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Cork can't afford to be complacent



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

Liberty Insurance All Ireland championship Round 3 Cork V Offaly Páirc Uí Rinn Sat 2pm.

WITH just two points from four, Cork's third group championship game against Offaly tomorrow is another game they must win to be sure of a quarter final place on August 1.

It's a game they are expected to win but complacency has seen many a favourite fall and the side won't be taking anything for granted. Offaly's results throughout the league and in the championship to date portray a side that are far from the pushover they once were.

During the league a two-goal victory over Tipperary wasn't something to get excited about such is Tipperary's poor form of late but a three-point defeat to Wexford and running Galway to within two points certainly is. Offaly conceded two soft goals to Wexford and had those blunders been prevented they could have won that game.

While surprisingly conceding four goals to Wexford in the championship Galway had just a three-point winning margin over Offaly last weekend; 1-11 to 1-8. It took Niamh McGrath coming off the bench to swing the game for them after she had been left out for precautionary measures.

In their opening round Limerick had four points to spare over the Leinster side, the same margin Cork had over Offaly a fortnight ago. So from Offaly's perspective the only frustrating aspect of their championship performances is that they have yet to get a win over the line.

Julia White returns for Cork tomorrow after travelling abroad, however, that plus is negated by the fact that Emer O'Sullivan still hasn't sufficiently recovered from her fall in training a few weeks back.

Her knee isn't fully functioning, a recent scan showing some damage and another specialist consultation is arranged for today. Her loss is immense. There are hopes Emer will return for the knockout stages of the champion-



Cork's Meabh Cahalane tries to win possession during the game against Limerick in Kilmallock.

Picture: Liam Burke/Press 22

ship should Cork emerge from their group. Other than that Cork's lineup will remain pretty much the same as it has for the past couple of games. Aoife Murray will command the goal with Pamela Mackey, Laura Treacy and Leanne O'Sullivan filling spots two to four.

Rena Buckley will drop back to right-half back to accompany Gemma O'Connor and Meabh Cahalane.

Julia White will now partner Aishling Thompson at midfield with Orla Cotter, Orla Cronin and Hannah Looney in the half-forward line. Completing Cork's first 15 are Amy O'Connor, Breige Corkery and Katrina Mackey.

Cork are limited in their substitutes due to their Intermediate involvement.

Paulie Murray's approach is that he would prefer the majority of his panelists to get three or four intermediate games behind them ahead of the latter stages of the senior championship rather than ten minutes at senior here and there.

Of course if they are needed they will be sprung from the bench but aside from Jennifer Hosford who is ineligible for the second grade due to her start against Galway, don't expect too many changes throughout the hour.

Cork had a comfortable 2-21 to 1-15 victory over tomorrow's challengers in the quarter final twelve months ago but much has changed in the Cork panel since. Offaly always start games well and put it up to their opponents but they fail to maintain such a high

intensity or belief for a full sixty minutes in addition to just not having the spread of talent throughout their panel.

Offaly's chances of reaching the knock out stages are over at this point with three defeats behind them but developing and learning all the time is important to them and for this reason I feel they'll still bring their strongest squad to Páirc Uí Rinn tomorrow.

If they do they'll push Cork but in truth if the rebels fail to overcome them it would be a major shock.

Cork Team: A Murray; P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan; R Buckley, G O'Connor, M Cahalane; J White, A Thompson; O Cotter, O Cronin, H Looney; A O'Connor, B Corkery, K Mackey.

Big day for both U16 squads as bar set very high

**All Ireland Under 16 A Championship;
Cork V Galway;
Sunday July 12;
Castle Road;
3pm.**

A busy and important day for both Under 16 Cork squads as they host round two of their respective All Ireland championship round robin series games.

Last weekend both got their campaigns off to a great start with victories over Clare but this weekend the bar is set higher when tough opponents come to town.

For the A team a win would clinch a semi-final spot with just one game to go against Kilkenny whom Galway defeated last weekend in a close contest.

The main threat will come from Carrie Dolan who notched up 1-8 of their tally whilst Mairead Dillon, Ava Lynskey Leah Burke and Rachel Murphy all featured prominently in a strong Galway 15. Cork were

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full value for their victory last weekend and if they can bring the same intensity to their game on Sunday they are in with a great chance. Up front they have the players to grab the vital scores. Cliona Healy, Katie Walsh and Clara Ryan did well in their inside line whilst in defence they closed down the Clare attack well and limited them to just one second-half score. Galway will be stronger opponents but with a big reward on offer for the winners Cork will be firing on full cylinders in a bid to secure the semi-final spot.

**All Ireland Under 16B Championship;
Cork V Waterford;
Sunday July 12;
Castle Road;
1pm**

The Under 16 B side face a big test when they meet All Ireland B champions Waterford who again have not made the step up to A grade following their victory last season. This is something I find strange as surely a county should be anxious to improve and make the step up and not linger in the lower grade — however they haven't done so and they continue to participate at B level.

They got the defence of their title off to a great start last weekend with a 2-11 to 3-7 victory over Antrim. Cork held the upper hand over Clare all through their meeting in Castle Road and on Sunday both sides will be anxious to grab the points on offer with two games to go in a tough group that also included Dublin and Antrim.

Cork have to travel to Dublin and will meet Antrim half way — possibly in Dublin again — so every game is vital. A win on Sunday would see them half way there with two games to go.



Nancy Dunphy and Bridin Doyle halt the progress of Down's Carrie Killen.

Depleted Down still too strong

Miserable start for seconds

DEAN GOODISON

In Oylegate

DOWN 1-17
WEXFORD 1-8

WEXFORD GOT off to a miserable start in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate camogie championship with a nine-point loss to Down in Oylegate on Saturday.

The Slaneysiders were completely outplayed in the opening half, with the Ulster visitors given way too much space to operate in the hosts' half of the field. It wasn't until the last few minutes that a sweeper was deployed and by then it was already too late to salvage the result.

Most of Tom Dunphy's side's best performances in the league came with added protection for the back six, but without that added solidity the first-half was a procession for Down.

Martin Mallon's side might have looked like they were arriving in Wexford as lambs to the slaughter, with just 16 players available to the Down manager, but he only needed the bare minimum to head home with the points.

The Mournewomen clattered Geraldine Curtis' post in the opening minute from Paula Gribbin's long-range effort and hit the front soon after when Fionnuala Carr popped over a free.

Wexford responded with a dead ball from Ellen Kelly but were smothered under wave after wave of Down attacks thereafter. The superb Niamh Mallon grabbed four points, Carr two more and Dearbhla Magee also hit the target to open up an 0-8 to 0-1 lead.

Things got even worse when Curtis could only flip a clearance from a long ball into the path

of Mallon. The deadly attacker latched onto the breaking ball and forced a shot past the Wexford goalkeeper.

There was still time for points from Carrie Killen, Magee and Mallon before the interval, although Wexford did reply when Marie Morrissey was fouled and Kelly added a second point (1-11 to 0-2 at half-time).

The second-half was much better for the hosts in windy conditions that were crossfield but slightly helping Wexford after the intermission. Good play between Clodagh Fitzhenry and Deirdre McMahon saw Kelly point, only for Mallon to reply.

Hopes were raised when Louise Sinnott added a classy finish after more good work from Fitzhenry and Marie Morrissey (1-12 to 1-3). Points by Kelly and Morrissey were partially cancelled out by Mallon as Wexford went into the final quarter trailing by just eight.

However, three in a row from Down hurt the home side, as

did narrow misses by Amy Ryan and Kelly. Wexford did add late points through Sarah O'Connor, Kelly and Ellen Roche but it wasn't near enough and they'll need to improve for the visit of Galway on Saturday.

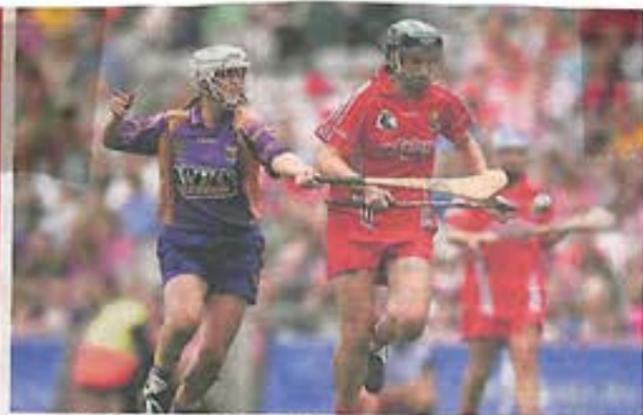
Wexford: Geraldine Curtis; Nancy Dunphy, Farren Byrne, Aisling O'Connor (capt.); Bridin Doyle, Sarah O'Connor (0-1 free), Marie Claire Morrissey; Louise Sinnott (1-0), Louise Stafford; Ellen Roche (0-1), Deirdre McMahon, Ellen Kelly (0-5, 4 frees); Amy Ryan, Clodagh Fitzhenry, Marie Morrissey (0-1). Subs. - Laura Dempsey for Stafford (40), Marguerite Doyle for Fitzhenry (47), Nessa Wickham for M.C. Morrissey, inj. (52).

Down: Joanna Sloan; Nicola O'Gorman, Catherine McGourty, Cliona Murtagh; Claire McGilligan, Fionnuala Carr (0-4 frees), Deirdre McCabe; Paula Gribbin, Dearbhla Magee (0-2); Neisha McCullough, Aimee McAleenan, Cassie Fitzpatrick (0-1); Elizabeth Wilson, Niamh Mallon (capt., 1-9, 0-4 frees), Carrie Killen (0-1).

Referee: Mike Sheehan (Cork).



Louise Stafford battles it out with Neisha McCullough.



Amanda O'Regan's senior experience is vital at intermediate level.

Cork win will seal their place in last four of championship

TOMORROW
Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship: Cork v Down, Ballyholland, 2.30pm.

CORK travel to Ballyholland in the knowledge that another victory will secure them a place in the last four.

With two victories to their credit already Cork lead the table in the group sections and they are closely followed by Galway, Down, Meath and Wexford who are all on two. With one game to go against Galway on August 2, this is a huge opportunity to seal the deal before then.

Cork were impressive last weekend as they brushed aside the challenge posed by Wexford. They are playing as a team and working well with each other, their reading of the play and distribution of the ball was excellent and if they can maintain this form they will be hard to stop.

The sides met in the National League where Cork recorded a narrow one goal victory, however much has changed since that meeting and both sides will have been busy in the interim as championship swung into gear.

Amanda O'Regan continues to be a vital player on the side her accuracy from frees and play is invaluable, while younger players such as Linda Collins, Sarah Fahy, Lauren Callanan and Niamh

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O'Keefe have all performed superbly in the campaign to date.

Cork edged out Down in last season's National League final in a thrilling contest, Down went on to take the Junior All-Ireland title and won promotions to intermediate for this season. They lost out in the Ulster final to a strong Derry side.

SUNDAY

U16 B All-Ireland Championship: Cork v Antrim, Naomh Peregrine GAA Grounds, Dublin, 2.30pm.

The U16 A squad secured their place in the All-Ireland semi final and the B team are still in the hunt too.

Having demolished Clare with a superb performance in their opening round game they carved out a well deserved draw with holders Waterford in game they should have possibly won. However it was a good result that has helped keep their hopes alive.

Antrim have yet to record a victory.

Indications are that the sides will be evenly matched but if Cork can maintain the good form that they have shown to date they will be in with a great chance.



Cork U16A camogie team: Front: Emer McAndrew (Ballygarvan), Molly Ryan (Carrigaline), Ciara Crowley (Youghal), Katie Walsh (Glen Rovers), Clara Crowley (Ballinascarthy), Cliona Healy (Aghabullogue), Katie McCarthy (Aghabullogue), Ruth McCarthy (Sarsfields), Chloe Collins (Millstreet), Rebecca Keane (Inniscarra). Back: Edel Lonergan (Sarsfields), Clara Ryan (Clonakilty), Nora O'Riordan (Rockban), Sarah Aherne (Ballygarvan), Olivia Murphy (Blarney), Grace Collins (Eire Og), Catriona O'Keefe (Youghal), Lucy O'Gorman (Dungourney), Aideen Buckley (Cloughduv), Grainne Cahalane (St Finbar's), Kate Wall (Kilbrittan/Timoleague), Luran Homan (St Vincent's), Megan Daly (Douglas), Siobhan O'Sullivan (Bride Rovers), Maeve Lynch (Newcestown), Isobel O'Regan (Ballygarvan), Katie Daly (Sliabh Rua).

League champions Galway on double trail

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Galway remain on course for a memorable double after they booked their place in the Liberty Insurance senior camogie championship semi-final.

Having already won the League this year, the westerners maintained a perfect Group 1 record during the summer campaign, with a last quarter flourish seeing off Wexford 1-11 to 0-6.

While the Model County and Cork could still finish equal on points with Galway, the 2013 champions would advance directly to the last four on the back of wins over their rivals.

There was no certainty at Innovate Wexford Park that Galway's 1-5 to 0-3 lead at half time was sufficient.

Aoife Callanan pointed early for Galway before goal machine Molly Dunne worked the oracle once more after good work by Maria Cooney. Niamh McGrath

added four points before the break and Wexford needed a brace of points from Katrina Parrock to stay in touch.

A couple of points from Kate Kelly reduced the margin to a goal and it took a stunning intervention from Sarah Dervan to deny the hosts a goal. Tony Ward's girls heeded that warning and points from Niamh Kilkenny, Maria Brehony and Tara Rutledge (two) eased their nerves.

Kilkenny are the other confirmed semi-finalists after

another facile Group 2 victory. This time it was Tipperary who were the victims of the Noresiders' scoring power, on an 8-15 to 0-4 scoreline in Freshford.

Katie Power (despite illness) was player-of-the-match, scoring 3-3. She was well supported by fellow goal scorers Denise Gaule (2-3), Michelle Quilty and substitute Ann Dalton (2-1) as Kilkenny ran riot.

Clare gave themselves a chance of a knockout spot after drawing with Dublin (1-

8 apiece) in Newmarket-On-Fergus.

Dublin got the better start and a brilliant doubled goal by Aoife Bugler put them four points clear in the 24th minute. Chloe Morey halved the deficit by the interval and her 43rd minute goal helped Clare open up a two-point lead. That was still the advantage with two minutes of normal time but points from Miriam Twomey and an Ali Maguire 45 in the sixth minute of injury time snatched a share of the spoils.

Meanwhile champions Cork chiselled out a hard-earned 0-13 to 0-6 victory over a youthful Offaly in Páirc Uí Rinn. Siobhan Flannery scored five points for the Faithful women.

Orla Cotter continued her assault on the scoring charts with another nine points in difficult conditions.

Brieger Corkery added two points, with Orla Cronin and Julia White, making her first championship appearance of the season after a spell travelling, also on the mark.

Murray bemoans shocking performance

CORK camogie manager Paudie Murray wasn't playing the 'everything is fine' role when he spoke after their 0-13 to 0-6 victory over Offaly last Saturday in Páirc Uí Rinn.

In truth, this was a very poor Cork performance against a weak Offaly side and considering the strides the team had made in recent weeks since their league final defeat, you couldn't blame Paudie for being hugely disappointed.

"Well I think our performance was terrible really. Our decision making was terrible, our first touch was terrible, our communication was terrible, everything about it was terrible today and I suppose it would be a worry for us next week the way we played here today."

Was it one of those days where nothing

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goes right? "Era I don't know, I just thought we were very casual leaving the Rochestown Park today, maybe some people thought this was going to be a walk in the park you know and I suppose the way we left the hotel was the way we played really. I was hoping for an increase in performance and I feel certain we've gone 20% back on where we were two weeks ago."

In a casual and seemingly disinterested performance at times, Cork scored just six points from play to Offaly's two. After Amy O'Connor's goal inside 30 seconds was disallowed and play called back for a

free to Cork they failed to flow after that. "Shocking; look I suppose we've little done since the Limerick game but I don't think that's an excuse either. No it wasn't good," conceded Murray. If there is a positive to take it's that a win is a win with Wexford the opponents at home next Saturday.

"Well that game is a crucial one now, the way we were today we certainly won't win that and you've fear for us but we've the next seven days really to sort it out."

The Wexford clash is Cork's final group game and will determine whether they finish second or third. While either side could still finish level on points with Galway, the Westerners have already advanced directly to the semi-final as a result of their wins over their rivals.



Brieger Corkery races past Cailin Fitzgerald. Picture: David Keane.

True champion



Speaking openly on the Brendan O'Connor show on RTÉ Radio 1, 25-year-old Cork camogie captain Ashling Thompson opened up about her battle with depression and encouraged others suffering from depression not to hide their feelings, but instead to seek help. SEE: Page 3

Picture: INPHO

CAMOGIE

Liberty Insurance Senior Championship: Grp 1: Cork 0-13 Offaly 0-6, Wexford 0-6 Galway 1-11; Grp 2: Clare 1-8 Dublin 1-8, Kilkenny 8-15 Tipperary 0-4.

Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship Grp 2: Kildare 5-8 Antrim 0-6.

Liberty Insurance Premier Junior Championship: Laois 5-19 Westmeath 0-1, Armagh 1-15 Limerick 1-11, Dublin 2-18 Roscommon 2-8.

Liberty Insurance Junior A Championship: Meath 0-2 Carlow 5-15.

All-Ireland U16A Camogie Championship Grp 1: Clare 0-8 Kilkenny 0-5, Cork 1-11 Galway 3-12.

All-Ireland U16A Camogie Championship Grp 2: Wexford 2-5 Dublin 4-13, Tipperary 2-9, Limerick 1-5.

All-Ireland U16B Camogie Championship Grp 1: Clare 3-7 Dublin 3-13, Cork 0-9, Waterford 0-9.

All-Ireland U16B Camogie Championship Grp 2: Limerick 0-4 Derry 9-21.

All-Ireland U16C Camogie Championship Grp 1: Antrim 7-24, Wicklow 0-0.

All-Ireland U16C Championship Grp 1: Armagh 3-1 Westmeath 10-7.

All-Ireland U16C Camogie Championship Grp 2: Kildare 7-6, Carlow 2-9.

July 2015

Toughest battle off-field for Rebel with a cause

■ Cork camogie captain urges others not to hide their feelings

■ 'Don't bottle things up, you will lose friends. It always gets better'

Ellie O'Byrne

She is the hard-tackling, heavily tattooed poster girl of camogie, but Ashling Thompson wears her heart on her sleeve.

And despite the teak-tough exterior that has won her All-Ireland medals, the Cork captain isn't afraid to reveal a more vulnerable side, speaking openly on the Brendan O'Connor show on RTE Radio1 about her battle with depression.

The 25-year-old has been encouraging others suffering from depression not to hide their feelings, but to seek help. "Don't bottle things up; you will lose friends. No matter how bad the situation may be, it always gets better," she says.

A difficult couple of years, in which she was injured in a car crash and lost a boyfriend due to suicide, knocked her for six.

Ironically, after turning her back on the sport she loves, it was camogie that helped her way again.

"I've hit rock bottom and come back through sport," says Ashling.

Ashling's struggles began when she sustained back and neck injuries in a car accident in 2009. She had finished her Leaving Cert and was starting college, and had already made the Cork senior squad when a collision close to her family's home in Newtownshandrum left her unable to train and led to her dropping out of college.

Having played camogie since the age of seven, she wasn't prepared for the effects of her injury.

"I had never been injured before, so I'd never sat on the sidelines," she says. "It was extremely difficult to take sitting out for so long. There was nothing that could help me and I couldn't do anything to get over it quickly. That's where depression crept in."

During that time, Ashling became more rebellious and changed her circle of friends. When she finally returned to the game, she started skipping training sessions with her club, Milford GAA.

"I was in my own bubble and nothing outside of that mattered," she says.

"I got involved with all the wrong kind of friends and pushed away all the good ones. I got in loads of trouble and let my family down. The years that followed were really tough."

The person that won her trust and helped her turn things around was Milford camogie team trainer and former Carrigrohilly hurler Frank Flannery, who took over the North Cork team in 2012. He led them to an All-Ireland in his first year with the squad. Ashling described him as firm but fair, and like a father figure to her.

Ashling, who sports several tattoos and piercings, had developed a reputation as a rogue player by the time she met Frank, and had difficulty controlling her temper. Personality clashes with other trainers simply led to her being taken off.

"I was rebellious in general," she says. "My trainers started to only see a negative side of me. It started to reflect in my play and on me as a person. Every referee in the country must know me, I'd say! They got an awful doing."

Ashling's bond with Frank formed quickly. "He told me he'd be my friend and that I could ring him any time of the day or night," she says. "That was the first time I'd ever heard anything like that."

Ashling's emotional problems were nothing new to Frank. "I would have my own demons," he says.

"Through my own experience and those of friends I could relate to where Ashling was coming from."



Cork and Milford camogie star Ashling Thompson had a difficult couple of years in which she was injured in a car crash and lost a boyfriend due to suicide. Pictures: Inpho/Donall Farmer

Ashling was just getting back into her game when tragedy struck: Her "best friend" and "on-again, off-again" boyfriend committed suicide in 2012.

"It was a massive blow," she says. "He committed suicide completely out of the blue. That makes it 10 times worse because you ask yourself, 'how did I not notice?'"

He was always full of energy, full of life. I felt like I'd really failed and I should have noticed something."

She describes the months following the bereavement

as her darkest days. "There were two months where I went training but apart from that I couldn't eat, couldn't sleep, and I was like a ghost walking around," she says.

"I felt invisible." That's when she began to feel that she couldn't continue.

"I just felt, I can't go through this pain anymore, it's not worth it," she says.

After bottling everything up, Ashling finally broke down at training, but Frank was there to support her.

