnelloe) – She is an accomplished outfield player with her club at U-14 level.
- CLARA O'LEARY** (Whitegate) – A solid defender who is also a member of the County Minor Panel.
- SINÉAD DURAEC** (Whitegate) – A versatile player who is equally comfortable as both a defender and an attacker.
- SANDRA COUNIHAN** (Bodyke) – A solid defender who always gives a good performance.
- CLARA McDERMOTT** (Whitegate) – A fast lively forward who plays her camogie with great flair and speed.
- ANN-MARIE FITZGERALD** (Bodyke) – An excellent handball player with the Tuamgraney Handball Club.
- MAIREAD DOOLEY** (Whitegate) – A tenacious attacker who always gives a solid performance.
- MAIREAD SCANLON** (Scariff) – An accomplished athlete who has competed in a National Community Games Final.
- CATHERINE McNAMARA** (Bodyke) – Recovered from an ankle injury sustained in the Munster Final, she is a solid defender.
- EIBHLÍN BOWLER** (Broadford) – A talented forward from the successful Broadford Club.
- LAURA BRODY** (Scariff) – A stylish forward who regularly gets on the scoreboard.
- AMANDA FLAHERTY** (Killeanena) – One of two sisters from the club on the Galway border.
- SARAH MYLES** (Scariff) – A tough, hard-working defender from the town of Scariff.
- ROISIN O'BRIEN** (Ogonnelloe) – Younger sister of team captain Marian and a member of the Clare U-14 panel.
- LORRAINE LYNCH** (Bodyke) – Versatile player who got vital scores in the Munster Final.
- LIZA CHAPMAN** (Whitegate) – A capable goalkeeper who can also perform outfield.
- BARBARA BURKE** (Bodyke) – A resolute defender whose long clearances are a feature of her game.
- AILSLING KELLY** (Whitegate) – Elder of two sisters on the panel and a stylish defender.
- ROISIN LOUGHNANE** (Killeanena) – A lively player who can play in a number of positions.
- EDEL O'GRADY** (Bodyke) – A young but very talented member of the panel.
- SINÉAD FLAHERTY** (Killeanena) – Younger sister of Amanda who has a bright future.
- LISA DONNELLAN** (Whitegate) – A talented young player with a bright future in the game.
- MICHELLE DOOLEY** (Whitegate) – Equally competent as a defender or an attacker.
- TRIONA KELLY** (Whitegate) – The third year student on the panel and younger sister of Aisling.
- NIAMH O'CONNOR** (Killeanena) – A reliable defender and valuable member of the panel.

Coaches: Marie Kenneally & Jack Treacy.

DO YOU KNOW . . .

- The first ever public Camogie game was played at Páirc Tailteann, Navan, Co Meath on July 18th 1904, at an Aerlochta organised by the Navan branch of the Gaelic League. There were 2000 spectators present. A press report went as follows:
"A Camóguidheacht match was played, which is regarded as a novelty, and may be remarked as the first inter-club contest ever played in Ireland. Both teams were composed of cailíní and belong to Dublin and the game, which aroused considerable interest, resembles Hurling, the ground being marked out something like a football field. The camóg, or hurling stick, however being much lighter and less dangerous than the ordinary camáns."
- An Cumann Camógaidheacht was not formed until February 25th, 1905, at a meeting in North Frederick Street, Dublin. But there was a rather slow start for the new sport and the first inter county game did not take place until 1912 when Dublin defeated Louth by 2-1 to 0-0, at Jones's Road.
- The Ashbourne Cup, competed for by the university camogie teams, is one of the oldest sports trophies in Ireland, and UCD were the first winners in 1915.
- In 1918, following a declaration by the British army, Camogie was listed as "an illegal assembly" and games were stopped and players arrested.
- Although the first camogie game was played in 1904, it was not until April of 1925 that the inaugural Congress was held, in Parnell Square, Dublin.
- The All-Ireland camogie championship did not arrive until 1932 and the final was not staged until August of the following year when Dublin defeated Galway by 3-2 to 0-2 to take the O'Duffy Cup and claim the first of their 26 titles.
- Games only lasted 40 minutes when Dublin won out in 1932 and '33 and they were 50 minutes until 1988, from when all inter county matches have been of an hour's duration.
- The '40s was an exciting decade for camogie. In 1942 there was the first ever drawn All-Ireland final and when Dublin outscored Cork by 4-1 to 2-2, the replay was broadcast by Radio Eireann, another first for the sport.
- Between 1948 and '66 Dublin won 18 All-Ireland titles and Kathleen Mills and Una O'Connor picked up 15 and 13 medals respectively. Amusingly Dublin scored more goals than points in 16 of their 18 finals during that run of success with 11-4, 10-4 and 10-1 being among their winning totals. In the other two deciders scores of 5-5 and 2-2 gave them titles.
- In more recent years, during which the number of players on teams increased from 12 to 15, the scoring of points in All-Ireland camogie finals has caught on, with modern day forces like Cork, Tipperary and Kilkenny getting to double figures.
- Last year the All-Ireland intermediate final in which Antrim defeated Tipperary by 2-9 to 0-9 was played at Páirc Tailteann as a curtain raiser to the Dublin-Tyrone under 21 football decider.
- On Saturday, July 17th next the staging of the first ever camogie game will be honoured at Páirc Tailteann when a commemorative plaque will be unveiled and a special match played.