"Frankie told me: 'If I've to pick you up and carry you I will. Stick with me, come to training. It will get easier.' That was the turning point," she says.

"I was at rock bottom but I trusted him 110%. I trusted in my sport. It's the effort you make to find that gateway, to find your way out that does eventually pay off. I'm so proud of myself and I'm so thankful to Frankie and to everyone who's helped me since."

Frankie is "extremely proud" to watch Ashling's progress since she became the captain of the Cork team.

"She's reinvented herself, to be honest, and she's put all that anger and drive into her achievements," he says.

"She's so talented, such an athlete. To watch her go from being taken off all the time to getting player of the match and then moving on to Cork in 2013 was fantastic."

Ashling, now a self-employed sports therapist, took over as captain from fellow Milford player Anna Geary following Geary's retirement as county captain in 2014, just after Cork's All-Ireland win against Kilkenny.

Following a defeat at the hands of Galway in the opening round of this year's Liberty Insurance Camogie Championship, the Rebellettes were back on form to beat Limerick in the second round by 1-14 to 1-10.

Cork meet Wexford in the next round of the Liberty Insurance Camogie Championship this Saturday.

Frank is optimistic about Cork's chances of winning their 26th All-Ireland title this year.

"It'll be Cork for the All-Ireland," he says. "I'd say Galway are their biggest challenge."

Tribe reel in Rebels to nab semi spot

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Galway 3-12
Cork 1-11

DESPITE opening up a six-point lead inside the opening quarter, Cork somehow lost their shape and momentum and allowed Galway into this All-Ireland U16A championship in Castle Road yesterday.

Playing with the aid of a stiff wind in the opening half Galway had to wait until the 27th minute for their first score from play, such was Cork's dominance but in a scoring burst that saw them hit three in a row before the break they had the Cork lead down to three points by half-time.

Carrie Dolan pointed two early Galway frees, but with Cliona Healy pointing two, Cork were level. Five minutes in Katie Walsh was upended and Healy pointed the penalty.

Clara Ryan finished to the net for the opening goal after 10 minutes and piling on the pressure in all sectors, Cork led 1-7 to 0-4 with seven minutes to the interval.

A lapse in concentration saw Cork concede three scores and it seemed to panic them.

Cliona Healy pointed an early free on the restart but a Carrie Dolan goal boosted the visitors' challenge. Cork pointed twice, but upping their game Galway began to wear Cork down and all over the field they were first to the ball. Three points in a row had them level and they hit the front for the first time with a Mairéad Dillon point with 11 minutes remaining.

Galway used possession well up front, with Cork failing to bring their full-forward out in front of the Galway sweeper, any danger was averted as any Cork attack was effectively broken up by Tiffany Ni Colstealbha.

Healy pointed a difficult free and with five minutes remaining the game was in the melting pot. Twice Cork wasted chances with two wides and Galway struck for the killer blow when Carrie Dolan latched on to a long-range free and blasted home.

The same player pointed a free before a Dillon goal on the full whistle saw Galway secure a semi-final spot and left Cork facing a difficult trip to Kilkenny in two weeks.

Scorers for Galway: C Dolan 2-8 (0-8 f), M Dillon 1-1, S McGrath, M Mannion E Gaffney 0-1 each.

Cork: C Healy 0-10 (0-7 f), C Ryan 1-0, L Homan 0-1.

GALWAY: S Healy, S Cannon, I Burke, R Murphy, A Murphy, T Ni Colstealbha, L Helebert, G Finnerty, S Ridge, A Lynskey, S Spellman, M Mannion, M Dillon, C Dolan, S McGrath.

Subs: E Gaffney for G Finnerty (35), E Waters for M Mannion (58).

CORK: S Aherm, G Cahalane, E Lomegan (c), A Buckley, M Lynch, K McCarthy, K Daly, E McAndrew, R McCarthy, I O'Regan, C Hughes, C Crowley, C Healy, C Ryan, K Walsh.

Subs: L Homan for K Walsh (h-1), L O'Gorman for C Crowley (h-0), R Keane for R McCarthy (36), M Ryan for A Buckley (40).

Referee: Aidan O'Brien (Wexford).

Poor game by Cork but job done



Linda Mellerick

Cork 0-13
Offaly 0-6

CORK did enough to secure themselves a quarter-final spot with a seven-point win over Offaly in Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday.

However, it was a performance that failed to raise even a moment of excitement as a lack lustre display against what was a poor Offaly side was a disappointment.

Cork needed to keep the momentum going after a good display against Galway in the opening round and their win over Limerick two weeks ago.

They were starting to show signs of cohesiveness, intent and belief. Saturday was a step back and disappointing because of that.

At senior intercounty level just a combined eight points from play tells its own story, not to mention the fact that Orla Cotter accounted for nine of Cork's total, seven from frees, with Breige Corkery, Orla Cronin and Julia White the other contributors.

Underfoot conditions were very slippery. The game lacked any real bite from the outset with the first score from play not coming until the 22nd minute. The wet conditions couldn't be blamed for Cork's poor distribution and striking up front.

Inside 30 seconds Amy O'Connor had the ball inside the Offaly net after a searing run but incredulously referee Alan Lagrue pulled play back to award Cork a free in, from which Orla Cotter converted.

That early sign of tearing Offaly apart all but dissipated as slow delivery, poor distribution and shooting cost Cork up front.

Gemma O'Connor was the most pleasing aspect of the opening half with excellent vision and delivery as she was commanding from the half-back line.

Orla Cotter was once again brilliant from frees in addition to picking off



Cork forward Hannah Looney has her shot blocked by Offaly's Fiona Stephens, during their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship clash at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: David Keane

two fine points from open play. Eimear O'Sullivan failed to tog out as she continues to recover from a knee injury. Rena Buckley fell back to right half-back as Julia White moved to midfield.

Cork were never going to lose this game. They were dominating throughout the field but often took the wrong option up front, failing to release the ball to a better placed teammate also a factor.

The sides swapped points three times in the opening 17 minutes. To rephrase, Orla Cotter and Siobhan Flannery swapped points from placed balls.

Offaly failed to score for the remainder of the half as Cotter (3), Breige Corkery and Orla Cronin hit over a further five points to lead 0-8 to 0-3 at the break.

The second half didn't offer much more by way of excitement for the

small attendance. Siobhan Flannery got Offaly off the mark again but Cork pulled further away with two Cotter frees, Julia White, Breige Corkery and Cotter again from play giving Cork their 13 points of the hour by the 52nd minute.

Offaly defensively did well it must be said, as they closed Cork down time and again, Jean Brady and Michaela Morkan particular leading the way. Cork however played into their hands by not spreading the play and picking off points from distance.

Referee Alan Lagrue was overly fussy at times which didn't help the occasion, showing four yellow cards to Offaly.

This was Offaly's fourth defeat. Maybe the Cork players found it hard to motivate themselves for the game; it certainly seemed to be that way.

They will know that a performance like that will not see them take Wex-

ford at home next Saturday and we can expect a greater urgency from them.

A win is a win regardless of performance and the positive to take from the day is that there is a lot more in this team.

Elsewhere, Galway had a 1-11 to 0-6 victory over Wexford, Clare and Dublin shared the spoils at 1-8 apiece as Kilkenny continued their scoring blitz with an 8-15 to 0-4 pasting of Tipperary.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-9 (0-7 f), B Corkery 0-2, O Cronin, J White 0-1 each.

Offaly: S Flannery 0-5 (0-4 f), A Watkins 0-1.

CORK: A Murray, P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan, R Buckley, G O'Connor, M Cahalane, J White, A Thompson, O Cotter, O Cronin, H Looney, A O'Connor, B Corkery, K Mackey.

Sub: J Hosford for H Looney (59).

OFFALY: E Clendennen, F Stephens, J Brady, L Sullivan, S Sullivan, M Morkan, M Crean, A Kelly, A Brennan, L Keena, S Flannery, R Egan, C Fitzgerald, A Watkins, T Hannon.

Subs: O Kirwan for A Brennan (h/t), N Larkin for A Kelly (36), M Jennings for L Keena (53). Referee: Alan Lagrue (Kildare).

Hennigan pulls off a vital save for U16s

Mary Newman

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Cork 0-9
Waterford 0-9

THIS was a game that could have gone either way as All-Ireland U16B champions Waterford received a stern test for a committed and determined Cork in the curtain raiser at Castle Road yesterday.

In the end both had to be content with a share of the points on offer.

Cork keeper Megan Hennigan kept her side in the game with a superb save with 10 minutes remaining, but in the

opening half Cork had persisted in going for goals when point options looked the better choice.

At the break Cork led by a point 0-5 to 0-4 but they had wasted better chances. Saoirse McCarthy, Claire Mullins and Aoife Hurley where on target for Cork, while Kaiesha Tobin had four for Waterford.

McCarthy edged Cork further ahead on the restart but they had to absorb

huge Waterford pressure as the visitors drove forward. Shauna Fitzgerald cut the deficit with a point but two in row from Stephanie Mangan and Orla Lowney saw Cork stretch their advantage to three points.

As the game entered the final quarter Hennigan denied Aisling Madigan with a point-blank save.

Niamh Murphy pointed a free and coming under huge pressure but the Cork defence conceded a free which Tobin converted.

Saoirse McCarthy edged Cork back in front and twice they had opportunities but sloppy shooting proved costly,

before they coughed up a late leveller.

Scorers for Cork: S McCarthy 0-4 (0-2 f), A Hurley 0-2, O Lowney, C Mullins, S Mangan 0-1 each.

Waterford: K Tobin 0-6 (0-3 f), N Murphy (f), A Corcoran, S Fitzgerald 0-1 each.

CORK: M Hennigan, Sarah O'Sullivan, K Sexton (c), O Fahy, H O'Connell, A O'Donovan, O Keating, C Donovan, S McCarthy, C O'Keefe, C Mullins, Saoirse O'Sullivan, A Hurley, S Mangan, O Lowney.

Subs: M Fitzpatrick for Saoirse O'Sullivan (35), N Power for C O'Keefe (48), D O'Reilly for S Mangan (58), M Barrett for C Donovan (58).

WATERFORD: C Jackman, S Cunningham, T Healy (c), C Curran, C Griffin, S Fitzgerald, C Hogan, A Madigan, N Murphy, K Lynch, A Corcoran, SM Rowe, C Dempsey, K Tobin, F Curley.

Sub: G Heffernan for SM Rowe (43). Referee: Justin Heffernan (Wexford).

Rebels will be well up for Wexford

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

TOMORROW
Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship Round 2: Cork v Wexford, 1.30pm.

CORK got their Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship campaign off to a perfect start with a superb victory over Meath and they will face into round two in confident form when they host Wexford.

Wexford need a victory in this one to stay in contention they lost out to Down by seven points before edging out Galway in a close low scoring contest.

Like Cork this is their second adult team but they do not lack experience. Centre-back Sarah O'Connor is a strong campaigner as is Louise Sinnott, and up front Marie Morrissey, Michelle Martin and Nancy Dunphy are key players in manager Tom Dunphy's set up. This is his first season in charge and he will be anxious to put a bad league campaign behind him.

Cork notched up an impressive 2-13 against Meath with Amanda O'Regan and Linda Collins impressive in attack. At midfield Lauren Callanan and Kaitlin Hickey formed a strong partnership, while a solid defence that included Leah Weste, Niamh O'Keefe, Sarah Fahy and Sarah Buckley held Meath to a single score in the second half.

Looking at results to date Down had a seven point victory over Wexford before going on to lose to Meath by five points. This would suggest Cork have the strength to get a victory.

SUNDAY

U16A All-Ireland Championship: Cork v Kilkenny, Dicksborough, 2.30pm.

A tough trip to Kilkenny awaits the Cork U16 A side as they finish off their group section of games in a must win clash.

Last weekend Galway came from behind to overcome Cork's challenge in Castle Road. Leading at half-time by a goal and turning to play with a strong wind Cork lost their focus and paid the price as Galway pounced and ran out seven point winners.

The result looked to have secured Galway a semi-final spot but in a surprise result later that evening Clare bounced back from their big defeat at the hands of Cork in round one to record a good win over Kilkenny.

The state of the table as we enter the last round is that Galway are on top with four points, Cork and Clare are in the chasing pack on two points each, Galway meet Clare on Sunday and were Galway to win and Cork defeat Kilkenny both go through.

We also have a possibility of three counties ending up on level points then we are into scoring difference to decide. It's do or die on Sunday and still all very much to play for.



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

TOMORROW
Liberty Insurance All-Ireland camogie championship group 1 round 4
Cork v Wexford, 3pm.

NOTHING separates Cork and Wexford in the championship league style table.

Both have played three games, won two and lost one, to Galway in both cases, and both have an equal points difference based on a score for and against combined total.

Galway are already through to this year's All Ireland semi-final.

Even if they fall to Limerick in Athenry tomorrow, which is doubtful, and end up on level points with Cork or Wexford, they will head straight to the final four, based on their wins over both counties in previous rounds.

Equally if Limerick take the points it won't be enough to see them through to the quarter-finals, due to their defeats by Wexford and Cork. This is all to prevent a play-off situation.

So Cork and Wexford are through regardless of the outcome of their clash tomorrow.

Second or third place is what they are competing for and in truth it means little where they finish up as the outcome is a quarter-final tie with either Tipperary or Clare and those teams shouldn't be a problem for either county. However this game means a lot more than second or third place. Psychologically it's a huge game for both counties.

Wexford are through to the knock-out stages for the ninth year in-a-row despite the fact they have been without some of their more established players.

Karen Atkinson, Mags D'Arcy, Ursula Jacob and Una Leacy have not featured in the championship because of injuries, while Josie Dwyer and Noeleen Lambert quit the inter-county scene after last season.

Looking past the group phase however Karen, Mags and Ursula should be in a position to return. We are all aware of the number of players that Cork have lost from last season through retirements.

At this point in time however Wexford are only concentrating on Cork. The showdown will be the first time the counties go head-to-head since their meeting in the semi-final last year which went to a replay.

On that occasion Cork came out on top by an impressive margin of 10 points before going on and claiming the title. They restricted Wexford to just one point in the second-half but Mary Leacy knows the Model County came away from the game having picked up a valuable lesson.

"I think you leave every game looking to see where you might be able to

Wexford Model might counter Cork



AWAY SHE GOES: Cork's Pamela Mackey closes down Wexford's Kate Kelly in last season's championship. The two counties have developed a huge rivalry. Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

improve, regardless of how the result went. But we really learned plenty from that one against Cork.

You never like to lose such a big game like that one and the fact it was a heavy defeat made it that bit harder to take. "The big problem we had was trying to handle the defensive style they adopted.

"We found it really tough to break them down - especially in the second-half. But we had plenty of time to reflect on it in the months that followed and consider how we might have done better. They were very impressive and underlined that fact in their next game

in winning the All-Ireland."

From Cork's perspective, while their defensive system is working well, their distribution, once they have carried the ball out of defence, still needs work. It was poor last weekend against Offaly and a major step-up will be required to overcome Wexford. That was a hugely disappointing game, with the visitors well below the level of the home side, but at the same time Cork weren't anywhere near full tilt.

In those games you don't have to, but it will be a different story completely tomorrow.

The system works but many of those

that executed it so well last season have left the scene, so it will take time for it to flow again.

You can't underestimate how big a loss the retirement of the likes of Joanne O'Callaghan, Anna Geary and Jennifer O'Leary are in terms of experience, while Angela Walsh is unavailable as well for the time being.

Despite the absence of so many key players from last season, many counties haven't yet counteracted a well-organised defence and counter-attacking approach.

It remains to be seen if Wexford will tomorrow.

Dublin keep hopes of quarter-final place alive

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Dublin kept their hopes of progression to the quarter-finals of the Liberty Insurance senior camogie championship alive by eking out a 0-12 to 0-8 win over Derry in Swatragh.

Alison Maguire was named player of the match after scoring seven points from frees that enabled the visitors to keep their noses in front despite the drive of Eimear Mullan, Meadhbh McGoldrick and Karen Kieft.

The Dubs led by 0-5 to 0-4 at half time but that was as close as Derry got, with the Oak Leafers struggling to make headway against their sweeper system. Maguire punished their indiscretions to edge them clear before Emma Flanagan hit the insurance point.

Clare are still in with a chance of snatching third place in Group 2 but will need a big win against Derry next week after losing comprehensively to Tipperary by 2-18 to 0-11. Cáit Devane ran riot for the winners, scoring 12 points. Eight of those came from play

as Clare failed completely to come to terms with the sharp-shooter.

Chloe Morey scored seven points for Clare but goals from Mairead Teehan straight after half time and substitute Nicole Walsh late on put paid to Colman Honan's side.

Galway completed their campaign with a 100% record as they accounted for Limerick in resounding fashion by 4-16 to 0-12.

Meanwhile Kate Kelly continued her phenomenal form by converting eight placed balls as Wexford set up a quarter-final against either Clare or Dublin by beating All-Ireland champions Cork, 0-13 to 0-10.

Katrina Parrock weighed in with three points from play as the Yellowbellies gained a small measure of revenge for losing last year's semi-final to Cork in a replay.

As usual, Orla Cotter was top scorer for the Leesiders with seven points, with Katrina Mackey notching up three. Paudie Murray's charges will now play Tipperary in the quarter-final.

McCARTHY (nee Buckley)

(Bishopstown): On July 17, 2015, peacefully, surrounded by her loving family, at Cork University Hospital, AEDIN, Fargrove Park, Bishopstown, beloved wife of the late Larry and loving mother of Lar, Aedin, Patsy, Maese, Una, Fiona, Neil, Mary and Brian. Sadly missed by her family, brother Conn, grandchildren, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, partners, sister-in-law Sheila, nephews, nieces, relatives, the "Girls" and a wide circle of friends. Reposing at home on tomorrow (Sunday) from 3pm, with Rosary at 6pm. Reception into St. Joseph's SMA Church, Wilton on Monday at 11.45am, for 12 noon Requiem Mass. Funeral afterwards to St. Oliver's Cemetery, Model Farm Road. Family flowers only. Donations, in lieu, to Marymount Hospice. www.oconnorfuneralcork.ie

O'Regan points the way forward

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork	0-17
Wexford	0-2

WITH Amanda O'Regan showing great accuracy from placed balls and play notching up 11 points of Cork's tally, the intermediate side went top of the Liberty Insurance Championship table with a superb victory over Wexford in Riverstown on Saturday.

In a strange move the visitors lined out in defensive mode from the throw-in, pulling back two extra players despite playing with the aid of the strong wind that at times was difficult to handle.

O'Regan propelled Cork into a three-point lead inside 10 minutes showing great accuracy from two frees and a 45. Playing with great composure Cork were in control and they used possession cleverly picking out their players with good distribution ensuring the Wexford defensive strategy was blotted out.

Jacinta Crowley added to Cork's tally with a point before Amy Lee denied Margurite Doyle with a good save. Wexford enjoyed a good spell in the second quarter but wasteful shooting saw them shoot seven first-half wides as their quest for an opening score continued.

Finola Neville hit Cork's fifth point before Lee again denied Wexford's Michelle Martin with a superb save which fielded a 45. Ellen Kelly converted to open their account but Cork finished the half well with O'Regan pointing twice from a free and play to give Cork a comfortable six-point interval lead.

The second half was all Cork as they continued to dictate matter adding 10 points to their tally O'Regan a striking four with Kaitlin Hickey, substitute Caroline Suggins, Sarah Fahy and Linda Collins all getting on the score sheet.

Wexford's Louise Sinnott pointed a free three minutes from the full time whistle after a day they will want to forget against a Cork side that played well and were settled and composed and if they can maintain this form they have the ability to go a lot further in this championship.

Next game is a trip away to Down next weekend.

Scorers for Cork: A O'Regan 0-11 (0-8 f, 0-1 45), J Crowley, F Neville, K Hickey, L Collins, S Fahy C Suggins 0-1 each.

Wexford: E Kelly 0-1 45, L Sinnott 0-1 f. **CORK:** A Lee, E Murphy, L Weste, N O'Keefe, S Fahy, S Buckley, H O'Regan, K Hickey, L Callanan, F Neville, C Sigerson, J Crowley, R Harty, L Collins, A O'Regan.

Subs: C Suggins for R Harty (40), L Coppinger for C Sigerson (45), S Harrington for H O'Regan (46), N O'Callaghan for K Hickey (48), L McEvoy for J Crowley (53). **WEXFORD:** D Cotter, N Dunphy, M C Morrissey, A O'Connor (c), N Wickham, F Byrne, M Doyle, L Sinnott, B Doyle, M Martin, D Mc Mahon, A Ryan, E Kelly, E Roche, M Morrissey.

Subs: L Stafford for E Kelly (45), A Whidy for A Ryan (50), D Kavanagh for N Dunphy (51).

Referee: Jenny Byrne (Dublin).



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

Cork	0-10
Wexford	0-13

AT HALF-TIME in Sarsfields GAA club last Saturday Cork would have been very happy with their first-half performance against Wexford in their final group championship game. And deservedly so.

They were a much improved side to that which took to the field the previous week against Limerick. Playing against a very strong wind, their competitiveness, fluency and distribution were good, with a couple of impressive scores. However, all that was good about the first 30 minutes dissipated in the second as Wexford took control.

Level at the break at six points apiece and coming back out with the wind at their backs, it was looking good for the home side. However, they were eaten up in the first 10 minutes. Shelley Kehoe, after a good first half, caused havoc as Wexford left just two players in their full forward line and, with their half-forwards also playing deep, soaked up everything around the middle of the pitch. Four points on the trot from Kehoe, the excellent Parrock and two frees from Kate Kelly gave Wexford an advantage that hadn't seemed likely.