Provincial Results and Scores 2004

(Winners are named first)

CONNACHT

Senior A	St Brigid's, Loughrea	V	Portumna Community School
Senior B	St Raphael's, Loughrea	V	Athenry Vocational School
Junior A	Presentation, Athenry	V	Portumna Community School
Junior B	Athenry Vocational School	V	St Cuan's, Castleblakeney

MUNSTER

Senior A	St Mary's, Charleville	V	Loreto, Fermoy
Senior B	Carrigaline Community School	V	Coláiste Mhuire, Ennis
Junior A	Presentation, Bandon	V	St Mary's, Charleville
Junior B	Scariff Community College	V	Ursuline, Thurles

LEINSTER

Senior A	Colaiste Bride, Enniscorthy	V	
Senior B	St Rynagh's Community College	V	Scoil Aireagail, Ballyhale
Junior A	Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy	V	St Brigid's, Callan
Junior B	Castlecomer Community School	V	Vocational School, Borris

ULSTER

Senior A	St Patrick's, Maghera	V	St Mary's, Magherafelt
Senior B	Cross and Passion, Ballycastle	V	Loreto College, Coleraine
Junior A	St Mary's, Magherafelt	V	St Patrick's, Maghera
Junior B	Cross and Passion, Ballycastle	V	Acadamh N. Pádraig, Dungannon

All-Ireland Semi-Finals

(Winners are named first)

SENIOR A	St Mary's, Charleville	V	St Brigid's, Loughrea
	Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy	V	St Patrick's, Maghera
SENIOR B	St Rynagh's, Bannagher	V	Cross and Passion, Ballycastle
	St Raphael's, Loughrea	V	Carrigaline Community School
JUNIOR A	Presentation, Athenry	V	Presentation, Bandon
	Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy	V	St Mary's, Magherafelt
JUNIOR B	Castlecomer Community School	V	Cross and Passion, Ballycastle
	Scariff Community College	V	Athenry Vocational School

Scariff C.C. girls bring All-Ireland crown home

A stirring goal-laden performance from the East Clare community college meant the Kilkenny challenge was seen off and the bonfires were blazing in celebration

Scariff C.C. 5-02 Castlecomer 1-05
Seamus Hayes reports
ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES' JUNIOR B FINAL

BONFIRES blazed throughout East Clare into the early hours of Sunday, following Scariff Community College's victory over Castlecomer in the All-Ireland colleges' junior B camogie championship final at Mountmellick.

In a hard fought final last Saturday, the East Clare side made history when winning their first All-Ireland camogie crown. They led from the start but they had to battle hard to keep ahead of a strong Castlecomer outfit in a game played in excellent conditions.

Scariff, trained by Jacko Treacy and Marie Kenneally, went into this game without Ann Marie Fitzgerald who had an injury, but the Bodyke girl came into the action to play a vital role in the victory. She scored two goals which proved crucial in her team's win.

Scariff got off to a good start with a goal from Roisín O'Brien in the fourth minute. Castlecomer opened their

account in the tenth minute with a point from a free but Scariff struck again, midway through the half, when Lorraine Lynch had their second goal after good work by Louise Hayes.

Castlecomer hit back with a brace of points, but a Ciara McDermott point for the Clare side left the half time score at 2-1 to 0-3 in their favour.

Scariff started the second half well and substitute Ann Marie Fitzgerald goaled to stretch their advantage, but Castlecomer hit back with a like score to remain well in contention.

The game had moved into the final quarter when Louise Hayes struck for Scariff's fourth goal and this score killed Castlecomer's challenge. Team captain Marian O'Brien quickly added a point from a '45 and Scariff now led by eight points.

To their credit, Castlecomer hit back with two points but Scariff secured the title when Ann Marie Fitzgerald had her second goal.

Marian O'Brien, Amanda Flaherty, Susan Vaughan, Roisín O'Brien and Ann Marie Fitzgerald were amongst the winners' stars on this historic occasion.

Scariff: Susan Vaughan (Ogonnelloe); Sara Myles (Scariff); Ciara O'Leary (Whitegate); Catherine McNamara (Bodyke); Sinead Durack (Whitegate); Marian O'Brien (Ogonnelloe, captain); Amanda Flaherty (Killanena); Ashling Treacy (Whitegate); Louise Hayes (Bodyke); Ciara McDermott (Whitegate); Marie Dooley (Whitegate); Roisín O'Brien (Ogonnelloe); Lorraine Lynch (Scariff); Marian Scanlan (Scariff); Laura Brody (Scariff). **Subs:** Ann Marie Fitzgerald (Bodyke) for Dooley; Sinead Flaherty (Killanena) for Lynch; Marie Dooley for Scanlan; Roisín Loughnane (Killanena) for Myles.

The other members of the panel are Sandra Counihan (Bodyke), Barbara Burke (Scariff), Edel O'Grady (Feakle), Evelyn Bowler (Broadford), Ashling Kelly (Whitegate), Lisa Chapman (Whitegate), Michelle Dooley (Whitegate), Lisa Donlon (Whitegate), Tricia Kelly (Feakle), Niamh O'Connor (Killanena).



WHERE'S THAT BALL?
 Castlecomer's Marie Dargan and Scariff's Ciara O'Leary, above, in action during the All-Ireland colleges' Junior B camogie final in Mountmellick.

Left, Scariff's Sinead Flaherty blocks down Castlecomer's Marie Doolan during the match in Mountmellick.

Photograph by John Kelly

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All-Ireland Schools Camogie 'A' final in Mountmellick

Junior girls seal the deal for Coláiste Bríde double

David MEDCALF

Coláiste Bríde (Enniscorthy) 8-6, Presentation (Athenry) 0-4: In the end it was all so easy. The Juniors of Coláiste Bríde wrapped up the Centenary double with a whopping 26 points to spare in the Mountmellick sunshine on Saturday last.

Three weeks earlier, the Senior side required a replay before claiming their trophy but, at the weekend, the Under-16s never looked in trouble at any stage as they cruised to victory against Galway opposition at the first time of asking.

Required to play into the breeze during the first-half, they knocked in three goals in the opening quarter hour and their superiority was not seriously in question thereafter. Along the way to the final whistle, diminutive corner-forward Maeve Frayne laid claim to a hat-trick of goals, though one of the three was due more to a defender's disorientation than the prowess of the Rathnure forward.

Wing-forward Ciara Storey started the rot, applying the boot to a well-judged cross from the left corner by Ciara Garahy after just four minutes of action. Frayne bagged a point on the run from an Una Leacy pass before captain Leacy made amends for a free pulled wide by bursting through for goal number two, slickly executed with impeccable power and accuracy.

On the quarter hour, Storey hammered a ground shot to the net to leave her side 3-1 to 0-1 ahead. Ironically, Athenry's solitary score had claims to be the best of the day, a Maeve Carr point launched unerringly from long range on the right touchline. It proved to be their only point from play of the afternoon.

By the half-time break, the Leinster champs had 4-3 on the (non-existent) board, the fourth three-pointer being a panicky own goal as Frayne foraged purposefully around the square under a booming sideline cut from Lorraine O'Connor. The points were the result of a glorious salmon-like leaping catch from midfielder Siona Nolan and a Storey shot from an Yvonne Walsh pass.

Their opponents had just 0-3 to their credit at this stage, including a free and a '45, both from the stick of Noreen Coen. She called up big hitter Jessica Gill for a close-range free just before the break but the centre-half's low drive was blocked on the line to preserve goalkeeper Vicki Murphy's clean sheet. It was her only moment of genuine alarm.

With the wind in their favour after the interval, the Mercy sailed majestically to the victory line, doubling their tally with four more goals. On 34 minutes, Aine Devereux tapped in the rebound as Madeleine Nic Donnacha battered out a Stacey Redmond shot.

On 44 minutes, Maeve Frayne put a neat deflection on a Redmond drive. On 46 minutes, captain Leacy hit the crossbar and Frayne, inevitably, was on hand to complete the job. On 58 minutes, a free by Siona Nolan from near half-way ballooned all the way to Nic Donnacha's net.

Points were harder to come by, though Nolan, Walsh and Leacy (free) kept that end of the score ticking over. It could have been worse too for the hapless Galway girls, with their Enniscorthy tormentors clocking up a

total of 14 wides over the hour. Athenry's only success of the second-half was the closing point of the day, a Noreen Coen free.

Coláiste Bríde were simply superb from one to fifteen, backboned by five of the side that started the Senior final and replay. Destroyers-in-chief Ciara Storey and Maeve Frayne took their goals with cool flair.

Wing-backs Louise O'Leary and Lorraine O'Connor displayed flashes of a level of skill far beyond their Junior years. And in the mid-field engine room, the team had the Rolls and Royce of camogie: Siona Nolan and Stacey Redmond are a pairing of high pedigree and relentless application.

It is daunting for opposition schools to ponder that the Enniscorthy side won - as they have throughout the championship campaign - by such a massive margin without being fully extended.