Oria Cotter was once again very prominent in the first half as defensively and at midfield Cork were on top. Katrina Mackey was also on song, striking three lovely points from play. But Mary Leacy, Shelley Kehoe, Una Sinnott and Katrina Parrock were also looking strong.

Cork needed to push on but again their overplaying of the ball came into question and, while the final delivery was wide to the flanks in the first half, much was pumped down the middle in the second, particularly as Cork searched for a goal. Mary Leacy was a beacon during that period from centre back as she cleared time and again.

Cork's workrate or physicality weren't enough when the going got tough. They failed to adequately compete for the 50/50 ball as Wexford's physicality won out, particularly with the aerial balls. Referee John Dolan did make some questionable calls but he wasn't the reason Cork lost.

Shelley Kehoe and Una Sinnott, named at corner-forward but now playing deeper out the field, won huge ball and it took a while for Cork to deal with them.

Mary Leacy in a prematch interview had stated that Cork's defensive style caught them last year and they had put much thought into how to counteract it. While it didn't look as if they had managed to do so in the opening half one shouldn't forget that Wexford hit

Goals knock Cats out of All-Ireland series

Kilkenny	3-12
Cork	5-8

THERE was a nail-biting finish as Cork maintained their lead to the final whistle in Dicksborough yesterday to secure their place in the U16A All-Ireland championship semi-final.

Kilkenny took an early lead with two Caoimhe Dowling points but Cork settled into the game and hit the front with a Lauren Homan goal and a Cliona Healy point settling them into the game.

Danielle Morrissey, the home side's outstanding player, pointed a 45 but points from Cliona Healy and Katie Walsh helped maintain Cork's two-goal lead. That was quickly wiped out inside a min-

Cork lack an edge in the forward line



Cork forward Oria Cotter faced by Wexford's Shelly Kehoe during their Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship clash at Riverstown. Picture: Des Barry

nine wides with the wind and 13 in total to four for Cork.

Picking off their scores from further out the field is something Wexford have obviously worked on and they made the distance even if the accuracy wasn't always spot on. One wonders if Cork need to now change the plan which has stood so well to them, or at least be able to transition mid game.

There seems little point in leaving six on four defensively or six on three as opposing players are free around

the middle of the park with the capability of picking off scores.

Injured star forward Ursula Jacob, is still to come into the Wexford side.

Cork had just four points on the scoreboard in the second half, all placed balls from Cotter. Cork need more scoring power up front.

Jennifer O'Leary is a huge loss from last season as is the physicality and feeding play of Angela Walsh. But they are a work in progress and are through to the quarter-final against Tipperary.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-7 (0-3 f, 0-2 45), K Mackey 0-3.

Wexford: K Kelly 0-8 (0-6 f, 0-2 45), K Parrock 0-3, S Kehoe 0-2.

CORK: A Murray, P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan, R Buckley, G O'Connor, M Cahalane, A Thompson, J White, O Cotter, O Cronin, J Hosford, B Corkery, A O'Connor, K Mackey.

WEXFORD: L Brennan, L O'Leary, S Nolan, C Donohoe, S Redmond, M Leacy, C Storey, D Codd, B Gordon, K Parrock, K Kelly, Shelley Kehoe, Stacey Kehoe, L Bolger, U Sinnott.

Sub: Lisa Bolger for Linda Bolger (59).

Referee: John Dolan (Clare).

CAMOGIE

the top and it's Galway that go through as group winners and Cork in second place.

Scorers for Cork: L Homan 3-1, C Healy 1-6 (0-4 f), C Crowley 1-0, K Walsh 0-1.

Kilkenny: D Morrissey 3-7 (1-0 pen, 0-4 f, 0-2 45), C Dowling 0-2, A O'Gorman, E Murphy, E Keoghán 0-1 each.

CORK: M Daly, M Ryan, E Lomegan (c), A Buckley, M Lynch, K McCarthy, K Daly, E McAndrew, R McCarthy, I O'Regan, C Collins, C Ryan, K Walsh, L Homan, C Healy.

Subs: N O'Riordan for C Collins, C Crowley for C Ryan, C O'Keefe for C Ryan.

KILKENNY: C Murphy, I Carroll, L Power, C O'Shea, N Carter, T Clifford, H Scott, C Dowling, A O'Gorman, H Hoynes, E Murphy, N Deely, E Phelan, D Morrissey, A Morrissey.

Sub: E Keoghán for H Hoynes.

Referee: Alan Lagrue (Kildare).



Pamela Mackey in a tussle with Brid Gordon. Picture: Des Barry

Club concerns led to this play-off row

WOW, the poor camogie association has been lambasted this week.

The widespread influence of social media can be negative, but it has propelled women's sports to new heights, so we must accept both its capability to promote and to discredit.

Recently, there was controversy about the dual players clashing, but that was the fault of the ladies' footballers. The LGFA had received a list of the camogie inter-county fixtures last November, yet proceeded to set their own fixtures, involving the same counties on the same day, and then washed their hands of the problem when there was a provincial clash.

This week, the controversy is that a toss of a coin could determine Dublin or Clare's faith this afternoon in the All-Ireland senior camogie championship.

The association released the following statement: "The Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championship quarter-finals will take place on Saturday, August 1. Cork and Tipperary play in one quarter-final, while Wexford are awaiting confirmation of their opponents, which will be either Dublin or Clare, both of whom are from group two."

"Dublin have completed their four round-games and have finished third in the group table, with three points, while Clare are fourth,



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

with one point. Clare play Derry this Sunday, July 26, in the final round of the championship.

There are three possible scenarios arising from this fixture, and determining who progresses to the quarter-finals to play Wexford.

"If Derry beat Clare, Dublin finish on higher points from the group stages and proceed to the quarter-finals. If Clare and Derry draw, Dublin finish on higher points and proceed to the quarter-finals. If Clare beat Derry, they will draw level with Dublin, on points, sharing three points each.

"Dublin and Clare previously played each other on Saturday, July 11. This game ended in a draw, with a final score of 108. Under the 2015 National Fixtures Management plan, if two teams have an equal ranking (ie, if head-to-head game ended in a draw), the final rankings will be decided by the following steps: "A. higher number of goals scored in the group match (is) between the teams in question. B.

Higher number of points scored in the group match between the teams in question. If, after this, the teams are still equal, then the final scenario applies. C. Draw lots. This will arise in the event that Clare beat Derry.

"This draw will take place after the match ends, with the team drawn proceeding to the quarter-finals. These pre-determined procedures were agreed by Ard Chomhairle in November, 2014. The procedure was raised in initial discussion with counties in October, 2014 and a full draft of the fixtures plan was issued on October 31.

"The procedure was introduced in an effort to free up dates during the inter-county season, to provide for club-game schedules by avoiding play-off dates at inter-county level.

This pre-determined procedure has been known to counties since the national fixtures plan was disseminated to all counties on December 3, 2014. As part of the usual annual review of fixtures, in October, 2015, the new procedure will be considered in the context of fixtures planning for the 2016 season."

So, players, supporters, people who have never attended a game of camogie and the WPGA have all pounced on social media to air their horrified views about the situation.

No team, regardless of whether it's at club or inter-county, should be eliminated from a competition due to a toss of a coin. The association

probably assumed it would never have to resort to step C, but it could if Clare win. They will then be faced with an issue. There isn't time for a 'play-off', but both Dublin and Clare may well request one mid-week.

That isn't the answer: Clare playing three inter-county games in the space of six days.

The association, in their commendable effort to free up time for clubs, tried to avoid play-offs this year. There would have been a free week after the final group games in which to fit in a play-off, but it was utilised at Derry's request. The Clare v Derry fixture was not played in parallel with the other senior championship group games last weekend, for the following reason: Saturday, June 20, when the opening round of the senior championship took place, Ulster were hosting the National Féile na nGael competition.

Derry's request to keep that weekend free of inter-county games was facilitated. This decision is the norm, in regard to counties involved in hosting Féile every year. Of course, the whole competition could have been brought forward a week and kicked off on June 14.

We all know who the association are secretly supporting today.

If Derry don't come up trumps and relieve their headache, it remains to be seen if something else can be sorted, before the first named county is reached for in the bowl.

BRIDE ROVERS

Camogie Club Clearance Sale: On Saturday the 25th of July, there will be a one-off clearance sale of very reasonably priced rain jackets, fleeces, hoodies and compression tops of various colours - all with the Bride Rovers crest - and sizes ranging from children 3/4 years to xxl adults. The sale will take place at the club house from 11am to 12 noon only and all items must be paid for on the day.

U16 Inter County Camogie:

Congratulations to club player, Siobhan O'Sullivan, and the Cork U16A camogie team who beat Kilkenny on Sunday on a score of 5-8 to 3-12. Cork will now progress to the All-Ireland semi-final on the 16th of August. Best of luck to Siobhan and the Cork team.

Clothes Collection: First Friday collection of old clothes, shoes and handbags will be taken at the Community Centre on Friday August 7th from 7.30 to 8.00pm.

CLUB DETAILS

Don't forget you can stay in touch day to day with all the latest news on Twitter: @roversgaa, and on Facebook.

GLEN ROVERS

Our junior team met Cobh in the opening round of the championship but lost out by five points in a game where we met a very strong home side.

We battled to the finish but I like end ran Cobh ran out winners with five points to spare 2-5 to 0-6.

Our second game against Cloughduv saw us turn in a much improved performance. Cloughduv got off to a great start with three points without reply but we gradually got into the contest

and with Nora O'Riordan, Michaela Hyde, Edel O'Connell Lorna Hickey and Sinead Gallen all on target we led at the interval 1-8 to 0-4.

Continuing to work hard we extended our advantage Maria Sheehan grabbed three goals and with Shauna Brickley Donna O'Neil and Katie Walsh also getting on the score sheet we ran out winners. Laura Dineen, Shauna Goggin and Eimear Foley Alison Dowling, Shauna O'Riordan, captain Lisa Cotter and Susan Collins all worked hard.

substitutes Kayleigh Bridgeman, Niamh Kelly and Sinead Collins were all to the fore in what was a great team effort, well done to everybody. Our next game will be against Charleville.

Well done to the Cork under 16A team on reaching the All-Ireland semi-final.

best wishes to the Intermediate team who take on Down this weekend and to the Under 16 B team who meet Antrim.

Results: All Ireland U16A Championship Cork 5. 08pts - Kilkenny 3. 12pts.

Cork Senior B Championship Eire Og 1. 08pts - Valley Rovers 0. 11pts.

Eire Og 3. 12pts - Clonakilty 2. 11pts

Clonakilty 2. 10pts - Fr. O'Neills 2. 08pts Aghabullogue 0. 06pts - Carrigaline 0. 03pts.

Sarsfields 7. 07pts - Kilbrittan/Timoleague 1. 08pts.

Mallow 2. 08pts - Valley Rovers 2. 08pts Junior Championship Newtownshandrum 2. 11pts - Bishopstown 3. 04pts

St. Vincents 5. 13pts - Bride Rovers 4. 05pts Douglas 2. 15pts - Na Piarasigh 3. 09pts



Cork U16A camogie team. Front l to r: Emer McAndrew (Ballygarvan), Molly Ryan (Carrigaline), Ciara Crowley (Youghal), Katie Walsh (Glen Rovers), Clara Crowley (Ballinascaharthy), Cliona Healy (Aghabullogue), Katie McCarthy (Aghabullogue), Ruth McCarthy (Sarsfields), Chloe Collins (Millstreet), Rebecca Keane (Inniscarra). Back l to r: Edel Lonergan (Sarsfields), Ciara Ryan (Clonakilty), Nora O'Riordan (Rockbán), Sarahh Aherne (Ballygarvan), Olivia Murphy (Blarney), Grace Collins (Eire Og), Catriona O'Keefe (Youghal), Lucy O'Gorman (Dungourney), Aileen Buckley (Cloughduv), Gráinne Cahalane (St. Finbarrs), Kate Wall (Kilbrittan/Timoleague), Lauran Homan (St. Vincents), Megan Daly (Douglas), Siobhán O'Sullivan (Bride Rovers), Maeve Lynch (Newcestown), Isobel O'Regan (Ballygarvan), Katie Daly (Sliabh Rúa).



REBEL YELL: Cork dual star Rena Buckley, holder of 27 national titles.

Picture: David Keane.

27 not out as dual star Buckley still clocking up the titles

IT'S some sporting cv — 27 national titles from 35 finals, which averages out at one for every year the popular physiotherapist has been on this planet.

The medal haul includes 14 All-Irelands, nine in football, and Rena has been a dual player for a dozen years, now. Why then has it taken so long to be recognised by this particular stable? Judges, sure what do they know?

Anyway, two minutes from the end of the Galway game and the sides tied at 0-13 to 1-10, Rena underlined her importance to the Cork cause by popping up to score the winning point, her second of the game.

The Connacht girls became the latest victims of another Cork late, late show after the pair couldn't be separated in a thrilling 3-8 to 1-14 draw in the first game.

"The one thing in the back of my mind was that I didn't want extra-time," says Buckley.

"I remember we had the ball out to the side, but Galway had us blocked off.

"It came across to me and I was able to go in the other direction and create enough space to have a go.

"I was about 30m out from goal and it was reaching the stage that someone had to shoot and it fell to me. I wouldn't be noted for scoring so that made it all the more pleasing.

"Galway were down to 14 players at the time and we won the kick-out which allowed us run down the clock," Rena recalled.

Rena's accuracy clinched her ninth league medal, a remarkable eighth success on the bounce and Cork's 11th in 12 years.

Her versatility is such that Rena has played across every position in defence, apart from goalkeeper, and now forms a formidable midfield partnership with fellow camogie star Brieghe Corkery. "My favourite positions would be centre-back or midfield."

The one downside, however, was the game clashed with the Munster championship final in camogie between Cork and Tipperary, which had a 4.30 throw-in in Cashel, with the football replay starting three hours later in Portlaoise.

"That was very disappointing. Mind you it wasn't the first time it happened because you'd have league clashes, which is understandable enough.

"It's usually just Brieghe and I who are af-

I'm lucky to be part of two unbelievably successful Cork teams

ected, but Meabh Cahalane is involved now, too.

"What normally happens is that I'd play one game and Brieghe the other, but that was the most serious clash until recently, when it happened again, this time in the championship, however.

"I suppose everything is based on the importance of the game. Back then, the football was a replay of a national final and while the camogie was a Munster final, there's a separate All-Ireland, which is obviously more important.

"It would be very difficult for either of us to have to make the call, but either way it's hugely disappointing, especially as we're 12 years involved with both teams.

"What's even more frustrating is that the situation doesn't appear to have improved at all.

"You can understand league games clashing, but not at this time of the year, the height of the championship.

"You'd imagine there'd be some compromise by moving one of the games to a Friday night or Sunday," Rena commented.

The commitment shown by all involved with Cork is well documented and Rena wouldn't have it any other way.

"I love playing. I know it means being out six nights of the week whether training or playing, but anyone playing inter-county is doing it anyway.

"You have to give up a lot, but that's by choice. We're not being forced into anything.

"There are things you miss like holidays,

Our May recipient is dual football and camogie star, Rena Buckley, who is honoured for the first time following her exploits in the National Football League final replay win over Galway. She spoke to Mark Woods



DETERMINED: Cork's Rena Buckley battles with Wexford's Ursula Jacob in the All-Ireland series. Picture: Jim Coughlan

weddings and hen parties but what you gain throughout the year more than compensates.

"For example I don't take holidays during the summer and I'd usually go in winter.

"Last year we had a trip with the football and that was fine. The previous year I went skiing. There's always something to do.

"I'm lucky to be part of two unbelievably successful Cork teams. I think that extra bit of commitment from people has helped us achieve what we have done.

"People prioritise and that comes from not only the players, but the managements as well. Everyone realises the importance of what's involved and that's critical.

"Everyone puts in a great shift, especially in training, when there's a consistent high standard and that's very important in achieving success.

"It's not good enough just to show up a couple of weeks before the championship and put in a big effort."

Rena's longevity is a direct result of her dedication and it's no coincidence that she's remained practically injury-free.

"I've been very lucky over the years. I had one bad injury to my shoulder, which kept me out for a month to six weeks.

"I missed the first county final with Inniscarra, but I made it back for the replay.

"That was in 2010, a year which didn't go well with Cork so I didn't miss out on anything with them.

"Being a physio gave me an advantage. Exercise is the most important thing and I knew what to crack on with, in terms of getting back playing again.

"I think minding yourself in the winter is very important as well. Obviously, you can let your hair down a bit, but you can't let yourself go, either.

"You'd probably end up too far be-

30-second timeout

Name: Rena Buckley

From: Inniscarra

Age: 28

Sports: Ladies football and camogie

Occupation: Physiotherapist

Family: Parents Tim and Helen, brother Jerry and sister Mary

Twitter handle: @renabucks

Top three people you follow on Twitter: The usual GAA people, but mostly physios for work-related matters

You'd do 10 extra laps to avoid doing: Writing up notes at work.

All-Ireland football medals: 9

National League medals: 9

All-Ireland camogie medals: 5

All-Stars: 7

hind and that's when injuries can start creeping in, but you must have an appetite for training, when it comes round again.

"You have to switch off and I think peaking is very important as well because there's no point in reaching that level in March or April and being sick of training by July and August."

Rena works with Brian O'Connell and they've two physiotherapy clinics in Ballincollig and Macroom.

Work isn't a typical Monday-Friday, nine to five stint, instead it regularly extends into the evenings and at weekends, too.

"You have to be flexible to cater for the client and we also look after some

GAA teams.

"I worked with Dolphin in the last rugby season. It took me a while to get used to it, but I really enjoyed some of the matches. It was different.

"There are certain aspects of rugby I really like, notably the sportsmanship.

"When the game is over, it's over. In the GAA, we tend to hang on to an element of bitterness from what happened maybe five years ago."

Now another championship is roaring ahead with Rena one All-Ireland shy of the late Kathleen Mills, who won a record 15 with Dublin in camogie.

Will Kathleen's record endure? I doubt it.



TRUE GRIT: Cork's Rena Buckley holds off Tyrone's Maria Donnelly during a NL game.

Evening Echo

LADIES SPORTSTAR AWARDS

NEWBRIDGE SILVERWARE

RPH ROCHESTOWN PARK HOTEL

Memorable fundraising day in memory of Paula O'Leary

BARRYROE Camogie Club organised a fundraising day on Saturday in memory of Paula O'Leary, with all proceeds going to Pieta House and Living Links.

The day began with an U10 camogie blitz for the Paula O'Leary Cup and Shield and, as it happened, the home side won both trophies.

Also on the day, Jennifer (O'Leary) Curry's Middletown team from Armagh took on Barryroe in a senior camogie challenge. The home side emerged victorious on a scoreline of 3-13 to 1-12, with Jennifer playing the last ten minutes with the Blues. The game also saw a cameo appearance from former Cork goalkeeper Cora Keohane.

All in all, a great day and a good sum raised for two worthy causes, and the club would like to thank all its sponsors and those that gave their time to make the day such a success.

Meanwhile, in U16 camogie Barryroe defeated Erin's Own 4-6 to 1-2 in Caherlag. Barryroe led 2-2 to 0-1 at the break.

Team: Therese McCarthy, Maeve Whelton, Shannon Chapman, Katie McCarthy, Niamh Whelton (0-1), Aileen O'Riordan, Andrea Tobin, Clodagh Moloney (1-0), Aoife Kearney (0-4), Ciara O'Sullivan (1-1), Grace Tobin, Eva Scallan-Dowd, Megan Murphy (1-0), Orla Deasy (1-0), Chloe Collins. Also, Barryroe U12s defeated Bal 0-5 to 1-0 on Friday night.



Presentation: Joe O'Leary (father of Jennifer and Paula O'Leary) presents the Paula O'Leary Cup to Imelda Whelton, captain of the winning Barryroe team.



Cork defender Pamela Mackey in a tussle for possession with Wexford's Stacey Redmond in the 2015 Liberty Insurance Senior Championship at Riverstown.
Picture: Des Barry

Tipp next up for champs

ALL-IRELAND senior camogie champions Cork will meet Tipperary in a quarter-final of this year's competition following the completion of the group stages.

This will be a rematch of this season's Munster camogie final that Cork won, but Paudie Murray's side will need to up their game ahead of this clash in early August.

Cork signed off their Group 1 campaign with a 0-13 to 0-10 loss to Wexford last weekend, which meant that Cork finished as the third-placed team in the group after two wins (v Limerick and Offaly) and two defeats (v Galway and Wexford) in their four games.

Kate Kelly continued her phenomenal form by converting eight placed balls against the Rebelettes.

Katrina Parrock weighed in with three points from play as the Yellowbellies gained a small measure of revenge for losing last year's semi-final to Cork in a replay.

As usual, Orla Cotter was top scorer for the Leesiders with seven points, with Katrina Mackey notching up three.



Cork dual players Briege Corkery, Rena Buckley, and Angela Walsh won both All-Ireland titles again last season. More must be done to protect and encourage the dual stars as they attempt to play both codes.
Picture: Eddie O'Han

Camogie 'coin toss' deferred

Gerry Quinn

Camogie chiefs have deferred the draw for deciding the All-Ireland senior championship quarter-finals, following appeals by both Clare and Dublin.

Last week, it was confirmed that a Clare victory over Derry, in Ennis, on Sunday, would result in a coin toss with Dublin, to decide which of the two counties would progress to the last eight of the competition and face Wexford.

The stance sparked a massive backlash, but Camogie Association officials insisted that the procedure was agreed on by the county boards.

However, in the wake of Clare's 4-19 to 1-6 win, camogie officials said the draw would not take place, as the two counties had appealed.