Coláiste Bríde: Vicki Murphy (Monageer-Boolevogue); Sara Nolan (Rapparees), Johanna Breen (Monageer-Boolevogue), Kerrie Dunne (Oulart-The Ballagh); Louise O'Leary (Rathnure), Siobhán Cullen (Oulart-The Ballagh), Lorraine O'Connor (Oylegate-Glenbrien); Siona Nolan (Monageer-Boolevogue, 1-2, 1-0 free), Stacey Redmond (Oulart-The Ballagh); Ciara Storey (Oulart-The Ballagh, 2-1), Una Leacy (Oulart-The Ballagh, capt., 1-1, 0-1 free), Yvonne Walsh (Monageer-Boolevogue, 0-1); Maeve Frayne (Rathnure, 3-1), Aine Devereux (Oulart-The Ballagh, 1-0), Ciara Garahy (Monageer-Boolevogue). Subs: Tracey Breen (Rapparees) for Sara Nolan, Sandra Carr (Rathnure) for Garahy, Emma O'Connor (Rathnure) for Dunne, Jenny Fenlon (Rapparees) for Devereux, Kelly O'Connor (Rathnure) for Frayne.

Presentation (Athenry): Madeleine Nic Donnacha; Rachel Kelly, Mary Ward, Marie Carroll; Rachel Waldron, Jessica Gill, Ciara Kennedy; Darina Ryan, Louise Callanan; Maeve Carr (0-1), Noreen Coen (capt., 0-3, 2 frees, 1 '45), Laura Loughane; Laura Walsh, Stephanie O'Dwyer, Alison Healy.

Referee: Liam Davitt (Westmeath).



■ The Coláiste Bríde All-Ireland winning Junior side with their mentors after Saturday's marvellous victory in Mountmellick.



■ Coláiste Bríde captain Una Leacy accepts the cup from Schools' Camogie President Mary Moran.

VIKKI MURPHY, goalkeeper

'A great result. This means everything. It's never easy to win an All-Ireland, but today it worked out so well for us'

SARA NOLAN, right corner-back

'This means everything to us - this is what you dream about. And hopefully we can win another couple next year'

JOHANNA BREEN, full-back

'It's so special to win the Double in the Centenary Year (for camogie). All our work has paid off'

KERRI DUNNE, left corner-back

'It's great to win an All-Ireland with all my friends, and it's my last year junior, so it's extra special for me'



Coláiste Bríde's newly crowned All-Ireland Schools junior 'A' camogie champions, who overcame Presentation, Athenry in last Saturday afternoon's final at Mountmellick in County Laois. (Pic: Jim Campbell).

Class prevails, as the Bríde make it a fantastic Centenary Double

COLÁISTE BRÍDE

8-6

PRESENTATION, ATHENRY

0-4

Ronan Fagan

SOMETIMES YOU prepare so well that it all comes off so sweetly, something Coláiste Bríde's junior camogie aces discovered to their credit in Mountmellick, County Laois on Saturday afternoon last, as they completed a famous All-Ireland Schools 'A' championship Double, and in the game's Centenary Year too!

Words really cannot encapsulate just how astonishing an achievement this has been, as the Coláiste Bríde juniors redoubled their efforts to overcome the heartache of last year's penultimate round loss to St. Mary's of Charleville, and eventually regain a piece of All-Ireland silverware which the school had last housed in 2000.

And last weekend's success added a glorious full-stop at the end of a never-to-be-forgotten season, in which Elva Moriarty's camogie

marvels had already retained the senior championship.

In the senior replay at the start of April, Coláiste Bríde had to augment skill with raw courage to overcome Charleville.

But, last Saturday, the juniors were masters of all they surveyed, finishing off the job in quite an accomplished manner.

A two-goal blast from wing-forward Ciara Storey inside the opening quarter helped establish a commanding 3-1 to 0-1 lead for the Enniscorthy outfit after 15 minutes, which had been extended to 4-3 to 0-3 at the break.

From there on it was plain sailing, although the Una Leacy-captained Coláiste Bríde outfit continued to work diligently, as they refused to allow any possible seeds of complacency take root in their psyche.

Every person involved with Coláiste Bríde's amazing success story deserve all the bouquets that are surely coming their way - the players, manager Elva Moriarty, her assistant Jimmy Guinan, skills coach Martin Storey, physio Fran Fitzhenry, and the people at the Riverside Park Hotel, whose financial support of the teams very much translates into a belief in their abilities.

How the clubs of the various girls have helped shape their competitive spirit must also be acknowledged, and now hopefully the achievements of Coláiste Bríde - so far in the new

Century they've now won two All-Ireland senior and junior 'A' championships - can be harnessed to the benefit of Wexford's fast improving inter-county sides.

The only thing that went against the Bríde's juniors on Saturday was the wind during the first-half, as it blew directly down the field on what otherwise was a perfect day.

The champions-in-the-making had out struck Athenry by two wides to the right by Stacey Redmond left the Athenry defenders ball watching, and Coláiste Bríde's stylishly got the scoring underway.

Showing great movement throughout the hour, Storey had worked the ball to Maeve Frayne in the right corner, from where the latter transferred it to Yvonne Walsh to the left of goal. The Monageer-Boovalogue girl picked out Storey, who had now switched to the front edge of the square, from where she determinedly won back the ball, and improvised under some pressure to kick to the net.

Maeve Frayne added a superb sixth-minute point after a neat one-two with Una Leacy. While the Athenry attack were posing a few questions, Coláiste Bríde held firm throughout, and the Galway side got their opening score from way out on the right wing, through Maeve Carr, in the tenth minute.

However, the next two scores left Coláiste Bríde comfortably on course to ensure they would emphasise their growing

stature in the game.

Wing-back Lorraine O'Connor sparked a tenth-minute counterattack which was continued through the two Ciaras, Storey and Garahy, before Una Leacy was supplied with the ammunition to unleash a venomous shot to the net.

Two Athenry wides later and Ciara Storey bagged her second goal, when a sideline cut from the right by Stacey Redmond left the Athenry defenders ball watching, and Coláiste Bríde's senior goalkeeper with the opportunity to steal in, and increase the leeway to 3-1 to 0-1.

As if this wasn't going to be a day Maeve Frayne would remember anyway, the Rathnure girl made sure it would be by grabbing a personal tally of 3-1.

Her first goal arrived on 20 minutes, thanks to the industry once more of defender Lorraine O'Connor.

Noreen Coen pegged back two pointed frees for Athenry on 22 and 23 minutes (4-1 to 0-3), only to see Siona Nolan (after an excellent piece of fielding by the midfielder) and Ciara Storey (from a hand-pass by Yvonne Walsh) respond with similar scores.

Given the huge deficit, Jessica Gill, the Athenry centre-back, who did more than enough to emerge with her fine reputation intact, was left with no option but to try for goal from a close-range free in stoppage-time. But there was no way the Pres were

going to find Vikki Murphy's net, and indeed the Coláiste Bríde netminder effected a number of additional top-class saves during the course of the decider.

Athenry resumed in determined fashion, and put Coláiste Bríde on the back-foot in the early stages, before the Slaneysiders once again asserted their authority, to almost completely dominate the second-half.

The Bríde got back on the scoresheet by slightly fortuitous means, although full-forward Aine Devereux must be credited for her alertness as she sent a rebound to the net after seeing a shot from the left wing by Yvonne Walsh being blocked out by the Athenry 'keeper, Madeline McDonagh.

When Siona Nolan - one of five members of Coláiste Bríde's victorious senior team that were in action - added a 35th-minute point, the Corn Naomh Gobnath trophy was being readied for a trip back to the Cathedral Town.

The sides each fired two wides as Athenry's spirited challenge began to fade, and the resolve of the Westerners was completely broken when Maeve Frayne sent all from County Wexford into seventh heaven after finishing 43rd - and 45th-minute goals.

For the first of those, Stacey Redmond drilled in a defence-splitting pass from midfield, which Frayne latched onto and netted. Two minutes later the corner-forward was

quickest to react when a shot from Una Leacy came back off the crossbar, and Maeve goaled to forge a 7-4 to 0-3 lead. Unbelievable!

After Una Leacy (free) and Yvonne Walsh had sent over 51st and 57th minute points respectively, and Siona Nolan followed up by sending a free from out on the right, and almost at the halfway line, all the way to the net, one had to wonder had Athenry any share of whatever luck was going on the day.

That freak goal put Coláiste Bríde 8-6 to 0-3 to the good, but remarkably Athenry kept trying, and Noreen Coen sent over a 59th-minute free, which merely consoled the maroon-and-white.

Not too long afterwards - at 4.30p.m., to be precise - all associated with Coláiste Bríde launched into ecstatic celebrations, which even delayed the presentation of the Cup to Una Leacy by the President of the Schools' Camogie Association, Mary Moran, who also presented the triumphant crew with their much sought after medals.

What made it an especially great moment was the fact that the winning manager, Elva Moriarty was present, after being forced to miss both the drawn and replayed senior finals through illness.

Elva's arrival with her team on the field just prior to the throw-in had provided the players with a tremendous boost to

their morale, and it undoubtedly served to bond them even closer together, as they rose back to the summit of the under-16 grade.

Well done champs. Thanks for some great memories in '04, and here's looking forward to 2005.

Bring it on.

Coláiste Bríde:
Enniscorthy - Vikki Murphy (Monageer-Boovalogue), Sara Nolan (Rapparees), Johanna Breen (Monageer-Boovalogue), Kerri Dunne (Oulart-The Ballagh), Louise O'Leary (Rathnure), Siobhán Cullen (Oulart-The Ballagh), Lorraine O'Connor (Oylegate-Glenbrien), Siona Nolan (Monageer-Boovalogue, 1-2, 1-0 free), Stacey Redmond (Oulart-The Ballagh), Ciara Storey (Oulart-The Ballagh, 2-1), Aine Devereux (Oulart-The Ballagh, 1-0), Yvonne Walsh (Monageer-Boovalogue, 0-1), Maeve Frayne (Rathnure, 3-1), Una Leacy (Oulart-The Ballagh, capt., 1-1, 0-1 free), Ciara Garahy (Monageer-Boovalogue).