Clare boss, Colm Honan, described the background as "ridiculous... We, as a team, we didn't really dwell on it at all. We said we have to win this game. That was the way we were looking at it. We knew

that the county board had a meeting and that they were going to object to the idea that a team would go forward on a toss of a coin, in a championship, which we all thought was pretty ridiculous. So our concern really was the victory here. But, I suppose, in fairness, at the back of our minds was the idea that, after all our efforts, they could still toss a coin. So Clare County Board have appealed that decision and so have Dublin, so we will wait to hear the result of that".

He added: "The rule was very ambiguous in its interpretation. I was looking carefully, myself, and it said it could be looked at as total number of goals scored would be the deciding factor, or, if there wasn't any significant difference, that the toss of a coin would be the last thing. Hopefully, by Monday evening, there will be some kind of resolution to the whole problem and we have asked the girls to train on Tuesday and Thursday of next week," Honan said.

Wexford wait to learn opponents as coin-toss furore drags on

Brendan O'Brien

Wexford are just five days out from a Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie quarter-final against an opponent still unknown, as the Dublin-Clare coin-toss controversy drags on.

Clare and Dublin drew when they met in Group 2 and finished level on points after the former's defeat of Derry at the weekend. With scoring differences not taken into account under competition rules, a coin toss was the only means to solve the impasse.

However, Clare have appealed those predetermined procedures and, though Dublin have yet to lodge their appeal in full, they are expected to follow suit today, after which a decision should be forthcoming from the Camogie Association, either late today or tomorrow.

The Camogie Association yesterday revealed the fixture list for a quarter-final double-header at Semple Stadium next Sunday, with All-Ireland champions Cork facing Tipperary at 4pm and Wexford facing either Clare or Dublin at 2pm. Officials stated last week that both quarter-finals would proceed according to plan, and there was no deviation from that script yesterday. Association president Joan O'Flynn has previously stated that procedures were followed to the letter when quizzed on the issue.

"We do a fixtures review every October," said O'Flynn. "So, October 2014, there was a discussion about club and county dates — the usual — and there was a sounding taken whether we should avoid play-offs in the event of teams finishing level in group stages."

"The preference from the workshop was, yeah, so there was then a process to find a system for the eliminator. The system in place was reissued on October 31 for consultation and there was no written dissenters from any counties and certainly not from Dublin."

The rules were accepted by the Ard Chomhairle the following month.

Clare's Vera Loughnane is chased by Derry's Dania Donnelly on Sunday. Clare won, but have appealed against a coin-toss to decide whether they or Dublin will face Wexford in next weekend's quarter-final.



Clare and Dubs to learn coin-toss fate via YouTube

Eoghan Cormican

The Clare and Dublin camogie teams will learn of their championship fate via a YouTube video this morning.

After the National Transfer Hearing and Disciplinary Committee (NTHDC) of the Camogie Association yesterday ruled out of order the respective appeals of the Clare and Dublin County Boards against the decision to draw lots to determine who would progress to the All-Ireland quarter-final, the controversial coin toss has been scheduled for today.

A leading Clare County Board official confirmed neither Dublin nor Clare have been invited to attend the draw at Croke Park and will learn the outcome via a YouTube video.

Presentat GAA H Qforthe drawing of

lots will be the Munster chairman James Moynihan, Leinster chair Rachel Hogan and Ard Chomhairle secretary Marie Kearney. The draw will be recorded and uploaded to the Camogie Association's YouTube account.

"We are obviously not happy with how this issue is being resolved and we are very unhappy with the manner in which the coin toss is being conducted and how neither county will be present," said a leading Clare official.

Clare and Dublin drew when they met in Group 2 and finished level on points after the former's defeat of Derry at the weekend. With scoring differences not taken into account under competition rules, a coin toss was identified by top-brass as the sole means to solve the impasse.

The Clare County Board lodged their

appeal against the interpretation of competition rules, while Dublin launched an appeal in favour of a mid-week play-off - the All-Ireland quarter-final against Wexford is down for decision this Saturday at Thurles.

A statement released by the Camogie Association last night said both appeals were "out of order" as "appeals are only acceptable if lodged with the secretary of the unit directly senior to the body against whose ruling the appeal is made (County Board, Provincial Council, National Education Council, Ard Chomhairle). (Note: The NTHDC is a sub-committee of Ard Chomhairle and is therefore not senior to Ard Chomhairle)." "We gave the Camogie Association an out from this, but they refused to take it," added the Clare County Board official.

July 2015

Dubs and Clare to play off as coin-toss farce solved

Brendan O'Brien

Officials in Dublin and Clare last night expressed their willingness to take part in the championship play-off belatedly offered to them yesterday by the Camogie Association - one which finally brought the lengthy saga to an end.

The association, which had previously stuck rigidly to the rule book in refusing to countenance such a move, was forced into an embarrassing climbdown when both counties gave notice of their intention to withdraw from a coin toss to decide which of them would proceed to the quarter-finals.

Dublin manager Shane O'Brien last week described the planned process as "disrespectful" and the Women's Gaelic Players Association (WPGA) had called on the Camogie Association to find another means of deciding the matter.

The impasse first arose after the completion of the group phase which saw Dublin and Clare finish level on

three points apiece in Group 2 after their respective defeats of Derry and a draw in their head-to-head. With points difference not taken into account, the dreaded coin toss was the only option.

The fallout since has been immense, creating what has been one of the biggest breakout stories of the summer and one that has spread far beyond Gaelic Games, but a resolution was finally forthcoming with the news they would be offered a meeting in Semple Stadium this Saturday at 2pm.

Extra-time will be played if required.

The winners will have just 48 hours or so to recover and readjust for the All-Ireland quarter-final meeting with Wexford, which has now been put back from Sunday to the Monday in the same Thurles venue. The meeting of Cork and Tipperary will go ahead as scheduled on the Sunday.

Dublin Camogie secretary Breandain O'Cuipeair told the *Irish Examiner* that while the short turnaround was "far

from ideal" the overall reaction among players, management and officialdom was relief that "common sense" had prevailed.

Shane O'Brien, manager of the Dublin senior camogie team, echoed that when speaking on FM104 radio yesterday evening and the general response on social media - which has been alive for days with debate about the controversy - followed the same lines.

"We are just delighted that it will all be decided out on the field by the girls themselves," said Clare camogie chair Orla Considine. "What I would hope now is that people row in behind them now that they know what they have had to go through to get there."

Camogie Association president Joan O'Flynn was left defending what was seen by most to be the indefensible, though she made the point that just one county had spoken out against the coin toss when the rules were being drafted in late 2014.

O'Flynn, speaking yesterday evening on RTE's Drivetime show, also made the point that a desire to improve the lot of the regular club player around the country was a driving force behind the decision at the time.

"Throughout the country we have far more club players than inter-county players. The first principle that those workshops made was to prioritise and rebalance the calendar towards club fixtures and one of the ways of doing that was to avoid playoffs in the 2015 season."

However, she did accept that decisions made in winter boardrooms sometimes take on a different light in the heat of a summer championship.



Shane O'Brien: The Dublin manager last week described the planned coin toss process as 'disrespectful'.

July 2015

CAMOGIE: Liberty Insurance All Ireland Senior Championship Quarter Final Preview

All to do for Tipp against rebelettes

TIPPERARY will renew rivalry with Cork this Saturday with a place in the semi-finals of the All Ireland Championship at stake.

This will be the second time in eleven weeks that both sides come face to face. In the Munster final last May, Cork, the reigning All-Ireland champions just squeezed by Tipperary with one point to spare.

However, Cork will be much stronger from that clash with star ladies Rena Buckley, Briege Corkery and Julia White back in the fold.

The rivalry between the two sides spans back over many years with the Leesiders for far too often taking the spoils in recent times in particular. However, Tipperary defender Mary Ryan believes that history won't count for anything this Saturday.

"There is great old rivalry there, as far back as I can remember we were battling with Cork teams in Munster," said the Moneygall native.

"But we're in a new era now and I don't think that history holds any fears for us.

"Cork will be favourites as current champions but we know what we are capable of and I certainly believe we can overcome them this time".

Reflecting on the Munster final loss, Ryan who is a research & development engineer based in Gort, Co. Galway, feels the team will take a lot from that game into the quarter final.

"It was such a close game and to come out on the wrong side of those battles is tough. But it was a great game, a great performance, and we took a lot of positives from it" she said.

The centre back, who missed out on a 2004 All-Ireland medal when Joanne Ryan captained the side to

CORK
v
TIPPERARY
Semple Stadium, Thurles
Saturday, 1st August
Throw-in @ 4.00pm
Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare)

their 5th All Ireland victory in six years, had her "dream come true" when she was invited to join the senior panel in 2005 under manager Paddy McCormack but an All Ireland medal still eludes her.

Because of her experience, Mary Ryan, along with Joanne Ryan still have a lot to offer in terms of experience to what is a very young Tipperary panel.

Tipperary have shown a gradual improvement in form this season under the management team of Brian Boyle (Drom & Inch), Sarah Devane (Ballina), Tim Maher (Burgess/Duharra) and Ken McDonald (Moneygall). They finished second in their group, defeating Derry, Dublin and Clare, with the only loss against a high flying Kilkenny.

Despite only finishing third in their group having suffered losses to Galway and Wexford, Cork will hold nothing back as they aim to retain the O'Duffy Cup.

However, Tipperary are under no pressure and have nothing to lose at this stage but it would be a massive step forward if they can pull off what would be Tipp's biggest championship win since reaching the 2006 All Ireland final.

Tipperary will need to ensure Cork's deadly free taker Orla Cotter isn't given too many opportunities while they also need to lessen the influence



The Tipperary Senior Camogie panel that will take on Cork in the All Ireland Quarter Final this Saturday. PHOTO: ROSE MANNION

of Katriona Mackey, Rena Buckley, their captain Aisling Thompson and Briege Corkery who are all top players and Tipperary will need to be competitive to the very end, something they were unable to do in the Munster final, losing momentum over the last quarter.

Saturday's game is without doubt a big ask from the young inexperienced Tipperary side regardless of the opposition.

"At the end of the day we're going into an All Ireland Quarter Final so at this stage you're not going to get anything easy so you'd have to be prepared for any draw you get" added Mary Ryan.

Following a busy spell of four games in as many weeks, Tipperary will welcome the two week gap into this Saturday's quarter final to freshen

themselves and are expected to be at full strength, led by captain and chief scorer Cait Devane.

Mary Ryan is urging a big home support to take advantage of the game being in Semple Stadium as they look to book a semi-final against Galway.

"It's definitely a huge boost to us all to see supporters attend matches. We had very close games in the group stages and it's amazing how atmosphere can swing things in those situations. We'd ask everyone to do their best to come out and support us on the 1st, it would certainly mean a lot to us all as a team" she said.

Tipperary panel: Cait Devane, Eireena Fryday, Sarah Fryday Clodagh Quirke, Courtney Ryan (Clonoulty/Rossmore), Roisin Howard, Orla McEniry (Cahir), Louise McLough-

lin, Brid Quinn (Silvermines), Caoimhe Bourke, Ann Eviston, Liz Hogan, Aoife McGrath, Joanne Ryan (Drom & Inch), Karen Fox, Shauna Quirke, Ciannait Walsh (Eire Og Annacarty), Orla O'Dwyer (Cashel), Gemma Grace, Caoimhe Maher, Ciardha Maher (Burgess/Duharra), Mary Ryan, Mairead Teehan (Moneygall), Sabrina Larkin, Aoife McLoughney (Shannon Rovers), Alice Fogarty, Karen Kennedy, Andrea Loughnane (Thurles Sarsfields), Roisin Cahill (Kilruane MacDonaghs) Keely Lenihan (Newport/Ballinahinch), Nicole Walsh (Borris-Ileigh), Lorna O'Dwyer (Holycross/Ballycahill), Megan Ryan (St Cronan's), Caoimhe Kennedy (Lorrha), Julie Ann Bourke (Toomevara).

BURGESS/DUHARRA

County Teams: Best of luck to the players and management of the Tipperary senior camogie panel that are playing Cork in the All-Ireland quarter final next Saturday.

Well done to Caoilfhionn, Fiona and Emily who were members of the county U14 team that won the Munster cup and reached the blitz final.

Bubble Soccer: Thanks to all who supported our Bubble Soccer fundraising event. This was a great success. Special thanks to all who helped out on the day!

Senior: Hard luck to our senior team who were narrowly beaten by Clanmaurice from Kerry in the final of the Munster League last week. This tough match was very good preparation for the upcoming championship.

Recent Matches: Both our U8/10s and U13s played Shannon Rovers recently. Well done to all involved!

KILRUANE MACDONAGHS

Under 12: Possible practice game this week. There will more details at training on Wednesday evening.

Tipperary: Best of luck to Roisin and the Tipperary Senior Camogie team in the All-Ireland quarter final next weekend. We

Camogie News

hope as many people as possible will go along to support them.

Under 15/16: Training on Thursday evening in Ardcroney from 7-8 p.m.

Intermediate: The challenge game fixed for the weekend was cancelled. The girls are now in preparing for the first round of the championship on 9th August.

Under 13/14: Training Thursday evening in Ardcroney from 7-8p.m. U13's played Burgess/Duharra in Kildaleman on Monday evening.

U6/8: The match fixed for Borrisoleigh was called off due to a bereavement. This game should be reduced for this week.

KNOCKSHEGOWNA

Championship: The championship starts with at home in Ballingarry on Sunday, 9th August at 7pm against St Cronan's, Roscrea.



Tipperary Under 14 'A' team were the winners of the Munster blitz in Waterford last weekend, defeating Cork in the final.

NENAGH EIRE OG

Under 13: This team played Ballina on Monday in the Summer League semi-final in The Ragg. We did not have the result of the game at the time of going to press. Check our social media sites for the result.

Under 15: Best wishes to this side who play Newport/Ballinahinch in the Summer League semi-final in The Ragg this Friday

at 7.30pm.

Bag Packing: We wish to thank all volunteers who helped with our bag packing at the weekend and to all who so kindly donated. Your support is very much appreciated by everyone in the club.

Tipperary: Well done to the Tipperary U16 side which had a comprehensive win over Wexford in the All Ireland championship at the weekend, 2-16 to

1-5. Eire Og were represented by Hazel McAuliffe, Meave Coffey, Niamh Sheridan, Eimer Ryan, Caroline Browne and Rachel O'Connor. Their next game is against Dublin next Sunday.

The U14's played in Dungarvan and we were represented by Katie, Ella and Lucy while the U13's played in Ennis with Sine Abbie, Sarah, Naoise and Meaghan on this panel.

Coining it: A valuable lesson learned

Aoife Lane



Just a few days ago, July 20 marked six months since the launch of the Women's Gaelic Player Association.

Working with players, students, administrators, sponsors, partners and many in the sporting community on behalf of our 1,000 members has so far proven to be a roundly positive endeavour.

But the time has also been a learning curve.

Player welfare has been at the core of our activities, underpinned by the findings of the 'Let's Make Things Better' study and feedback from our player representative workshops. To reiterate, 85% of players train five times a week, 23% often receive food after training, 62% were out of pocket for injury expenses and 78% felt welfare issues were not sufficiently catered for.

Players indicated the chief priority for a player representative group would be establishing minimum standards across county squads, followed by (2) increasing media coverage and (3) emotional/wellbeing support.

Subsequently, we have set out to improve the player experience on and off the field of play, and to promote our games through their flagship product; elite county players.

To achieve these aims, we have sought to work collaboratively (whether directly or through our players) with all those involved in our games and fully recognise the contribution made by everyone connected.

Our focus will be on finding realistic solutions within the financial and practical restrictions faced by top grade, female county squads.

Meetings with both the Camogie and Ladies Football Associations proved constructive and identified our shared objectives.

Of course there have been challenges, none more so than in the last few days with the storm of controversy which developed following the news that camogie officials looked set to draw lots to decide whether Clare or Dublin would contest the All-Ireland quarter-final.

However the camogie play-off issue transpired, we believed from the outset that respect for the players was

members and the particular sense of injustice felt by the Clare and Dublin teams.

We were happy that a relatively fair decision was eventually reached in offering the two teams a play-off (in Thurles this afternoon).

It is far from the ideal outcome, with the winner facing a 48-hour turnaround to an All-Ireland quarter-final, but given the circumstances and the fact the compromise was met with agreement from the players involved, we were happy to support it, in this instance.

Clare and Dublin players, supported by their county boards, their supporters, fellow players and the WGPA made a hugely significant stand for the right reasons, something that could and should be a landmark moment for female Gaelic games.

As a result, those players will decide the fate of their own seasons on the field of play, the minimum any player deserves.

We have learned a lot in the process and while we are still working towards official recognition by both associations, we feel we have a positive role to play and want to be involved in decision-making and dealing with such issues in future.

Recognition of the opinions of players will lead to better decisions, swifter resolutions and ultimately, contribute towards protecting the status of our games.

We will try to provide positive, solutions-based input when it comes to future challenges. Many of these lie ahead, most imminently a potential clash of fixtures for Cork's Ladies Football and Camogie players on August 15. Player welfare remains our central concern and we feel that finding a permanent solution to this 'dual' issue should be a priority for both associations.

It is simply not safe to ask our top players to play two games and travel between different venues on the same day.

Our work in 'Making Things Better' is only at a beginning but the support we have received, in particular from our 1,000 members, the GPA, our first commercial partner PwC, and WGPA hero supporters Skechers, has reinforced our belief much improvement can be made.

It has been especially encouraging to see our players stand together for their collective good and the good of their game; challenging the status quo is one of our key aims as without change, there cannot be

Camogie protests pay off

Sports Editor Seamus Hayes

THE strong protests from the Clare and Dublin camogie boards have paid off and the counties will go head-to-head in a play-off game at Semple Stadium on this Saturday at 2pm.

Extra-time will be played if necessary and the winners of the game will return to the Thurles venue on Monday to play Wexford in a quarter-final game in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship.

A letter sent to the Clare and Dublin boards at lunch-time on Wednesday stated, "In an effort to break the current impasse regarding progression to the All-Ireland senior quarter-final, Ard Chomhairle of the Camogie Association has decided that Clare and Dublin be offered a play-off game with extra-time on Saturday in Thurles at 2pm and the winners play Wexford on Monday, venue and time to be confirmed and extra time also to apply".

Earlier on Wednesday, both the Clare and Dublin boards had strongly criticised the association's handling of the affair since Clare's win over Derry on Sunday put them level on points with Dublin, with just one to go through to the quarter-finals.

The association's insistence that a draw (toss of a coin) would determine who would progress drew huge criticism, not just from the counties involved, but from the participants and followers of other sports. Up until lunch-time on Wednesday, the camogie authorities had refused to change their stance.

Clare camogie public relations officer, Brid McNamara, welcomed the decision saying she was delighted that "common sense has prevailed".

"Let the teams decide who will progress on the field of play," she told *The Clare Champion* on Wednesday afternoon.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Clare County Camogie Board had accused the association of demonstrating "their utter contempt and disdain for every player and member of the association".

In a strongly worded statement, the board withdrew the county's name from the proposed coin toss to determine if Clare or Dublin would progress to the quarter-final.

The Dublin Camogie County Board had taken a similar decision. Speaking to *The Clare Champion*, Dublin chairman Pat Martin said, "We are still hoping that common sense will prevail. The rule was never designed to throw somebody out of a competition".

In their statement, Clare asked, "How can a governing sporting body justify by any logic the drawing of lots (coin toss) to determine progression in the



Clare Camogie's protests have earned the ladies a play-off against Dublin on Saturday, with the quarter-final to go ahead on Monday.

championship? Clare Camogie has withdrawn from the drawing of lots, a decision that was not taken lightly and may have serious repercussions for the future of these players".

"Clare Camogie demands more respect for its players and administrators than what is being levelled at them by the Camogie Association officials," the statement continued. "Fixtures and structures are devised by committee, ratified and implemented by Ard Chomhairle. Counties do not vote on these. There is no avenue to question this decision-making as Ard Chomhairle hold the final say on all matters. The decision by Ard Chomhairle not to adjudicate on the merit of appeals lodged, shows the contempt with which the lower units of the association are held".

The Clare statement noted, "The upset and mental anguish that has been forced upon players by the association, will have deep and long lasting repercussions. Players are inconsolable and feel betrayed. For an association to deprive a team the opportunity to advance on merit is incomprehensible and indefensible. How can our most valuable asset, our players, be degraded and mistreated like this? This is a regressive step for the association and will be of detriment, not only to Clare and Dublin, but to camogie on the whole.

"The association has passed up an opportunity to address this fiasco by not dealing with the appeals of both Clare and Dublin. Thus, in choosing not to do

so, they have left it to Clare and Dublin to up-hold the sporting integrity of the association," the statement concluded.

Draw last time out ensures a close tie

WHEN Clare and Dublin clashed in the earlier round of the competition, it ended at 1-8 each, Dublin scoring a brace of points in six and a half minutes of injury time to earn the draw.

There was controversy at that time also, as the game clashed with the Clare Ladies Football Munster Intermediate final. Four players, Carol O'Leary, Aoife Keane, Ailish Considine and Emma O'Driscoll, are part of both panels. They opted to play the football final and missed out on the camogie fixture.

They have since returned to action with the camogie team and should be available for Saturday's game. However, they will also be in action on Friday when the ladies play Limerick in the football qualifier, a game scheduled for Kilmihil at 7pm.

Indeed, they may well have to play three games in less than four days, as victory over Dublin on Saturday will mean a camogie quarter-final on Monday.

For now, the focus for the camogie players is on Saturday's fixture when they will be looking to Máire McGrath, Orlaith Duggan, Sharon McMahon and Chloe Morey to inspire them to victory.

Camogie loses the plot



CAMOGIE BOSS: Joan O'Flynn

THE CAMOGIE coin-toss saga was truly bizarre.