Subs: Tracey Breen (Rapparees) for Sara Nolan; Sandra Carr (Rathnure) for Ciara Garahy; Emma O'Connor (Rathnure) for Aine Devereux; Kelly O'Connor (Rathnure) for Kerri Dunne; Jenny Fenlon (Monageer-Boovalogue) for Maeve Frayne; Katie Murphy (Rathnure), Louise Hore and Marguerite Casey (both Rapparees).

Presentation, Athenry: Madeline McDonagh, Rachel Kelly, Mary Ward, Marie Carroll, Rachel Waldron, Jessica Gill, Ciara Kennedy, Darina Ryan, Louise Callanan, Maeve Carr (0-1), Stephanie O'Dwyer, Noreen Coen (0-3 frees), Laura Loughnane, Laura Walsh, Alison Healy.

Referee: Liam Davitt (Westmeath).

STACEY REDMOND, midfielder

'A lot of hard work and training went into this, and hopefully this can help the senior cause in future years'

CIARA STOREY, right wing-forward

'It's brilliant to win two All-Irelands in the one year. Making it actually happen was really hard - but we are so well prepared'

ÁINE DEVEREUX, centre-forward

'It was brilliant winning the senior, and even just be part of the set-up. Now to have won both All-Irelands in the one year is incredible'

YVONNE WALSH, left wing-forward

'To play in an All-Ireland is a thrill, but to have actually captured the Schools Double in the Centenary Year for camogie is amazing'

LOUISE O'LEARY, right wing-back
'It's a wonderful experience, and I just hope we can repeat this success in the future'

SIOBHÁN CULLEN, centre-back
'This means so much. During the Easter holidays we trained very hard, and making sure we won this took a lot of planning'

LORRAINE O'CONNOR, left wing-back
'It's great. This required a lot of training and determination, and this is a brilliant squad'

SÍONA NOLAN, midfielder
'It's brilliant. All the work we did to get here has paid off in the end, and we're just delighted'

It's elation once again for the mighty Bríde

REALLY by now Martin Storey and Fran Fitzhenry should have known to have brought a change of clothes to Saturday's big match, because once Coláiste Bríde's bubbly crew get a taste of success, water bottles turn into celebration devices.

But a dripping wet Storey, the school's skills coach, remarked: "These girls are as wild as goats - everyone saw the craic we had after the match."

"But the great thing is that when they go out to do a job, they just get their heads down and do whatever is required."

Fran, the physio, and one of the famous Duffry Rovers clan, laughed: "It is great that we can all have a laugh, and I just don't know what to expect on the bus journey home."

"But the effort they put in this year has been phenomenal. They all did their bit, and more besides, from number 1 to number 23 on the junior, and number 1 to 22 on the senior."

"Fitzy" suggests the exceptional support structures which team manager Elva Moriarty established in Coláiste Bríde earlier this year were a key to the Enniscorthy establishment actually becoming home to both All-Ireland Schools camogie 'A' championship trophies.



RONAN FAGAN

"The structure was very important, from the players, the backroom staff, the PRO, the Parents' Council, and the whole lot. We have all worked together hand-in-hand, and what the girls have achieved just goes to show what can be achieved with a small bit of effort."

Storey was struck by one particularly startling fact. "One thing you do not normally see on a school's junior team is 18 of the players also being part of the county under-16 squad. We even had three girls in the subs that are on the Wexford panel, but we just couldn't find a place for them on the team!"

"That indicates the sort of esteem in which these players are held, and that is only because of the work they have been

prepared to put in."

A man who has experienced many highs, none more so than captaining Wexford to the McCarthy Cup success in 1996, appreciates that Coláiste Bríde's All-Ireland Double might not sink in for quite some time.

"People just won't realise how outstanding a success this has been until a few years from now," he points out.

"Retaining the senior All-Ireland was brilliant, but when you also win the junior in camogie's Centenary Year makes it a simply unbelievable feat."

"Somebody will be looking through the history books 25 years from now, and they'll be saying to themselves, 'Jaysus - Coláiste Bríde did the Double that year!', or 'My mammy was on that team' when they're looking at photos in the school. Those people will get a great burst of pride from that, and that is what it's all about."

Selector Jimmy Guinan noted that: "One of the great benefits we have in Coláiste Bríde is the number of clubs surrounding the area which play camogie. They are all great clubs, which produce top class players all the time."

"And to just look at the names on our panel,



Coláiste Bríde midfielder Siona Nolan shows total concentration as she wins possession during Saturday's All-Ireland Schools junior 'A' camogie championship final at Mountmellick. (Pic: Jim Campbell)

and note how many of their mothers and fathers played for the county, and with distinction too, means that really it is no wonder that these girls have the talent too."

When Coláiste Bríde reached the interval in Saturday's game leading by a massive 4-3 to 0-3, Jimmy wasn't taking anything for granted. "Athenry had come here knowing our impressive reputation after our recent All-Ireland successes, and so they knew they had nothing to lose, which meant they were going to give it their all."

"We told the girls at half-time that we would have to be on our toes in the second-half in order to beat Athenry. Thankfully the players took that to heart, got stuck in again, kept hurling, and never let Athenry settle on the ball."

In closing, Jimmy said "this is really brilliant", while Fran enthused that "these are the best teams myself and Martin have ever been involved with". Storey himself just hopes that "this will be good for Wexford inter-county camogie - it has to be."

Elva, a

phenomenally positive force in making sure Coláiste Bríde have indeed realised its potential, just chose a small few words to sum up her joy. "I am really very proud of all the girls, and

everybody else involved with these successes."

"We have represented the school and the county so well, and now it's time for the girls to enjoy the fruits of their good work."



Coláiste Bríde's victorious captain Una Leacy receives the Corn Naomh Gobnath from Mary Moran, President of the Schools' Camogie Association. (Pic: Jim Campbell)

TRACEY BREEN, substitute

'To have won an All-Ireland is unbelievable, but to have captured the Double proves how dedicated we are'

LOUISE HORE, substitute

'This is a fabulous experience. The whole team played great, and I'm just very proud to be part of it'

JENNY FENLON, substitute

'This means everything. To be part of such a fantastic squad is an honour'

SANDRA CARR, substitute

'Brilliant - I can't believe we won this one. I'm just delighted. To have Ms. Moriarty (manager) here today was inspirational'

EMMA O'CONNOR, substitute

'This is unbelievable. We got the Double for the first-time - and we are going to celebrate this'

KELLY O'CONNOR, substitute

'We put in loads of effort, and all the senior girls were really fired up for it'

MARGUERITE CASEY, substitute

'This is my first All-Ireland, and so I'm just delighted we've done it. The seniors were a great inspiration'



Coláiste Bríde manager Elva Moriarty (centre) celebrates the clinching of the famous All-Ireland Schools camogie 'A' championship Double with Siona Nolan (left) and junior captain Una Leacy. (Pic: Jim Campbell)

MAEVE FRAYNE, right corner-forward

'It is absolutely brilliant, and it means a lot to win this. Today we played so well, doing Wexford really proud'

UNA LEACY, full-forward (capt.)

'It's everyone's dream to win an All-Ireland, but to win two in the one year is absolutely brilliant'

CIARA GARAHY, left corner-forward

'It's great, and to get the Double is amazing. We were nervous beforehand, but we played our game, and got the job done'

KATIE MURPHY, substitute

'We've done the Double, and it's absolutely brilliant.'



■ Delighted Coláiste Bride fans celebrate after the game in Mountmellick.

Mercy girls are first in Leinster to win historic schools double

'A NUMBER of schools have won the Senior and Junior championships in the same year,' schools' camogie President **Mary Moran** told the crowd gathered on the pitch in Mountmellick for the presentation of the trophy on Saturday afternoon. 'Coláiste Bride has joined an elite group.'

The weekend's beaten finalists, Presentation (Athenry), were the first to pull off the double, when they were the winners of the inaugural Junior championship in 1974. Other schools in the elite are St. Raphael's, Loughrea (1985, 1988, 1989) and St. Mary's of Charleville in Cork (1999, 2001, 2002).

Coláiste Bride is the first Leinster school to join this exclusive roll of honour. The Mercy previously won the Junior silverware in 2000, captained by Caoimhe Fitzpatrick, and the only other Wexford side to have brought the cup home to the Slaney valley was F.C.J. (Bunclogh), in 1993, led by Katherine Kinsella.

The year 2004 - a century on from the first camogie match staged at Navan in July, 1904 -

allowed five players to feature in the starting line-ups of both Senior and Junior championship-winning teams.

The famous five is defender Siobhán Cullen, midfielders Siona Nolan and Stacey Redmond, goalkeeper turned striker Ciara Storey and captain Una Leacy.

Junior team midfielder Siona Nolan was corner-forward with the Seniors.

Aine Devereux started the big game in Mountmellick at centre-forward, the role she prefers, but switched with her captain and Oulart-The Ballagh clubmate Una Leacy after the half-time break.

Ciara Storey, daughter of coach Martin, was the most striking example of role-reversal. She wore the number one jersey for the Seniors on their march to glory but was assigned a more wide-ranging duty with the Juniors, switching from goal-stopper to goal-getter with the number ten on her back.

'I prefer playing wing-forward,' confessed the player who knocked in an impressive 2-1 in the victory over Presentation (Athenry).



■ Coláiste Bride's Siona Nolan is put under pressure by the opposition.



■ Elva Moriarty with Senior team member Sarah Darcy at the match.

Elva returns to the sideline after illness

'I AM just a spectator,' insisted Coláiste Bride P.E. teacher **Elva Moriarty** as she returned to the camogie scene on Saturday after a spell of illness.

The woman behind the school's rise to sporting prominence was unable to attend the Senior final in Cashes or the replay in Freshford.

With Martin Storey available to crack the whip in her absence, she knew that her squad was in safe hands but, once back on the side-

line, she threw herself fully into the spirit of the occasion. Afterwards she said she was delighted to have returned.