In the end, it was a typical Irish solution to a problem of their own making. Forty eight hours isn't enough for the winners of the play-off to prepare for an All-Ireland quarter-final but the idea that there wouldn't be a

play-off was incredible.

Why couldn't the association say 'we made a mistake' and move on? Camogie has come on in leaps and bounds, especially where the commitment of the players is concerned. To treat players like that is terrible.

DUIGNAN

Coming back from camogie's low ebb

Therese O'Callaghan



Camogie

One of the best things to come out of this week's 'coin toss' is everyone and their mother know Clare and Dublin are playing in Thurles this afternoon.

The story made headlines, even around the world, with most of the comments directed at the Camogie Association. While I am relieved the situation is resolved and that all have moved forward, I was a bit underwhelmed at the time by the whole experience.

Flipping a coin or drawing lots should never have been considered an option to decide the future of any team. To me, that was the core issue. A

decision made in a meeting room some months ago. It was a crazy idea in the first place and, to be fair to the powers that be, this was acknowledged in the cold light of day.

I couldn't believe my eyes when I read the statement on Tuesday a draw would be made on Wednesday morning on YouTube. It was so disheartening. I feared much of the good work being done by the association would be lost. And I felt bad for the girls who train and play, week in, week out. Because these are the months to be enjoyed, when you know you are getting nearer the big September prize.

They say there is no such thing as bad publicity. Fair enough, but it is how you handle it. By now, we have heard both sides and my mind is more at ease that we have a favourable outcome. The Camogie Association is 111

years old. I suppose there will always be ups and downs in any organisation.

By Wednesday afternoon, Clare and Dublin had accepted the offer of a play-off. I wish it had been sorted earlier though without the furor. I know the winners will line out again on Monday against Wexford and a 48-hour turnaround is not ideal, however some compromise had to be made, and time was running out.

The story must now be parked and the action must return to the field of play - Tom Semple's field where Dublin and Clare (2pm) will be followed by Cork and Tipperary at 4pm.

It was ironic, in a sense, Dublin were so much in the news because they haven't been in the limelight for some time. They have made huge strides under new manager Shane O'Brien this season.



Shane O'Brien: Dublin have made huge strides under their new manager this season.

The Cuala man and his management are putting in an enormous effort and it has given the championship a massive lift to see them compete again.

Dublin assistant PRO Gerry O'Sullivan says the last time the Dublin camogie team

played in Semple Stadium was against the home side in 2008. That is a long time ago and a lengthy wait to get back there. It would have been such a pity had they been denied that opportunity. Clare are first out onto the pitch today followed by Dublin a few

minutes later and I can only imagine the rapturous reception they will receive.

The Friends of Dublin Hurling (FODH) will be there too to lend their support. They have joined up with Dublin Camogie to organise a bus to the Tipperary venue. Now, isn't that a positive spin, the county rallying behind their team. Players like Louise O'Hara is wearing the Sky Blue jersey for over two decades. She is probably one of the few Dubs who lined out in Thurles all of those eight years ago.

Usually, this column previews the games, highlights key players and attempts to pick winners. But, we couldn't gloss over what happened this week. Points difference, I hope, will be the preferred choice if needs be next year. Then again, a mistake is only a mistake if you don't learn from it.



ALL-IRELAND SERIES

Linda Mellerick

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior quarter final: Cork v Tipperary, Semple Stadium, Saturday, 4pm.

DESPITE the distractions over the past week involving Dublin, Clare and the camogie association, Cork and Tipperary have had to detach themselves from it in one sense and concentrate on their own quarter-final tie tomorrow. While sympathetic to their counterparts both management teams were wise to not get involved at least until it was absolutely necessary to do so (if that was their intention at all) and focus on their job in hand.

It's a risky game for Cork tomorrow. Notwithstanding the fact that they are without Rena Buckley, the injured Emer O'Sullivan, and Gemma O'Connor hasn't been well all week, and Cork face a Tipperary side full of current momentum.

Having failed to win a single championship game last season Tipp emerged second placed in their group with three wins from four.

Again it must be said that they weren't in the toughest of groups and they certainly aren't potential All-Ireland winners but there is a big game in every team and considering Cork's retirements in addition to the above absentees the remaining leaders from 2014 will need to show up in Semple Stadium or Cork risk an exit.

A one point victory for Cork in the Munster final in May will undoubtedly give Tipperary confidence.

Cork lined out without Rena Buckley and Breige Corkery due once again to a clash with the ladies footballers.

They have just Breige back for tomorrow.

That day in Cashel saw Cork strike only three points from play, two from their inside forward line of Katrina Mackey and Joanne Casey and one from Orla Cotter who also contributed nine points from frees, Cork winning on a score of 12 points to 11.

Certainly the scoring totals both for and against have significantly decreased in the past year or so for Cork as they persevere with their defensive style of play. It certainly doesn't do their inside forward line any favours and as games progress fewer and fewer Cork forwards are scoring.

Were it not for the seemingly delicate nature of camogie at the hands of the majority of referees awarding too many frees and the accuracy of Cotter, we would very likely end up with single digit totals at the end of games. The game is suffering because of it but it's all about winning.

Having said that, Cork's style hasn't been working particularly well this season. It worked for last year's semi-final replay against Wexford and it worked in the final against Kilkenny.

But from the outset this season their over carrying of the ball into trouble,

Murray's side need to keep focused



Cork forward Jennifer Hosford challenged by Wexford defender Stacey Redmond at Riverstown. The Rebels will need to keep their focus tomorrow against Tipperary at Semple Stadium

Picture: Des Barry

the handpassing, the inaccurate distribution and turnovers has at times been very frustrating.

I recall a sentence I wrote in my report after the Munster final; that one felt almost thankful with live television that Tipperary had brought hurling to the game. Gemma O'Connor, one of the best deliverers of long ball in the game at one point carried the ball into the middle of the field. Her pass was intercepted and Tipperary pointed.

At midfield and in their half-forward line Cork continued this style of play and it afforded Tipp time to track back.

By the end of the first-half five of Tipperary's forwards had scored from play. Cait Devane was causing a lot of damage, drifting out around the 60 metre mark and picking off some lovely scores, while Sarah Fryday was also hugely impressive at corner forward.

I appreciate that Cork endured a number of prominent retirements and the system maybe isn't flowing as well as last year. But I don't at this stage feel that is where the problem truly lies. It was proven against Wexford that this system, by and large, has run its course. Teams are now beginning to

counteract it and we must react.

When Wexford packed midfield in the final group game recently and picked off scores from outside, Cork struggled. They left their six defenders in position and if two had snuck off to the loo it wouldn't have been noticed such was their involvement. Cork failed to score from play in the second half and surely that is again a red flag. At senior inter-county level that should never happen.

Cork you would expect, with enough tenacity, should take Tipperary tomorrow and advance to the semi-final but it's also going to need some flair.

Rebels will have too much firepower for Galway

Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship;

Cork v Galway; Sarsfield's (Cork); Sunday Aug 2, 2.30pm.

With their semi-final spot already secured Cork play host to a Galway side whose hopes of grabbing a semi-final spot rests on getting a good result and that the result of the Meath versus Wexford clash goes their way.

Cork are qualified on six points, Meath are on their heels with four, Galway, Down and Wexford are all on

two, were Galway to defeat Cork, and Wexford over come Meath, there would be a three-way tie for the second spot.

Cork will want to finish top of the group and not be tied on top with Meath were they to lose out to Galway and Meath defeat Wexford.

Cork have enjoyed a splendid campaign and would be expected on form to hold to much strength for a Galway side that lost out Wexford and Meath and defeated Down. This season Cork are hugely impressive notching up big scores in all outings to date and an impressive tally of

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

forty seven points and four goals has them way out in front on the scoring averages.

Galway need to win this one and they will travel to Cork at full strength given that their Senior side have already secured their semi final spot they will battle to the finish to reach the last four. The experienced Tara Rutledge and Lorraine Coen will provide plenty of leadership whilst Cloinadh Walsh, Eimear O'Donovan, Marie Farrell and

Megan Carr know they will need to improve on recent displays if a victory is to be secured.

Cork will be hoping not to lose players to the senior side that play Tipperary on Saturday a victory will see them nicely placed with a hard semi final to come against either Kildare or Waterford.

Under 16 B All Ireland Championship

Cork v Dublin; Naomh Peregrine, Blakestown Sunday Aug 2, 2pm.

With two wins and a draw to

their credit a draw in this, their last game in the group, will secure a semi-final spot for Cork.

For the Dubs it is a must-win game, as anything else and they are out.

Cork have been hugely impressive to-date but this is the one where they need to be at their best, and with the Under 16 A side already safely through to the last four, the incentive is huge to join them.

It will be hard away from home but last weekend's trip to play Antrim in Dublin didn't worry them and expect the same this weekend.

CAMOGIE

All-Ireland ICC Grp 1: Cork 2-10 Galway 3-12, Meath 2-16 Wexford 0-4;

Grp 2: Kildare 1-10 Waterford 4-11;

Prem JCC: Laois 4-21 Armagh 0-5, Roscommon 2-11 Westmeath 2-9;

JACC semi-final: Clare 1-9 Carlow 0-16;

U16ACC: Limerick 3-8 Offaly 1-2;

U16BCC: Meath 2-11 Derry 5-10, Dublin 3-11 Cork 1-3

Aug. 2015

Cork cruise after interval

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

All-Ireland senior champions Cork produced a power-packed second half performance to return to the semi-finals after a 2-17 to 0-10 victory over Tipperary in Thurles on Saturday.

Cork only had a point to spare when the teams met in the Munster final and this was just as tight in the first half, with the goal just before the interval from Amy O'Connor a critical turning point.

Cáit Devane continued her sharpshooting form of the campaign with five points, augmented by contributions from Mairéad Teehan and Gemma Grace that looked likely to give Tipperary the interval lead.

Ashling Thompson, Orla Cotter, Orla Cronin and Julia White all kept the Leesiders in touch just two points down before O'Connor made it 1-6 to 0-8.

Paudie Murray's outfit roared out of the traps in the second half and a goal from Katrina Mackey pushed them four clear.

Tipperary had Brid Quinn sent off for a second yellow card soon after and Cork capitalised on the numerical advantage, with O'Connor in particular causing carnage, while Mackey and Brieghe Corkery also raised white flags.

Devane scored Tipp's only two points in the second half and not even the late dismissal of Gemma O'Connor, also for a second yellow card, could derail the champs.

Meanwhile, Dublin's progress under Shane O'Brien con-



Dublin's Laoise Quinn and Siobhan Kehoe, left, celebrate after beating Clare in the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship play-off at Semple Stadium. Picture: Matt Browne

tinues apace with the Blues coming out on top in Saturday's Group 2 play-off with Clare at Semple Stadium to se-

cure a spot in the Liberty Insurance senior camogie quarter-final.

They play Wexford at Net-

watch Cullen Park today (2.30pm) as a result of thrilling and fiercely-fought 1-11 to 0-12 victory over the Banner girls.

Clare settled better initially and, with the aid of the wind, moved into a three-point lead in four minutes with a couple of scores from Chloe Morey book-ending Eimear Kelly's neat effort. Dublin needed some of their experienced heads to show them the way and it was 36-year-old Louise O'Hara who infused them with confidence when grabbing a sixth minute goal, after good work from Siobhán Kehoe and Aine Fanning.

A buoyant Dublin quickly moved ahead thanks to a point from Sarah O'Donovan and extended that advantage via Fanning.

Emma O'Driscoll stopped the rot but Kehoe's riposte was splendid, with a wonderful point from out wide.

Clare upped the ante though and, after Morey forced Sile Nic Coitir into a superb save, Colm Horan's charges fired over three points without reply to get back in front, thanks to Morey, O'Driscoll and Aoife Keane.

Dublin were well in contention though and points from Fanning and Laoise Quinn, either side of another Morey free sent the sides in level at half time, 0-8 to 1-5.

Denise Lynch had to make a quick early save early in the second half but it was nip and tuck for a long while until points from Kehoe and Ali Maguire propelled Dublin into a two-point lead.

Clare fought back once more and, after Andrea O'Keefe halved the margin, Morey restored parity with her sixth point. But it was Dublin that had that extra little bit to get over the line thanks a pointed free from Maguire and an injury-time point from play by teenager Maher.

Banner hammer Derry in final group game

Clare	4-19
Derry	1-6

AS the controversy raged on over how the Camogie Association will decide on how to choose between Clare and Dublin for an All-Ireland quarter-final place, the Clare players focussed on ensuring that they would remain in the hunt by beating Derry in their final group game which went ahead at Cusack Park on Sunday.

Having struggled to put scores on the board during their earlier games, Clare showed a huge improvement in this area on Sunday, when their final tally of 4-19 was just three scores short of their tally in their earlier three group games.

Derry struggled throughout and getting lost on their way to the venue and arriving with just 16 players didn't help their cause.

The Clare team showed a number of chances from the side that had disappointed against Tipperary eight days earlier. Starting her first championship game, Emma O'Driscoll opened Clare's account in the first minute. Chloe Morey saw her attempt for goal from a penalty saved before the Sixmilebridge player pointed a few minutes later

The 2013 All-Star picked up her first point from play on the ninth minute following good work from Michelle Caulfield. Derry opened their account with a free from Karen Kieft in the tenth minute.

Colm Honan changed his midfield pairing for this clash and the move worked wonders, with both Máire McGrath and Róisín McMahon pointing in a two minute spell.

Aoife Keane struck for the first goal of the game in the 18th minute after Chloe Morey dispossessed the Derry defence and hand-passed to an on-rushing Keane, who finished to the net. Clare won the resulting puck-out and sent the sliotar back into Morey, who picked up Clare's second goal in less than a minute.

Inagh-Kilnamona's Clare Hehir worked hard to set up O'Driscoll for another point to extend Clare's lead to 11. More misery was piled on the visitors as Chloe Morey broke the ball through to Aoife Keane, who stuck the sliotar to the Derry net with 23 minutes on the clock.

Andrea O'Keefe added another point for the home side but Derry replied with two scores in succession from Mary Kelly and Dervla O'Kane. O'Keefe

added to her account with her first ever goal at senior inter-county level, a pass from Máire McGrath finding her in space and she tore through the Derry defence to send a blistering strike past Niamh McQuillan. Karen Kieft was on target from a 45' to narrow the gap to 15 points at the interval.

Derry were first off the mark after the resumption with Orlaigh Mullen raising a green flag, following a pass from Marie Kelly that found her unmarked with only Denise Lynch to beat.

Dual-star Ailish Considine showed her football skills to all those present in Cusack Park, as she kicked the sliotar over the bar off her right foot with seven minutes played.

Clare extended their lead with scores from Andrea O'Keefe, Róisín McMahon, Keane, Morey and Loughnane to seal the win.

This clash was a repeat of the 2007 All-Ireland junior final where Clare suffered a heartbreaking 3-12 to 2-14 defeat. Denise Lynch and Kate Lynch remain from the Clare team of '07.

Cathal Egan was the man in the middle for the '07 All-Ireland and the Cork man was on duty at Cusack Park on Sunday.

Clare: Denise Lynch (Kilmaley); Aoife Griffin (Newmarket-on-Fergus); Carol O'Leary (Newmarket-on-Fergus); Emma O'Connell (Ballyea); Kate Lynch (Kilkishen); Orlaigh Duggan (Clooney-Quin); Clare Hehir (Inagh-Kilnamona); Máire McGrath (Sixmilebridge, 0-1); Róisín McMahon (Newmarket-on-Fergus, 0-1); Michelle Caulfield (Truagh-Clonlara); Eimear Kelly (Truagh-Clonlara); Emma O'Driscoll (Kilmaley, 0-2); Ailish Considine (Kilmaley, 0-1); Chloe Morey (Sixmilebridge, 1-6, 0-5); Aoife Keane (Inagh-Kilnamona, 2-4).

Subs: Andrea O'Keefe (Inagh-Kilnamona, 1-2) for Kelly; Vera Loughnane (Fealke, 0-1) for Caulfield; Amy Keating for Considine; Teresa O'Keefe (Inagh-Kilnamona) for O'Driscoll; Kathleen Horgan (Truagh-Clonlara) for Hehir.

Derry: Niamh McQuillan; Bronagh McGilligan; Eilis Ni Chaiside; Maria Mooney; Eimear Mullen; Moabh McGoldrick (0-1); Maureen Heneghan (0-1); Karen Kieft (0-2); Aoife Shaw; Dervla O'Kane (0-1); Maria Donnelly; Eimear McGuigan; Orlaigh Mullen (1-0); Mary Kelly (0-1); Mairead McNicholl.

Referee: Cathal Egan (Cork).



Aoife Keane (top) scores the first goal of the game, while Chloe Morey scores the second goal. Photographs by INPHO/Ryan Byrne

Galway show far more desire

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork 2-10
Galway 3-12

YOU have to wonder just how this Galway side failed to make it to the semi-finals of the Liberty Insurance Intermediate championship after they totally outclassed Cork.

Unfortunately, the Rebels played with the attitude that they were already through to the knock-out phase at Riverstown yesterday.

All over the pitch Galway used their physical strength to huge effect.

Their star performer was Rachel Monaghan, who notched up nine points, but it was her general play that impressed most and she'll surely feature at senior level.

Playing with the aid of the strong wind, Galway had the Cork defence under huge first half pressure and they led by four points at the break, 0-8 to 0-4. Monaghan led the way with seven of her side's points.

Cork struggled to break down the Galway defence and had to settle for two Amanda O'Regan points from frees and one each from Kaitlin Hickey and Linda Collins.

Cork started the second half well. Two fast points were followed by a Finola Neville goal as they drew level inside seven minutes. Galway responded, however, with Eimear O'Donovan finding the net twice in the space of three minutes.

Cork battled to get back into the contest and twice the sides exchanged points but with four minutes remaining, Máire Farrell drilled a superb effort to the roof of the Cork net to put six points between the sides.

Cork battled hard. O'Regan drilled a close-in free to the net and Lisa Lynch added a point but it mattered little as a strong Galway outfit held their lead to the finish.

Cork will meet Kildare in the All-Ireland semi-final and big improvements will be needed if final aspirations are to be maintained.

CORK: A Lee; E Murphy, N O'Keefe, R Walsh; S Harrington, S Buckley, H O'Regan; K Hickey, L Callanan; S Fahy, F Neville, J Crowley; C Sugrue, L Collins, A O'Regan.

Subs: L Lynch for J Crowley (40), C Sexton for L Callanan (45), R Harty for C Sugrue (54).

GALWAY: Sinead Skehill; C Donoghue, L Coen, S Mannion; O Callanan, Siobhan Skehill; L Sweeney; M Farrell, E Stafford; T Rutledge, L O'Neill, N Murphy; E O'Donovan, R Monaghan, A Caulfield.

Sub: A Fallon for E Stafford (in 38).
Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).

Dublin 3-13
Cork 1-3

The Cork U16 B side failed in their bid to join the U16 A side in the All-Ireland semi-finals after they lost out to a strong Dublin side.

Needing just a draw, Cork never got to grips with a strong home side who ran out comprehensive winners.

Dangerous Cork advance to semi

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork 2-17
Tipperary 0-10

WHEN the chips are down Cork are at their most dangerous.

They proved this in no uncertain manner in Semple Stadium, Thurles, on Saturday as they confidently brushed aside the challenge of the home side to advance to the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior semi-final and a meeting with last season's defeated finalists Kilkenny.

This was a 'do or die' encounter and the pressure to perform was huge. A nervous Cork found themselves trailing by five points inside 10 minutes of the throw-in, with a determined Tipp throwing everything they had at the Cork side. However, Cork gradually got themselves back into the game to cut the deficit to a point, grabbing a vital goal just before the break to go in leading by a point at the interval.

On the resumption Cork put the game beyond Tipp with a second goal in the third minute and when Tipp lost defender Brid Quinn for a second yellow card offence the game as a contest was over with Cork leading by six points. Such was Cork's dominance in the second half they held Tipp to two points, both from placed balls, while notching up an impressive 2-16 from play out of a total of 2-17 over the hour.

Cait Devane converted three early frees and with Gemma Grace adding one, Tipp took the game to Cork. Orla Cronin opened their account with a point but again Tipp came at them as Megan Ryan somehow got through three Cork defenders to fire over a splendid point.

Cait Devane pointed a free to put five between the sides.

With Briega Corkery switching out from her starting role in the inside line and rotating their line out with plenty of movement Cork, hitting a purple patch, hit four points without reply, Aisling Thompson leading the way with a long range effort, Julia White twice outpacing her marker to land two and in between Orla Cotter splitting the posts with a beauty.

Mairead Teehan availed of a sloppy clearance to fire Tipp two ahead again but Cork were now settled into the game and spreading the ball wide to the wing they were causing Tipperary defence a lot of problems. Cotter and



Cork defender Pamela Mackey clears her lines as Offaly's Tina Hannon closes in a recent game.

Picture: David Keane.

Devane traded points before Cork got a vital goal and huge credit for this must go to Katriona Mackey, who battled with Tipp keeper Orla McEniry on the end line before dispossessing her and parting to Amy O'Connor, who made no mistake from close range to send Cork to the dressing room leading by a point.

Katriona Mackey had Cork on level one minute into the second half and it took an excellent save from Aoife Murray to deny Tipp a goal. Cait Devane pointed the resulting 45 but Cork immediately went on the attack.

Orla Cronin's effort for a point fell

short but the Katriona Mackey reacted quick to finish to the net. Cork confidently added four point without reply.

Cait Devane pointed a free but by now Tipperary were down to 14 and there was no way back as Cork added six points to their tally.

With six minutes remaining Cork lost Gemma O'Connor for a second yellow card offence but it mattered little as Cork were now simply playing down the clock.

On Saturday in Semple Stadium the women of Cork restored pride in the jersey and gave rebel supporters a much needed boost.

Scorers for Cork: K Mackey 1-4, A O'Connor 1-2, O Cotter 0-4 (0-1 f), B Corkery 0-2, O Cronin 0-2, J White 0-2, A Thompson 0-1.

Tipperary: C Devane 0-7 (0-6 f, 0-1 45), M Teehan 0-1, M Ryan 0-1, G Grace 0-1.

CORK: A Murray; L O'Sullivan, L Treacy, M Walsh; M Cahalane, G O'Connor, P Mackey; A Thompson (c), O Cotter, K Mackey, O Cronin, J White; A O'Connor, B Corkery, H Looney.

Sub: J Hosford for O Cronin (57).

TIPPERARY: O McEniry; C Walsh, A Evison, L McLoughlin; A McGrath, M Ryan, B Quinn; C Maher, J A Bourke; M Teehan, M Ryan, G Grace; S Fryday, C Devane, N Walsh.

Subs: K Lenihan for J A Bourke (36), R Cahill for C Maher (38), E Fryday for S Fryday (40), J Ryan for N Walsh (43), S Quirke for G Grace (56).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).

'We knew we'd have to be at our best to beat them'

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

CORK manager Paudie Murray was pleased with his side's performance in Thurles as they recorded a 13-point victory over Tipperary.

"We're very happy with the result and delighted to be in the semi-final. This was going to be a tough one today; any time we play Tipperary there is little in it and we knew we would have to be at our best to beat them," Paudie Murray said.

"They settled quickly but once we got to grips with them we played well," he said. "We moved the ball well and played with intelligence and our attitude was superb and we are very pleased with that."

Given that they lost out to Wexford recently they had a lot to prove. "After our recent display against Wexford we were nervous especially in the opening

10 minutes when we allowed them to come at us. Coming up here to Thurles with a big Tipperary crowd behind them was hard for us but once we got to grips with them and upped our game we did well."

The younger players on his panel played well and he wasn't slow in his praise of their performance.

"I'm delighted for them. I put pressure on them during the week to stand up and be counted. Today was a huge day for them as they cannot be depending on the more experienced players all the time and to their credit answered the call."

Paudie acknowledged that his side's second-half performances had not been up to scratch coming into this game and it was something they worked hard to rectify.

"In our last two second-halves we simply haven't played particularly well and this was something we again spoke about today in the dressing room."

"We wanted our leaders to come to the fore and they did today and it was great," he said. "Today our work rate was superb and that is vital to maintain."

Paudie wasn't slow to point out that despite being champions every game is a huge challenge for Cork. "A lot of our players on the team are coming into this level for the first time, we are a side in transition but today they were superb."

Clare's fatigue proves costly as fresher Dubs finish stronger in tense finale

DUBLIN CLARE
EWIN BRENNAN

DUBLIN finally advanced to tomorrow's All-Ireland quarter-final against Wexford following a strong finish to this winner-takes-all showdown in Semple Stadium.

After a difficult week in which both counties withdrew from the competition on Wednesday rather than have to draw lots to decide the final quarter-final place after the counties had finished level on points and on the head-to-head, the Camogie Association finally offered the appeasement of a play-off.

This game was just as evenly matched as their group draw, with the sides level on seven occasions before Dublin finally secured victory with the last puck of the game.

1-11
0-12
Wind-assisted Clare opened with the first three points of the game inside five minutes through Chloe Morey (2) and Eimear Kelly, only for Dublin to cancel out that lead a minute later in a slick move involving Siobhan Kehoe and Aine Fanning, who picked out Louise O'Hara at the back post to finish to the net.

The Dubs quickly hit the front for the first time thanks to points from Sarah O'Donovan and Fanning by the 11th minute, a two-point lead that they would maintain into the second quarter despite two glorious goal opportunities for the Banner.

Morey was on the end of both, first flicking an Aoife Keane delivery just past the post, and only minutes later seeing a first-time pull somehow tipped away by goalkeeper Sile Nic Góitir.

Clare did finish with four of the last six points of the half,

however, two from unerring free-taker Morey to ensure that the sides would be on level terms entering the dressing-rooms at 1-5 to 0-8.

That pattern continued on the restart as Dublin, now with the aid of the breeze, edged clear on three occasions only to be reeled in each time by their obstinate opponents. It seemed as if nothing could separate the sides as the game entered the final ten minutes.

However, with three of Clare's side also having played 80 minutes of All-Ireland Intermediate Ladies Football Championship for the Banner less than 24 hours earlier, their inevitable fatigue was in contrast to Dublin's fresh legs from the bench in what proved a tense finale.

An Alison Maguire free nudged Dublin 1-10 to 0-12 clear in the 54th minute, an advantage that they retained despite some anxious mo-

ments at the back, before substitute Aisling Maher got the late insurance point.

Meanwhile, All-Ireland champions Cork produced a power-packed second-half performance to return to the semi-finals with a 2-17 to 0-10 victory over Tipperary. A goal from Amy O'Connor just before the interval proved critical.

Scorers — Dublin: L O'Hara 1-0 A Maguire 0-3 (2F, 145); A Fanning, S Kehoe, A Maher 0-2 each; S O'Donovan, L Quinn 0-1 each. **Clare:** C Morey 0-7 (7F); E O'Driscoll 0-2; E Kelly, A Keane, A O'Keefe 0-1 each.
Dublin: S Nic Góitir; C Power, R Collins, A Carolan; E O'Meara, A Maguire, L Twomey; M Twomey, O Durkin; L Quinn, S O'Donovan; L O'Hara; E Flanagan, A Fanning, S Kehoe. **Subs:** A Maher for Flanagan (HT), M O'Donoghue for Durkin (34), A Twomey for O'Hara (58), A Bugler for Fanning (58), Mairi Moynihan for O'Donovan (61).
Clare: D Lynch; A Griffin, C O'Leary, E O'Connell; K Lynch, O Duignan, C Hehir; M McGrath, R McMahon; A O'Keefe, E Kelly, E O'Driscoll; N Carroll, C Morey, A Keane. **Sub:** A Keating for Kelly (HT).
Referee: C Egan (Cork)

Cork's clash with Kilkenny pushed back to August 16



Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie quarter-final
WEXFORD 0-13
DUBLIN 1-7

Daragh Ó Conchúir
Netwatch Cullen Park



The Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior camogie semi-final between Cork and Kilkenny has been pushed back 24 hours until Sunday, August 16 to facilitate the Rebels' dual players.

The move follows Cork's victory over Meath in the All-Ireland Ladies SFC Qualifier at Semple Stadium.

Wexford will play Galway in the other semi-final (on Saturday, August 15) after they defeated Dublin 0-13 to 1-7 in the quarter-final at Netwatch Cullen Park. Venues and times for both semis are to be confirmed.

A blustery wind made conditions difficult for both sides in Carlow but Wexford coped better in the opening exchanges. Stacey Kehoe got them off the mark early on and then set up Katrina Parrock with a lovely flick for another score.

Una Sinnott profited from some good vision by player of the match, Kate Kelly to open up a three-point gap.

Dublin had a goal disallowed for a square ball but Ali Maguire opened their account from a close-in free. Yet Wexford were picking off scores as Kelly lofted three points on the way to a personal tally of eight, including one effort from near the sideline on the 45m line to open up a 0-7 to 0-3 half-time lead.

Kelly extended the advantage by two but Dublin upped their intensity and it took two last-ditch interventions from Siona Nolan and Ciara Storey to deny them a goal.

Gradually, the capital side began chipping away at the deficit, aided by two pointed frees by Aisling Maher. Showing tremendous character, they kept pushing hard and when Alan Lagrue awarded a 20m free four minutes from time, the long-serving Louise O'Hara sent a rocket to the net to leave a point between the sides (0-11 to 1-7).

Wexford showed all their experience though and while Dublin had one opportunity to equalise from a free, it was Colm McGee's crew that saw out the game with points from the reliable Kelly and skipper Shelley Kehoe.



Dublin players celebrate after beating Clare in a play-off to book their place in the All-Ireland quarter-final

Tribe's Cahalan wary of dangerous Wexford

Therese O'Callaghan

Sinéad Cahalan is one of the longer-serving Galway camogie players, having represented her county since minor, and winning an All-Ireland junior medal in 2003 as well as an intermediate medal a year later. She picked up her first All-Ireland senior medal in 2013, lining out at wing-back for the maroon and white, and this week the Mullagh lady is getting set for yet another big test. Old foes Wexford stand in the way of Galway's second All-Ireland camogie final appearance in three years (Saturday, 3.30pm, Nowlan Park).

"Last year proved how difficult it is to win back-to-back titles," said the primary school teacher. "We came up against a really strong Kilkenny team in the semi-final, but I never remember any semi-final being easy and Wexford will present a major challenge."

The season so far has gone well for the Tribeswomen. They are the league champions and in topping their group section of the championship, they have already defeated the Slaneysiders in Innovative Wexford Park.

"But we must remember that was a really bad day, weather-wise. We would also be aware they were a bit depleted

due to injuries. We are preparing for a big battle.

"The likes of Tara Kenny, she is settling in well in the back line, she progressed from the intermediate team. Ailish O'Reilly is becoming more established now in attack. Catherine Finnerly is another young girl, this is her first year at senior level and she is showing good form as well."

Cahalan had to battle back from a knee injury in recent years and is enjoying full fitness again.

"Back to myself now — just my old age," she jokes. "I only came back into the panel around the end of May. I took my time because I wanted to get over a long year with the club. I have been coming on in most of the games. I am playing fine but our backs have been excellent all year. So you couldn't move any of them. I would be happy to make an impact if needed."

No such good fortune for Orlaith McGrath and Ann Marie Starr. "Orlaith is a big loss at centre-forward. Ann Marie has a badly broken arm since the Offaly game. Unfortunately, this is a serious injury as well. These are two big losses up front. We are trying to cope without them and the girls have stepped up."



Liberty Insurance's Joe Canning presents Sarah O'Donovan with the player of the match award after the playoff game in Thurles between Dublin and Clare. Dublin won 1-11 to 0-12.

The right decision is warmly received



Cork's Briega Corkery races past Offaly's Cailin Fitzgerald, during their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie championship clash at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: David Keane

THE Liberty Insurance senior camogie semi-final between Cork and Kilkenny has been pushed back 24 hours to Sunday, August 16 to facilitate Cork's dual players, with the ladies' football team scheduled to play on Saturday.

Cork camogie loses out here as expected. Rena Buckley and Briega Corkery to play two challenging games within 24 hours is asking for a lot and it will get harder and harder as the miles on the legs continue to clock up.

But full credit to the association for making the move. Even though the blame for the clash rests primarily with the footballers failing to acknowledge this annual date in the camogie calendar and receiving a copy of the dates in advance of scheduling their own, the camogie association couldn't afford another two weeks of negative publicity, so their

statement was warmly received.

But not by all as Dublin camogie released a statement not at all happy with the fact that they had to play a quarter-final within 48 hours of their group play-off, yet a fixture could be changed to accommodate dual players. This isn't the first time that the camogie association has changed a fixture so as to avoid a clash with the footballers so full credit to them for that.

Didn't the Dublin camogie side give it everything? Their victory over Clare had the greatest travelling support they've ever enjoyed and then to run Wexford to just three points two days later was highly commendable. One wonders if they were fresher would they have taken the quarter-final.

Probably not I would think. Because of all the hype, I think Dublin were hugely pumped up and were prepared to finish the game on their knees. That spirit may not have been there if the game had come in under the radar. Certainly, new manager



Linda Mellerick

Shane O'Brien, previously coach of the Tipperary, Wexford and Limerick senior hurling sides and former Dublin hurling manager Michael O'Grady have made a big impact.

Derek Ryan, a former world number seven squash player, is overseeing the team's strength and conditioning while current Dublin hurler Danny Sutcliffe is serving as ambassador. Suddenly it's exciting to be playing for Dublin again. The sponsorship of AIG is playing a major part here and best of luck to them.

It would be great if Dublin camogie became a force again and certainly at underage things are improving.

Last season Dublin suffered heavy

defeats throughout their league and championship campaigns. They had two wins from four in this year's league and didn't lose by embarrassing margins against the bigger counties. Winning one, drawing one and losing two was how their championship played out and then of course they won their play-off against Clare before last Monday's quarter-final.

A blustery wind made conditions difficult for both sides in Carlow early on and Wexford coped better initially. Stacey Kehoe got them off the mark early on and then set up Katrina Parrock with a lovely flick for another score. Una Sinnott profited from some good vision by player of the match, Kate Kelly, to open up a three-point gap.

Ali Maguire opened Dublin's account from a close-in free. Yet it was Wexford that were finding it easier to pick off scores as Kelly lofted three points on her way to a personal tally of eight, including one majestic effort from near the side-line to open up a 0-7 to 0-3 half-time lead.

Kelly extended the advantage by two but Dublin upped their intensity and it took two last-ditch interventions from Siona Nolan and Ciara Storey to deny them a goal. Gradually they began chipping away at the deficit, aided by two pointed frees by Aisling Maher.

Showing tremendous character they kept pushing hard and when Alan Lagrue awarded a 20m free four minutes from time the long-serving Louise O'Hara sent a rocket to the net to leave a point between the sides (0-11 to 1-7). Wexford showed all their experience though and, while Dublin had one opportunity to equalise from a free, it was Colm McGee's crew that saw out the game with points from the ultra-reliable Kelly and captain Shelley Kehoe.

So Wexford face Galway next Saturday in Nowlan Park with Cork playing Kilkenny on Sunday in Walsh Park at 4pm after the Cork minor All-Ireland semi-final against Tipperary. It would be great to see strong Cork support for both games.



Pat McDonagh, director of Mallow N20 Plaza & Supermacs, with Cork Camogie players Jennifer Gosford, Emer O'Sullivan, Ashling Thompson, Orla Cotter and Julie White at Mallow N20 Plaza Tenth Birthday Celebrations on the Limerick road. Picture: Press 22

CLUB DETAILS

■ Marian McCarthy

Cork Camogie Club Notes

Bride Rovers Camogie Club U13 Camogie:
The under 13s played at home to Fr. O'Neill's on Tuesday evening. From the outset, it was going to be a very one-sided match as the visitors were far and away the better team. And so it proved, but in fairness to Bride Rovers they battled as best they could for the duration of the game.

It's a pity for the girls that they are pitted against teams that are clearly so much stronger, and indeed neither side benefits from such games. In any event, well done to the girls who did their best.

Team: Abby Keating, Alanna Broderick, Niamh O'Sullivan, Caoimhe Hazelwood, Caoimhe O'Sullivan, Ella Quinlan, Rebecca Walsh, Amy Kennedy, Alice Murray, Shauna Hayes, Ciara O'Flynn, Chloe Murphy U15 Camogie:

The under 15s travelled to Buck Leary's Cross on Wednesday to play Sarfields. While Bride Rovers held their own in the first half and the score stood at 1-3 apiece, Sars pulled away in the second half to win by a substantial margin. Bride Rovers never gave up but the opposition were far too strong and the girls were unable to bridge the gap.

Team: Rachel O'Flynn, Arianne O'Flynn, Anna Murray (0-1), Katie Quirke (0-1), Rebecca Walsh, Ella Quinlan (1-0), Caoimhe Hazelwood, Chloe Murphy, Shauna Hayes (0-1), Emma Barry (0-1), Siobhain O'Sullivan (1-0), Aislinn O'Connor, Emily Larkin Clothes Collection:

First Friday collection of old clothes, shoes and handbags will be taken at the Community Centre on Friday August 7th from 7.30 to 8pm. Don't forget you can stay in touch day to day with all the latest news on Twitter, @roversgaa, and on Facebook.

Cork Camogie Results:

All Ireland Senior Championship: Cork 2-17 Tipperary 0-10
All Ireland Intermediate Championship: Galway 3-12 Cork 2-10
County Senior B Championship: Barryroe 2-12 Aghabullogue 0-08
Intermediate Championship: Sarfields 2-14 Camogains 2-04 Blackrock 1-12 Slabh Rua 0-06 Junior Championship Watergrasshill 4-15 Newtownshandrum 2-04 Junior C Championship Coloh 4-06 Cloughduh 2-09 Summer Cup Sarfields 2-12 St. Finbarrs 0-04

CAMOGIE SENIOR ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL PREVIEW

Croker beckons - but champions Cork stand in Kilkenny's way

Old rivals meet in a repeat of the 2014 All-Ireland senior camogie decider

BY TJ MILLS
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It may be a repeat of the 2014 senior All-Ireland camogie final - but Kilkenny will be hoping for a very different result this time.

The county's senior camogie team will be hoping to make it to a third All-Ireland final in succession, but first they must get past Cork.

The old rivals will do battle again this Sunday, with Waterford's Walsh Park the location for the repeat of the 2014 All-Ireland final (throw-in 4pm).

Having lost to Galway in 2013, Kilkenny saw their O'Duffy Cup hopes crumble when Cork beat them by 2-12 to 1-9 in last September's decider.

The Cats will have the chance to settle that score this Sunday, as well as getting their own back for another defeat to their Munster opponents.

Kilkenny began the year under the stewardship of new manager Fintan Deegan with an away trip to Cork in the first round of the league.

In a close, low-scoring contest, it was the All-Ireland champions who edged the verdict, beating Kilkenny by 0-9 to 0-5.

Despite the result, this was a game that could have been classed as the one that got away from Kilkenny.

Kilkenny bounced back brilliantly from this narrow loss when Derry came calling in round two. The Cats really hit the ground running, recording a 4-17 to 0-9 point

victory. They kept the momentum going in their third league outing, beating a high-flying Dublin side by 1-12 to 1-07 victory.

Two wins became three when, in their final league match, they travelled to Clare. The home side were shown no mercy as the Cats emerged victorious on a 4-15 to 0-10 scoreline.

That win set up a league semi-final meeting Galway, the team who beat Kilkenny in the 2013 All-Ireland final.

Once again the girls from the West got the verdict. They proved too strong for Kilkenny, hitting some early goals to help set up a 5-7 to 2-9 win.

Kilkenny might have been down, but they quickly bounced back.

Kilkenny bounced back from this loss to Galway by picking up the Leinster title. In the semi-final they beat Kildare by 3-18 to 1-8. The Lilywhites put considerable effort into the game - they were ahead after 45 minutes - but impressive scoring performances from Denise Gaule (1-5), Michelle Quilty (1-3) and Ann Dalton (0-5) helped the Cats march on.

This victory set up a final against Offaly. In a close-fought contest Denise Gaule led the way, hitting 2-5 as Kilkenny recorded a 2-11 to 1-9 win to win back the Leinster crown.

The All-Ireland campaign began with another clash against Dublin. Played in Parnell Park Kilkenny got the ball rolling in good fashion, beating their hosts by 3-13 to 1-10 before entertaining Clare in



Miriam Walsh (above) is one of several players who has shown impressive form for Kilkenny this year. Right: New Kilkenny manager Fintan Deegan. Photos: Eoin Hennessy/Donall Farmer

Freshford.

This match was the start of what proved to be a purple patch for the Cats, as they racked up a 2-22 to 0-6 win. In their third game they made the long trek to Derry a worthwhile one, hitting Derry for eight as they ran out easy 8-22 to 2-10 winners.

The goal rush continued into their final group match. Playing Tipperary in Freshford the hosts easily disposed of the Premier County challenge by 8-15 to 0-4 to set up Sunday's semi-final against Cork.

So what about Sunday's opponents? The All-Ireland champions began the year in good League form, running through the group stages undefeated with wins over Clare, Kilkenny, Dublin and Derry.

Beating Limerick in the semi-finals, they earned a final spot against Galway. In a classic final they came up short on a 2-15 to 2-12 scoreline against the Tribeswomen.

Like Kilkenny, they were crowned provincial champions after they beat Tipperary by 0-13 to 0-12 in Nenagh.

Cork had something of a mixed bag as far as their All-Ireland championship campaign is concerned, but they did enough to secure a quarter-final berth.

In their first match they fell to Galway again, going down



by 1-11 to 0-12 before securing a four point win over Limerick (1-14 to 1-10) in round two.

A 0-13 to 0-6 success over Offaly made it two wins in a row before Wexford got the upper hand in their final match, beating the Rebelettes by 0-13 to 0-10. In the quarter-final Cork ran out easy 2-17 to 0-10 winners over Tipp.

Sunday's semi-final could boil down to how both defenses cope with the opposing forward line. Kilkenny have really set out their attacking stall this season and goals seem to

be the aspect of their play - they scored 16 in their final two group matches.

The Kilkenny management team would have to be happy with the form that Katie Power, Michelle Quilty, Denise Gaule and Miriam Walsh are in.

However, the Cats will have to watch out for the dangerous Cork midfield pairing of Katrina Mackey, Orla Cotter and half-back Brieghe Corkery - keep these three players quiet and they will be half-way towards getting a big win.



Katie Power hit 3-3 as Kilkenny showed near-neighbours Tipp no mercy on their way to the All-Ireland semi-final.



Katrina Parrock clashes with Rose Collins of Dublin during the quarter-final victory in Cartow.

Wexford hope to cause upset

Galway have held upper hand

DEAN GOODISON
Sports reporter

WEXFORD HAVE a chance to avenge their worst performances in both the league and championship this season when they face Galway for their third time this year in Nowlan Park on Saturday (4 p.m.) in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior camogie championship semi-final.

The Slaneysiders were abysmal in Loughrea back in April when they slumped out of league contention with a 20-point hammering (2-23 to 0-9), and fared little better in the championship just over four weeks ago when they managed only six points in an eight-point defeat (1-11 to 0-6).