The backroom team for the school's success on the double was identical for both sides.

Apart from the Moriarty/Storey combination, teachers Jimmy Guinan and Seán Kealy were also on duty, while Fran Fitzhenry of Duffry Rovers fame was physio to the champions.



■ Coláiste Bride's Stacey Redmond races away from Alison Healy of Athenry.

'It was never in doubt' - Storey

'IT WAS never in any doubt. We have 18 of the current Under-16 Wexford county panel,' pointed out **Martin Storey** after Saturday's big match.

'With that sort of talent at your disposal, if you lose, then there is something wrong. Every girl

in that team can play.'

It probably also helped that the Senior and Junior panels trained together much of the time.

The Juniors will lose Una Leacy, Siona Nolan, Aine Devereux, Yvonne Walsh, Siobhán

Cullen, Ciara Garahy and Johanna Breen, all of whom will be over age next season.

However, the guest coach is keen to continue his association with the side.

'Of course I will be back for more,' he said.

Double joy for Coláiste Bride

COLÁISTE Bride of Enniscorthy made the centenary year a double celebration when they hammered Presentation, Athenry by 8-6 to 0-4 in the Colleges Junior A All-Ireland colleges final in Mountmellick yesterday.

The result was never in any doubt after a fourth-minute goal from Ciara Storey who added a second 10 minutes later.

In the Junior B final also played in Mountmellick was a much closer affair, with Scariff Community School of Clare claiming their first title after a 5-2 to 1-5 victory over Castlecomer Community School.

CAMOGIE

ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES

Jnr A Final: Coláiste Bride 8-6 (M. Freyne 3-1, C. Storey 2-1, S. Nolan 1-2, Leacy 1-1, A. Devereux 1-0, Y. Walsh 0-1) Presentation Athenry 0-4 (N. Cullen 0-3, M. Carr 0-1) Jnr B Final: Scariff Com Sch 5-2 (AM Fitzgerald 2-0, L. Hayes, L. Lynch, R. O'Brien 1-0 each, C. Mc Dermott, M. Dooley 0-1 each) Castlecomer Com Sch 1-5 (A. Dwyer 1-1, H. Maher 0-3, M. Dorgan 0-1 each) LEINSTER SNR CHAMPIONSHIP Wexford 1-8 (L. Houlihan 1-1, K. Kelly 0-5, L. Codd, A. Codd 0-1 each) Dublin 0-5 (C. Lacey 0-4, J. Draper 0-1)



■ Coláiste Bride's Yvonne Walsh looks for a way past Presentation's Rachel Waldron in the All-Ireland Junior 'A' camogie final in Mountmellick.

JUNIOR ALL-IRELAND HOMECOMING

in the Riverside Park Hotel

Pictures: Paddy Murphy

Coláiste Bríde complete the double

COLÁISTE BRÍDE has joined the elite of schools to win the Junior and Senior camogie championships in the one season. After the dramas of the replayed Senior final at the beginning of the month, Saturday's Junior success was a one-sided romp, completing a dream season for the Mercy girls in the sport's centenary year.

Coach Elva Moriarty returned from illness to join Martin Storey in directing operations during the 8-6 to 0-4 victory over Presentation (Athenry) in the Mountmellick sunshine. They watched corner-forward Maeve Frayne claiming a hat-trick of goals at one end of the pitch while goalkeeper Vikki Murphy kept a clean sheet at the other.

Excited captain Una Leacy screamed with delight as she was handed the trophy, which the school last captured in 2000.

The Shannon school has dominated the sport in Leinster for some time and is now the undoubted national leader, contributing 18 of the 24 players on the current Wexford Under-16 panel.

'Enniscorthy have been knocking on the door for quite some time,' observed national camogie President Miriam O'Callaghan.

They have now burst that door off its hinges.



■ Junior All-Ireland champions Coláiste Bríde celebrating outside the Riverside Park Hotel on their triumphant homecoming.

CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS ON PARADE



■ Members of the triumphant Coláiste Bríde camogie teams who were feted by the crowd in Wexford Park on Sunday. SEE P10-11.

■ Coláiste Bríde players celebrate after beating Presentation (Athenry) in Mountmellick on Saturday last.



Mercy girls are simply the best

UNDOUBTEDLY the best, the girls of Coláiste Bríde announced to the world on Saturday that their school under Vinegar Hill is now the leading camogie nursery in the country.

The green and gold army travelled to Mountmellick where the under-16 Junior team added their All-Ireland cup to the trophy captured by the Seniors three weeks earlier.

Unstoppable

Captain Una Leacy and her team were simply unstoppable, scoring more in the first ten minutes of the match than luckless opponents Presentation (Athenry) could muster over the hour of play. At the end, the teams were separated by a massive gulf of 26 points.

The completion of the double was just the tonic for coach and P.E. teacher, Elva Moriarty, who missed the Senior final and replay because of illness.

■ SEE PAGE 12 AND SPORTS PLUS - PAGES 10 AND 11

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