While those two matches might give Galway the psychological edge heading into the semi-final, they count for nothing on the Nowlan Park scoreboard.

Things have changed a bit since the July defeat with Wexford welcoming back injured players that could make all the difference. Colm McGee's troops also have the added bonus of a big win in their satchel since that last meeting with the westerners.

Seven days after the defeat to Galway, Wexford headed to Ballincollig and took the scalp of a decent Cork side (0-13 to 0-10), and that could only have served to boost confidence in the camp.

Also standing to the Leinster side will be the closer-than-it-need-

ed-to-be victory over Dublin in the quarter-finals on Bank Holiday Monday. Wexford never hit the heights, intensity-wise, that they managed against the Rebelettes but they did just about enough to keep the Metropolitans at arm's length.

Thirteen of the side who were in the starting 15 against Galway took to the pitch against Dublin last week with impressive county Minor, 17-year old Una Sinnott, and experienced Oulart-The Ballagh all-rounder Stacey Redmond taking the places of St. Ibar's/Shelmaller duo Bridget Curran and Aine Lacey.

However, Karen Atkinson made her comeback from injury as a late substitute against Dublin and someone of her experience is likely to be needed from the start this time around.

That will possibly see the technically superior Redmond make way for the dogged defender.

Ursula Jacob was kitted out against Dublin but not risked, but with two further weeks of mending on her injured finger it's almost inconceivable that she won't make the starting 15 on Saturday.

Ordinarily the youngster Sinnott might be expected to make way but her rise continues to be meteoric and it would be a surprise if she doesn't keep her spot.

That leaves Linda Bolger, substituted in the last three championship matches, as the most likely to lose out.

Again it would be harsh on the

St. Martin's clubwoman who takes the brunt of her side's defensive tactics with extra defenders constantly in and around her area of the field.

Wexford also have a question mark at goalkeeper as well with Mags D'Arcy's return to training giving Laura Brennan competition between the sticks.

Whichever way McGee goes, the decision on who to start at number one is a gamble so experience could well win out in that situation.

Galway, on the other hand, have played ten games this season, won nine and drawn just the one. That tie was way back in their first fixture of the year against Limerick in the league.

They went on to take that crown and have to be favoured, with Kilkenny, to make the All-Ireland final.

The 2013 champions possess a miserly defence anchored by Sarah Dervan at full-back, and with Niamh Kilkenny providing the penetration from deep to a set of forwards who all know where the posts are, it's going to be a massive test for McGee's girls.

It would take an eternal optimist to predict a Wexford win but if they can stay with Galway into the latter stages they have a chance.

That's when experience comes to the fore and with Kate Kelly, Katrina Parrock and potentially Jacob in attack, the Slaneysiders have enough in the armoury to nick it if they are in the hunt in the final moments.



Ashling Thompson will captain Cork in semi against Kilkenny.

Debutants bring a hunger Cats might not match in repeat of last year's final

■ Linda Mellerick

CAMOGIE

Sunday, All-Ireland senior semi-final: Cork v Kilkenny, Walsh Park, Waterford, 4pm.

IT'S a repeat of last year's All-Ireland final in Walsh Park on Sunday as Cork face Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final.

The game was postponed 24 hours to accommodate Cork's dual players and it's disappointing that we don't have a double header with Wexford and Galway, playing Saturday in Nowlan Park.

However, a big plus is that Cork's U16A team precede the seniors with their semi-final against Tipperary at 2pm and undoubtedly the double Cork fixture will attract more support to both games.

Nationally last year's All-Ireland final previews were all aglow about Kilkenny's 'top class team', in particular their scoring power. I couldn't understand all the hype but was happy to read it, hoping Kilkenny believed it too. I had been preaching for three years about Kilkenny's lack of leadership, aggression and passion against the top teams come championship and they had reached the final playing weak opposition.

Leading by five points at half-time they succumbed to Cork's challenge after the break with Cork full value for their second half winning margin of 2-8 to 0-3.

Similarly this season Kilkenny have notched up incredible scores in their four group championship games; against Tipperary, Dublin, Clare and Derry. Not the strongest of sides in this year's championship but one wonders if any other county would have scored as much or conceded as little.

It is impressive. A 3-13 to 1-10 opening round victory over Dublin was followed by 2-22 to 0-6 win over Clare, an 8-22 to 2-10 defeat of Derry and finally an 8-15 to 0-4 annihilation of Tipperary. (21 goals and 72 points for, three goals and 30 points against).

Cork won two (Limerick and Offaly) and lost two of their group outings to Galway and Wexford and one would hope have learned much from those defeats.

Cork's style of play has

come in for much debate this season. It worked last year and Paudie Murray remains steadfast in his opinion that it still works if executed efficiently.

Certainly in last year's final Kilkenny seemed to have their work done on how to counteract Cork's defensive style. Cork lost midfield in the opening half; four on two.

It was hard at times to see how the format would play out as Kilkenny also deployed a sweeper, leaving three inside forwards on Cork's full back line. Winning the ball at centerfield they then struck it behind Cork's half-backs and Shelley Farrell, Katie Power and Michelle Quilty were causing problems.

At that time we were questioning whether Cork's system was working, we questioned maybe we should go player for player on the two wing forwards that had pushed out to midfield. But Cork remained composed and confident and their second half performance was from the top drawer.

What will Kilkenny bring to the table on Sunday? One thing is certain, they will look to open Cork up; Cork should win centerfield but Kilkenny will pull out their wing forwards, particularly Dalton and this is where Cork's midfield and half-forwards will need to work their socks off.

Cork are missing Jennifer O'Leary, Angela Walsh, Anna Geary and Joanne O'Callaghan from last year while in addition Emer O'Sullivan's injury which has kept her out of action for a number of weeks is a huge loss. Kilkenny without doubt have six of the top forwards in the country.

Defensively Cork will find it hard to cope with dynamic wing forwards Denise Gaule and Ann Dalton, Michelle Quilty and Michelle Power in the corners, Miriam Walsh and Katie Power.

A lot will depend on who wants this game the most. Kilkenny are a seasoned team at this stage, Cork have a lot of semi-final debutants.

The Cats are favourites but haven't been tested this year yet and unless their mental strength has improved this

Rebel U16s face a stiff Tipp test

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

SUNDAY All Ireland U16 A semi-final, Cork v Tipperary, Walsh Park, Waterford 2pm.

IT'S a big day in Walsh Park Waterford on Sunday for Cork when they take on Tipperary and Kilkenny in the U16 A and senior All-Ireland championship semi-finals in what is a superb double header.

The U16 side will get proceedings under way in Walsh Park at 2pm as they bid to reach the final, a place Cork have not reached in a long time.

Tipperary are bidding for three in a row having made it back-to-back titles last season with a splendid victory over Galway.

They have enjoyed an impressive campaign defeating Dublin, Wexford and Offaly to top their section and book their place in the semi-final against a Cork side that defeated Clare in their opening game but lost out to Galway before resurrecting their season with a superb victory over Kilkenny.

Tipperary lost out to Clare in the Munster semi final and went on to win the Munster shield but like Cork they learned a lot from the provincial competition and confidently came through their championship group to reach Sunday's decider.

Tipperary have just three survivors from last season All-Ireland winning side and it is a measure of their strength that they are in the semi-final once again with practically a new line up. Aedin Hogan, Maeve Coffey and Christina Brennan will have gained huge experience from last season but Tipp have good performers also in Aine Greed, Aoife Kavanagh, Ciara Ryan, Ciara Nyland and Casey Hennessy.

Cork will be looking to stamp their authority on proceedings from the throw in, up front they will look to Lauren Homan, Cliona Healy, Katie Walsh and Clara Crowley to deliver the goods whilst in defence captain Edel Lornegan will drive her side on aided by Emer McAndrew, Ruth McCarthy and Aileen Buckley.

If any group of mentors deserve to reach a final and get a shot at winning this title it is this group, the dedication and commitment they have given has been huge and it would be fitting if on Sunday their side can go a step further to achieving their dream.

Their preparation has been excellent with games played against almost all of the senior clubs in the county and they have given every player on their panel and opportunity to gain a place on the starting 15.

The buzz in the camp is good let's hope they set the trend for a great day for the rebels in Walsh park on Sunday and book a place in the final.

Nothing compares to knockout ties



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

THE first All-Ireland senior championship semi-final takes place today at 3.30pm in Nowlan Park.

Wexford v Galway has all the ingredients for an enthralling match. In truth, very few games throughout the championship provide much excitement, the exception being when the top four meet.

Cork had two fairly intense games against Galway and Wexford in their group fixtures, Kilkenny had none on the weaker side of the 10 teams involved.

But even the better games didn't provide the edge-of-your-seat experience, because it wasn't knock-out.

And nothing beats knock-out championship hurling.

Wexford and Galway are similar in some ways; both All-Ireland champions in the past three seasons; Wexford in 2012, Galway 2013 yet both failed to reach the final last year.

Galway weren't an outstanding team by any means and over-indulged in their All-Ireland celebrations, plus they lost the services of Therese Maher, the backbone of their team for many a year, to retirement.

It was no surprise and forecasted that they wouldn't be contenders in 2014. Wexford were just tired, having won three in-a-row from 2010-2012.

In addition, they didn't have much coming through from underage and despite a draw with Cork in last year's All-Ireland semi-final, Cork were far superior with the winning margin 10 points in the replay.

Retirements on the Cork side have narrowed the gap between the top four. Despite some great individual performances in all counties, the overall standard has dropped.

We need this weekend to bring gasping delight back into the game.

Galway do seem back on track this term. Their hangover from the All-Ireland success of 2013 after a gap of 17 years has passed and with an infusion of new blood, the westerners are contenders again.

They emerged from their group containing Cork and Wexford with a 100% record. Their victory over Cork in the league final by three points after an 11-point interval lead showed signs of a trait that has lingered over Galway a lot over recent years; their failure to close out a game.

Yes, they won but had the margin not been so wide at half-time, I feel they would have collapsed once Cork came at them. Three points was again the winning margin for Galway when the sides met in the championship in June but Cork were looking more cohesive since early May whereas Galway didn't seem to be pushing on.

Galway and Wexford met on July 11 with Galway emerging winners, 1-11 to 0-6. Wexford turned that defeat around to take Cork a week later, 0-13 to 0-10.

Wexford have had a topsy-turvy sea-



Goalkeeper Aoife Murray and her Cork team-mates will need to be on their game if they are to overcome the challenge of Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final tomorrow. Picture: Matt Browne / SPORTSFILE

son due to a number of injuries to key players.

Ursula Jacob hasn't figured and I don't need to reiterate her influence on a game. She is expected to line out today and only time will tell how match-fit or sharp she will be.

Shine

This is where Wexford shine, championship knock-out. Galway haven't played since July 18, Wexford defeated Dublin 12 days ago in the quarter-final.

As always, when the teams are

evenly matched, who wants it more will determine the victor.

Amazingly, for all their success the amount of hooks and blocks that the Kilkenny hurlers got in last Sunday was spellbinding. How many scores did they get from dispossessing Galway coming out of defence! Galway will have to match Wexford's physicality.

They're a strong team and fancy footwork from the west won't do it alone. If they can negate the influence of Kate Kelly and Katrina Parrock, then Galway can reach Croke Park

again.

Cork's hunger will play a huge part in tomorrow's semi-final with Kilkenny.

The Cats are justifiably favourites. Cork's workrate is going to have to be phenomenal and if it is, they can win.

Kilkenny are bound to draw on the hurt of last year's All-Ireland final as they take to the field. Cork are vulnerable in positions, many playing in an All-Ireland semi-final for the first time. However, youngsters can often thrive in such circumstances and confidence is key. The strongest area of Kilkenny's line-up is their front six, possessing at least four of the top ten forwards in the country at present.

Therefore, the Cork defence needs to be on its game. All six need to play as a unit, start well and win their own individual battles and set the tone by shutting down Kilkenny's forwards.

Orla Cotter remains so important to Cork's title ambitions.

She has pulled many games out of the fire for them over the past few seasons, not alone with her accuracy from placed balls but her general roaming and workrate.

If Aisling Thompson performs for the full 60 minutes and Cork provide fast ball to the in-form Julia White, Katrina Mackey and Amy O'Connor then we have every chance.

And when Cork have a chance, it would be wrong to write them off.

It will be tough and may go down to the wire, but Cork can do it and give themselves an opportunity to return to Croke Park in September to defend the title they won last year.

Blackrock club notes

OUR fourth hosting of The Alan Hurley Memorial Tournament will live long on the memory of all those who participated last Sunday.

We were blessed with the weather again this year and played 12 games at the perfect facilities at Blackrock National Hurling Club.

This was the first year that teams from outside of Cork attended and we even had a team travel from Armagh.

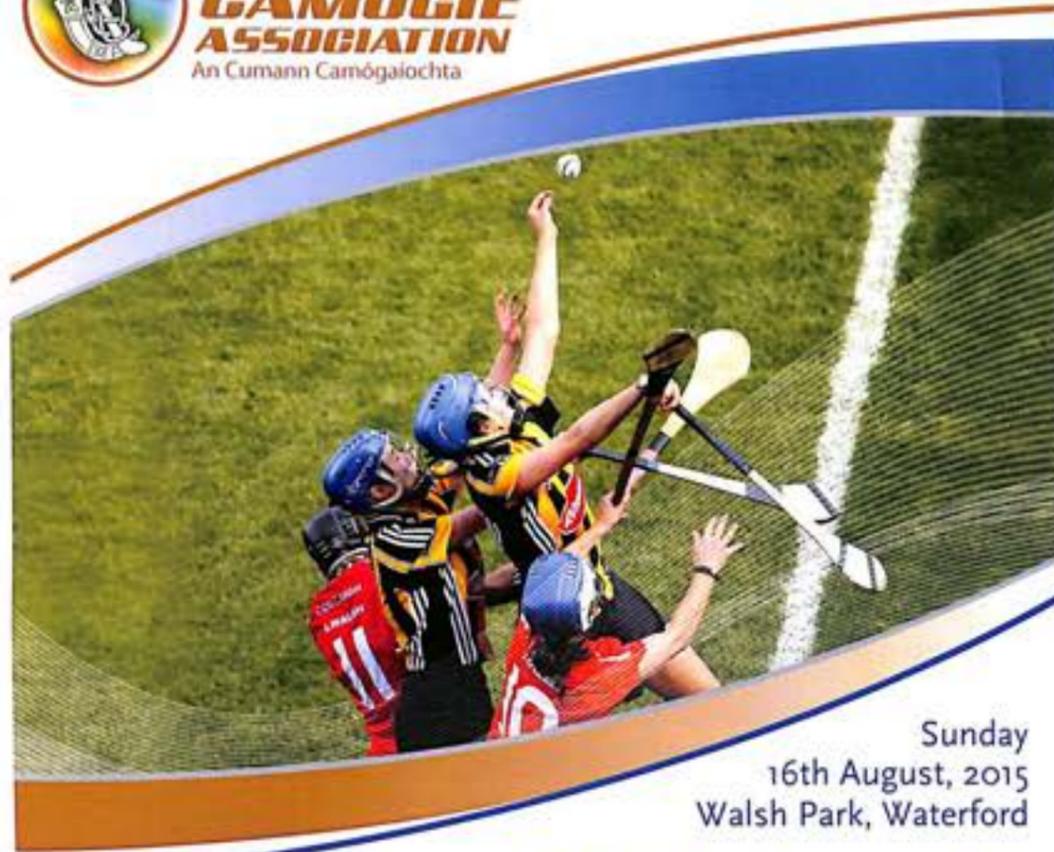
It all got going at midday and after the group stages it was left for Cahir and Blackrock to compete for the cup final while Na Pairsaigh and Carrigaline played in the plate final.

Na Pairsaigh saved their best camogie till the final and just about had enough to overcome a tiring Carrigaline team, while in the cup final,

Blackrock showed how much this tournament means to them by really pulling out all the stops to defeat a very strong Cahir outfit.

Fine players like of Becky O'Shea, Amy Lee, Hayley Ryan, Sarah Fahy and Roisin Howard caught the eye but Roisin DeFaoite secured the Player of the Tournament title.

It was left to Mollie Hurley as captain of Blackrock to accept the cup named in honour of her father (presented to her by her grandfather Pat). A huge thanks to all those who helped especially those who severed the wonderful food, our sponsors, referees, umpires, competing teams, coaches, supporters, staff, Kellie and family, and most importantly the players. Here's to 2016



Sunday
16th August, 2015
Walsh Park, Waterford

Liberty Insurance Senior Championship Semi-Final

4.00 pm **Cork v Kilkenny**

All-Ireland U16 A Championship Semi-Final
2.00 pm **Cork v Tipperary**

LIBERTY INSURANCE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP



Clár Oifigiúil
Luach €2

John Flynn
Ard Stiúrthóir



Corcaigh

Darlhanna: Dearg agus Bán

1 Sarah Aherne A. Ní hEathírn Ballygarvan		
2 Molly Ryan M. Ní Riain Carrigaline	3 Edel Lonergan E. Ní Longargáin Sarsfields	4 Aideen Buckley A. Ní Bhuachalla Cloughduv
5 Maeve Lynch M. Loingsigh Newcestown	6 Katie McCarthy C. Ní Chárthaigh Aghabullogue	7 Katie Daly C. Ní Dhálaigh Slabh Rua
8 Eimear McAndrews E. Nic Aindnú Ballygarvan		9 Ruth McCarthy C. Ní Chárthaigh Sarsfields
10 Isobel O'Regan I. Ní Riagáin Ballygarvan	11 Chloe Collins C. Ní Choileáin Millstreet	12 Ciara Ryan C. Ní Riain Clonakilty
13 Cliona Healy C. Ní hÉill Aghabullogue	14 Lauren Homan L. Homan St. Vincent's	15 Katie Walsh C. Bhreatnach Glen Rovers

MNÁ IONAID

16 Megan Daly M. Ní Dhálaigh Douglas	19 Lucy O'Gorman L. Ní Chormáin Dungourney	22 Rebecca Keane R. Ní Chéin Iniscarna	25 Ciara Crowley C. Ní Chruaíoch Youghal	28 Ciara Hughes C. Ní hAodha Cloughduv
17 Grainne Cahalane G. O'Connell St. Finbarr's	20 Cathiona O'Keefe C. Ní Chaoimh Youghal	23 Kate Wall C. de Bháil Kilbrittain	26 Nora O'Riordan N. Ní Bórdáin Rockban	
18 Grace Collins G. Ní Choileáin Éire Óg	21 Clara Crowley C. Ní Chruaíoch Ballinascorthy	24 Olivia Murphy O. Ní Mhurchú Blaney	27 Siobhán O'Sullivan S. Ní Shúilleabháin Bride Rovers	

Management: Anthony Nagle, Ken Bulman, Eileen O'Brien

Cill Chainnigh

Darlhanna: Dubh agus Ómra



1 Emma Kavanagh E. Chaomhánach Rower-Inistioge		
2 Stacey Quirke S. Ní Coirc St. Martin's	3 Edwina Keane E. Nic Chatháin St. Martin's	4 Jacqui Frisby S. Ní Fhírbhisigh Ballyhale Shamrocks
5 Claire Phelan C. Ní Fhaoláin Lisdowney	6 Colette Dormer C. Ní Dhuidhíorma Paulstown/Gorebridge	7 Davina Tobin D. Tóibín Emeralds
8 Áine Gannon A. Nig Fhionnáin Rower-Inistioge		9 Ann Dalton A. Daltúin St. Lachtain's
10 Denise Gaule D. Nic an Ghail Windgap	11 Aisling Dunphy A. Ní Dhonnchaidh St. Brigid's	12 Áine Connery A. Ní Chonaire St. Lachtain's
13 Shelly Farrell S. Ní Fhearail Thomastown	14 Katie Power C. de Paor Piltown	15 Michelle Quilty M. Ní Chaoilte Mullinavat

MNÁ IONAID

16 Siobhán Murphy S. Ní Mhurchú Tullagher-Rosbercon	19 Miriam Walsh M. Bhreatnach Tullaroon	22 Edel Maher A. Ní Fhearail St. Anne's	25 Mairead Power M. de Paor Cormickshock
17 Aoife Neary A. Ní Náraithe James Stephens	20 Catherine Doherty C. Ní Dhochartaigh St. Anne's	23 Meighan Farrell M. Ní Fhearail Thomastown	26 Kate McDonald C. Nic Donaill Thomastown
18 Catherine Foley C. Ní Fhoghlú Windgap	21 Anna Farrell A. Ní Fhearail Thomastown	24 Mary O'Connell M. Ní Chonaill Clara	

Manager: Fintan Deegan
Physio/First Aid: Tom Manton
Selectors: James Quinlan, Liz Dempsey
Strength & Conditioning: Dermot Gill

Tiobraid Árann

Dathanna: Gorm agus Ór



AUG 2015

1 Katie Jones C. Nic Sheoin Newport		
2 Caoimhe Perdue C. Perdue Cashel	3 Christina Brennan C. Ní Bhraonáin Drom Inch	4 Niamh Long N. Ní Longáin Drom Inch
5 Sarah Delaney S. Ní Dhúlainne Boherlahan	6 Hazel McAuliffe H. Nic Amhlaoibh Nenagh	7 Mary Burke M. de Búrca Drom Inch
8 Niamh Keane N. Ní Chéin Ballingarry		9 Jean Kelly S. Ní Cheallaigh Annacarty
10 Caroline Browne C. de Brún Nenagh	11 Amy Quigley A. Ní Choighligh Newport	12 Ciara Ryan C. Ní Riain Silvermines
13 Maeve Coffey M. Ní Chofaigh (Capt.) Nenagh	14 Aisling Carey A. Ní Chiara Silvermines	15 Eibhlís McDonald E. Nic Dhónaill Annacarty

MNÁ IONAID

16 Niamh Sheridan N. Ní Shudejín Nenagh	19 Ciara Nyland C. Ní Niallín Drom Inch	22 Rachel O'Connor R. Ní Chonchúir Nenagh	25 Claire O'Brien C. Ní Bhriain Farrar	28 Katie Ryan C. Ní Riain Drom Inch
17 Ciara Dempsey C. Ní Othomasagh Drom	20 Eimer Ryan E. Ní Rian Nenagh	23 Thea Curtin T. Nic Churtín Newport	26 Aine Creed A. Creed Drom Inch	
18 Moira Kinnane M. Ní Choinneáin Clonsilla	21 Rebecca Forde R. Nic Crollannáth Silvermines	24 Aoife Kavanagh A. Caomhánach Boherlahan	27 Emma Flanagan E. Ní Fhlannagáin Newport	

Management: Bridget Bourke, Eddie Quigley, John Ryan



Corcaigh

Dathanna: Dearg agus Bán

1 Aoife Murray A. Ní Mhuirí Cloughduv		
2 Pamela Mackey P. Ní Mhaca Douglas	3 Laura Treacy L. Ní Threasaigh Killeagh	4 Leanne O'Sullivan L. Ní Shúilleabháin Glen Rovers
5 Rena Buckley R. Ní Bhuachalla Innisearra	6 Gemma O'Connor G. Ní Chonchúir St. Finbarrs	7 Meabh Cahalane M. Ní Chathaláin St. Finbarrs
8 Julia White S. Ní Bhanáin Douglas		9 Ashling Thompson A. Nic Thomáis (Capt.) Milford
10 Orla Cotter O. Nic Oitir St. Catherine's	11 Orla Cronin O. Ní Chróinín Enniskeane	12 Hannah Looney S. Ní Luanaigh Killeagh
13 Briega Corkery B. Ní Chorca Cloughduv	14 Amy O'Connor A. Ní Chonchúir St. Vincent's	15 Katriona Mackey C. Ní Mhaca Douglas

MNÁ IONAID

16 Amy Lee A. Ní Laoi Na Piarasagh	19 Leah Weste L. Weste Ballincollig	22 Jennifer Hosford S. Hosford Glen Rovers	25 Finola Neville F. Ní Nua St. Catherine's	28 Lisa Lynch L. Ní Longsugh Valley Rovers
17 Maria Walsh M. Bhreatnach Milford	20 Niamh O'Keefe N. Ní Chaoimh Killeagh	23 Rebecca Walsh R. Bhreatnach Fr. O'Neill	26 Katelynn Hickey C. Ní Hici Blackrock	29 Linda Collins L. Ní Cholláin Corry Rovers
18 Eimear O'Sullivan E. Ní Shúilleabháin Ballinacraig	21 Sarah Buckley S. Ní Bhuachalla Ballincollig	24 Lauren Callanan L. Ní Chealláin Glen Rovers	27 Sarah Fahy S. Ní Fhathugh Douglas	

Manager: Paudie Murray Selectors: Seán Cremin, George Fitzgibbon, Dr. Wesley O'Brien, Kevin Mulcahy, Niall Collins, Damien Murray Physio: Aoife McMahon

Free-scoring Kilkenny don't fear Cork, says Deegan



Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final
Cork v Kilkenny

Tomorrow: Walsh Park, 4pm
Referee: R Kelly (Kildare)
Bet: Cork 5/4, Kilkenny 5/6, Draw 7/1

Eoghan Cormican



Their graph was expected to dip. After successive All-Ireland final defeats, managerial resignations and the departure of two of their most experienced players, Kilkenny camogie was set to return to the chasing pack in 2015.

When the draws for the All-Ireland camogie championship were made earlier this year, it was Group 1 that turned heads. The last three counties to lift the O'Duffy Cup — Cork (2014), Galway (2013) and Wexford (2012) — had been pitted together, with only the group winners guaranteed an All-Ireland semi-final place.

But Kilkenny didn't just simply bounce back from successive September losses, the resignation of joint-managers Niall Williams and Graham Dillon and departure from the squad of Leanne Fennelly and Elaine Aylward.

Instead, they began issuing statement after statement of their intent to bridge the county's 21-year gap to a last All-Ireland success.

Their results made for pretty incredible reading. Fintan Deegan's charges hit 3-13 against Dublin on the opening weekend in June, notched 2-22 the following Saturday against Clare. Their game against Derry finished: 8-22 to 2-10.

In early July, they entertained Tipperary at Freshford to decide top spot. Kilkenny limited the visitors to 0-4. They tallied 8-15.

Little wonder, then, that Kilkenny boss Deegan says his charges don't fear cham-

pions Cork ahead of tomorrow's All-Ireland semi-final. "We are not afraid of them, we don't fear them," he said. "We are ready and the belief among the players is that if we get it right, we are good enough to win."

Paudie Murray's side limited the Kilkenny attack to 1-9 in last year's decider, Anna Geary holding key forward Katie Power to a point.

The Piltown club woman has tallied 5-12 en route to the semi-final and Geary is no longer around to operate a tight least at Walsh Park.

More ominous for the Cork defence is that Power doesn't even sit as the team's top-scorer, that accolade currently held by Denise Gaule — the half-forward hitting 7-18 in their four games.

"The forwards really are on form, they are pulling together very well," continued Deegan. "Katie Power, in my opinion, is the best camogie player in the country at present. Her brains, her intelligence as well as her ability is frightening at times. It is a team effort and the defence aren't getting credit for the amount of work they are doing. We're keeping the scorelines tight (they've conceded on average 0-10 per game)."

Deegan, a Laois native who is married and living in Urrlingford, took charge in January. His first priority was to ensure the current campaign wouldn't be dictated by how previous ones ended.

"Obviously the goal is to win the All-Ireland. But we said at the start of the year we weren't going down the route of trying to avenge what happened in the last two years. The last two years are gone. There is new management now and around 10 or 12 new faces on the panel as well. At the start of the year we sat down and we discussed the very real possibility that we might not even get out of the group. You can't link one year with the year previous, you can't solely focus on revenge for the last two years or use that as motivation."

FRESH APPROACH: Manager Fintan Deegan believes his charges are good enough to win. Picture: Donall Farmer



Cork goal blitz kills Cats

Cork 4-10
Kilkenny 1-10

All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final

Therese O'Callaghan
Nowlan Park

A majestic display by champions Cork sees them back in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie final next month. Wonderful score-taking, particularly in the second-half, saw them ease past Kilkenny - a Black and Amber side that came into the tie as favourites and started so well, racing seven points clear midway through the opening half.

But, in a remarkable turnaround and against the backdrop of having lost a number of key players from last year, Cork regained the initiative and ran out convincing winners.

Three goals in the space of seven second-half minutes from Katrina Mackey, Orla Cotter (her second) and Amy O'Connor sealed the deal.

"We pride ourselves on a couple of things, one is we are mentally very strong," said jubilant manager Paudie Murray. "And I think we showed that again today. We pride ourselves on our second-half performance and we also showed that again today and the last day (against Tipp in the quarter-final). We are delighted to be in the final."

"We have lost 13 players from last year's panel. The new players have settled in. We are coming the whole time and I think they are getting better with each game which is great. It took us a while to get organised and once we did, we won midfield and we were always going to win when the goals started to go in."

Kilkenny got off to a flying start, racing into a 1-6 to 0-2 lead, the goal after just three minutes from Michelle Quilty. Points from Denise Gaule (3), Katie Power (2) and Claire



GOING FOR GOAL: Cork's Briega Corkery breaks away from Kilkenny's Stacey Quirke during the All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final clash at Walsh Park, Waterford. Picture: Ryan Byrne

Phelan put them in the ascendancy. However, once Cork gained a foothold around the middle, they hit 1-5 without reply to give them a slender interval advantage of 1-7 to 1-6. Cotter raised the green flag from a free after a mix-up in the Kilkenny goal.

However, Kilkenny responded after the break and moved clear once more with points from Gaule and Miriam Walsh. Wayward shooting from both sides left it 1-9 to 1-8 in the Cats' favour approaching the end of the third quarter.

But, what a finish from Cork as Katrina Mackey produced an amazing goal after being set up by Briega Corkery. And what a weekend it was for successful footballers Corkery, Rena Buckley and Meabh Cahalane, who 24 hours earlier played a

part in the defeat of Galway. As the floodgates opened Cotter, who had switched into the full-forward line, and Amy O'Connor finished to the net with ruthless efficiency, leaving Kilkenny - who were defeated in the last two All-Ireland finals - bewildered on what was a very disappointing day for Fintan Deegan's players. They were going so well all season but had no answer to Cork's incredible scoring burst.

Slow starters Cork may be, and that will be a concern for Murray, but he has plenty of material to work with. Powerful goalkeeper Aoife Murray was well supported by Laura Treacy, Pamela Mackey and Gemma O'Connor. Up front, the speed and fluency of Corkery, Cotter and Katrina Mackey was a joy to watch as they crafted and finished

some splendid scores. Cork are heading to Croke Park in search of back-to-back All-Ireland titles in a repeat of this year's league final which Galway edged by three points.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter (2-3, 1-2 frees, 0-1 45m), A O'Connor (1-2), K Mackey (1-1), B Corkery and J White (0-2 each).

Scorers for Kilkenny: D Gaule (0-5 frees), M Quilty (1-0), K Power (0-2), C Phelan, A Dalton and M Walsh (0-1 each).

CORK: A Murray, L O'Sullivan, L Treacy, R Buckley, P Mackey, G O'Connor, M Cahalane, J White, A Thompson, O Cotter, O Cronin, K Mackey, H Looney, B Corkery, A O'Connor.

Subs: E O'Sullivan for H Looney (43), H Looney for O Cronin (55).

KILKENNY: E Kavanagh, E Keane, S Quirke, C Foley, C Donner, A Connerly, D Tobin, C Phelan, A Gannon, M Quilty, A Farrell, D Gaule, A Dalton, M Walsh, K Power.

Subs: S Farrell for A Farrell, A Dunphy for A Gannon (both half-time), J Frisby for C Foley (50 in), A Neary for M Quilty (57). Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).

Wexford stunned by Galway's late late show

Galway 1-14
Wexford 2-10

All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final

Therese O'Callaghan
Nowlan Park

A DRAMATIC late Niamh McGrath point from a '45 booked Galway's place in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie final next month and put paid to the courageous challenge of Wexford in Nowlan Park on Saturday.

Four minutes of stoppage time was signalled by Cathal Egan, at the end of which Wexford achieved parity, and extra-time looked imminent. However, the Cork referee didn't call full-time until the seventh minute, allowing McGrath convert.

Heartbroken Wexford captain Shelley Kehoe took issue with the amount of time

added on. "Over six minutes when they said it was four? We would be disappointed with that. The momentum was with us if there was extra-time," she said after the Slaneysiders battled from three points down to tie the game with a trio of Kate Kelly frees.

Galway manager Tony Ward was delighted but admitted: "The ref was a bit kind to us. We got a few minutes extra at the end. Most referees would probably have made a draw of it."

Reflecting on the game, Ward said they knew it wasn't going to be easy. "We got a few knocks beforehand. The McGraths' (Niamh and Clodagh) grandad died last night, that was a downer."

The opening quarter was tit-for-tat before Molly Dunne put Galway 1-6 to 0-4 clear when her deft flick beat Laura Brennan. Immediately, Katrina Parrock replied when her shot from distance deceived Susan Eamer. The

Galway forward line was causing problems, forcing Wexford boss Colm McGee to introduce Karen Atkinson. She helped steady the ship as they went to the dressing-room trailing 1-4 to 1-8.

In front of 1,616, league champions Galway continued in the ascendancy, scoring the first two points from excellent midfielder Niamh Kilkenny. A couple of goal chances for Una Sinnott and Stacey Kehoe went begging but Wexford were more threatening and eventually settled through a Stacey Kehoe white flag.

Ursula Jacob and Aoife Donohue exchanged points before placed ball experts Kelly and Niamh McGrath registered points - 1-12 to 1-7 on 53 minutes. The contest then turned on its head when Stacey Kehoe goaled after she was expertly picked out by Ursula Jacob. Jacob then saw her goal effort tall wide.

Dunne increased the margin once more to three

points but Wexford were opening up. Three Kelly frees and the sides were level with the four minutes of added time almost up. Play carried on. Galway won a free. Niamh McGrath's shot was deflected out for a 45m and she made no mistake with the conversion.

Scorers for Galway: N McGrath (0-5, three frees, one 45m); M Dunne (1-1); A O'Reilly (0-3); A O'Donohue and N Kilkenny (0-2 each); E Kilkenny (0-1).

Scorers for Wexford: K Kelly (0-6 frees); Stacey Kehoe (1-1); K Parrock (1-0); U Jacob (0-2); Shelley Kehoe (0-1).

GALWAY: S Eamer, T Manton, S Derivan, H Cooney, S Coen, S Healy, L Ryan, N Kilkenny (Capt), C McGrath, A Donohue, N McGrath, E Kilkenny, C Finnerty, M Dunne, A O'Reilly.

Subs: F Kealey for E Kilkenny (32 in), S Cahalan for C McGrath (52).

WEXFORD: L Brennan, C Donohue, S Nolan, L O'Leary, C Storey, M Leacy, S Sinnott, D Codd, B Gordon, K Parrock, K Kelly, Shelley Kehoe (Capt), Stacey Kehoe, U Jacob, U Sinnott.

Subs: K Atkinson for C Donohue (25), Linda Bolger for C Storey (45), Lisa Bolger for B Gordon (59).

Referee: Cathal Egan (Cork).

Wexford appeal semi-final result

Eoghan Cormican
Camogie

The Camogie Association is again mired in controversy following the decision of Wexford top-brass to appeal the result of last Saturday's All-Ireland semi-final.

Galway scored a 1-14 to 2-10 victory at Nowlan Park, with Niamh McGrath landing the winner six and a half minutes into second-half stoppages.

The Wexford Camogie Board are contesting the result on two counts, firstly their contention that the referee did not consult both umpires when ruling wide Kate Kelly's 16th minute 45.

The umpire on whose side the sliotar fell went to signal a wide ball, but dropped his arms when his counterpart grabbed the white flag before dropping it again. Referee Cathal Egan did not move inside the 14-metre line in overruling the latter.

Under rule 41.5, a referee can't overrule the decision of both umpires and the Wexford board believe video evidence shows Kelly's strike was between the posts.

Wexford officials have also taken umbrage with the amount of second-half injury-time played. Having awarded four minutes, the Cork official played six and a half minutes - Galway centre-forward McGrath shooting the winner right at the death. The sides were deadlocked at the end of the prescribed four minutes.

"When it is taken away last gasp, six and a half minutes into injury time, that is what is really hard to take," said Wexford manager Colm McGee after the game.

"Following a meeting of the executive committee of Wexford county camogie board with senior management on Monday night, a decision was reached to lodge an objection to the awarding of the senior semi-final played against Galway on Saturday, August 15," read the Wexford statement.

The appeal has been lodged with the Camogie Association's National Transfers Hearings and Disciplinary Committee (NTHDC).

The NTHDC have seven days to initiate a hearing once they deem the objection to have been properly submitted.

A Wexford official last night said they're not sure if their objection would even be heard, but were determined to put on record their frustration.

Wexford's objection again shines the spotlight on the Camogie Association, arriving in the wake of last month's coin-toss farce and the scheduling controversy in mid-May which saw three Cork dual players asked to play a Munster final and replayed national league final within four hours of each other.

Star player



Galway Niamh Kilkenny is presented with the Player of the Match award by Annetts Ni Dhathlaoi, Liberty Insurance, after defeating Wexford in last Saturday's All-Ireland camogie semi-final.

Murray:
We were
mentally
spot-on

REACTION

■ Linda Mellerick

Work-rate has us back in the final



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

Cork	4-10
Kilkenny	1-10

Brilliant, Brilliant Cork!

For those of us present in Walsh Park yesterday we were privileged to watch a mighty Cork performance that brings us back to Croke Park and on track for back to back All-Irelands on Sept 13.

Let's be honest, Cork were the underdogs and few gave them a chance yesterday. And why would they?

You had a mature Kilkenny side with the experience of two All-Ireland final appearances behind them, a side that had notched up 21 goals and 72 points throughout the group stages against a Cork side in transition after losing 13 players from last year's panel, many of them key players.

But once again while there was no heart, no leaders, no passion and no work rate in Kilkenny, while Cork had them in abundance.

In a repeat of last year's All Ireland final Kilkenny burst into a healthy lead. But Cork didn't falter.

Of course there is no better leader than Gemma O'Connor.

Long admire as one of the most athletic players in the game in addition to possessing great heart and a great hurling brain, she was instrumental behind everything that was good about Cork, as they came from seven points down to lead by one at the break.

She wasn't alone. All over the park Cork had them. Laura Treacy, Aishling Thompson, Pam Mackey Katrina Mackey, Julia White, Amy O'Connor, Breige Corkery, but it's actually wrong here of me to leave anyone out.

Cork were simply superb and beautiful to watch in full flow.

They tore Kilkenny apart in the second half with speed, vision and conviction; three goals in seven minutes and this game was over.

Kilkenny started with all guns blazing and raced into a 1-3 to 0-1 lead by the ninth minute.

Despite an Orla Cotter free getting Cork off the mark they were under massive pressure as they came to terms with the lighting fast roaming Kilkenny forwards. They looked in trouble. Julia White pointed but as Kilkenny ran at Cork they won a number of frees and with Denise Gaule converting three they pushed the gap to seven points.

Someone flicked a switch. Enter Cork! From the 18th minute to half-time it was all red and white.

They attacked relentlessly, scored 1-5 without replay and struck four wides.

Cork adopted a faster style delivery and swung it left and right as their speed inside ripped their opponents apart.

We all speak highly of the talent in Kilkenny's forward line but in Katrina Mackey, Amy O'Connor, Julia White,



Cork's Gemma O'Connor and Amy O'Connor celebrate after beating Kilkenny at Walsh Park yesterday.

Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne



Cork manager Paudie Murray celebrates at the final whistle.

Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

Breige Corkery and Orla Cotter, do they come much faster than that?

Kilkenny made three changes to their programme line-up. Catherine Foley came in for Jacqui Frisby at left corner back, Anna Farrell replaced Aishling Dunphy at centre forward while Miriam Walsh started at left corner forward in place of Shelly Farrell.

The second half started much the same as the first. It was Kilkenny taking the game to Cork.

They struck over the first two points. By the 42nd minute Cork trailed by one.

But Cork had struck further wides, had opened Kilkenny up numerous

times only for their final finish to deny them and therefore their confidence was growing.

Mackey goaled in the 43rd minute and she was the provider for Orla Cotter a minute later and again for Amy O'Connor on the 50th and it was game over.

Previewing the game I said that Cork's work-rate had to be phenomenal to win.

And it was. All over the field they worked tirelessly and still looked surprisingly fresh at the end. Breige Corkery showed no signs of her work-rate with the footballers 24 hours previously, the lion-hearted Rena Buckley equally influential.

O'Connor truly magnificent

Player of the Match: On a day where Cork excelled, there were many contenders. Gemma O'Connor, Katrina Mackey, Julia White, Breige Corkery and Laura Treacy in particular. When Cork were struggling in the first half, and needed someone to settle them, up stepped stalwart Gemma O'Connor. She was magnificent. An outstanding leader.

Turning Point: Cork's two goals inside a two-minute spell midway through the second half by scorer and provider

Katrina Mackey. Even before Cork's fourth goal, you could sense that Kilkenny weren't coming back.

Score of the Match: Hard to pick one from Cork's four goals but the award goes to Katrina Mackey's magnificent strike on 43 minutes. It was Breige Corkery's stretched touch that set it up and Mackey raced through to billow the net.

Ref Watch: Ray Kelly did a great job. The game flowed and we witnessed a fast, skilful game because of it.

This was just another great day for Cork camogie.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 2-3 (1-2 1, 0-1 45), A O'Connor 1-2, K Mackey 1-1, J White 0-2, B Corkery 0-2.

Kilkenny: D Gaule 0-5 (f), M Quilty 1-0, K Power 0-2, C Phelan, M Walsh, A Dalton 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray, P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan, R Buckley, G O'Connor, M Cabalane, J White, A Thompson, O Cotter, O Cronin, H Looney, B Corkery, A O'Connor, K Mackey.

Subs: E O'Sullivan for H Looney (43), H Looney for O Cronin (55).

KILKENNY: E Kavanagh, S Quirke, E Keane, C Foley, C Phelan, C Dorner, D Tobin, A Gannon, A Dalton, D Gaule, A Farrell, A Connery, M Walsh, K Power, M Quilty.

Subs: S Farrell for A Farrell and A Dunphy for A Gannon (47), J Frisby for C Foley (39), A Neary for M Quilty (47).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).

Aug. 2015

Aug. 2015

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork	5-15
Tipperary	0-8

A SUPERB second-half performance where they held Tipperary to just one point ensured Cork booked their place in the U16A All-Ireland final and as a result stopped Tipperary's dream of three in a row in Walsh Park yesterday.

The opening half was close as two nervous sides battled to gain control.

At the break an Isobel O'Regan goal was the score that separated the sides as Cork led 1-7 to 0-7 and it looked as if we were in for a close second half, but Cork put paid to those thoughts with Lauren Homan effective at full-forward grabbing three goals while Cliona Healy also added one as the young Rebels stormed to the final.

Cork's workrate was huge throughout the game - in defence they closed down their opponents, particularly in the opening half with some excellent hooking, blocking and confident clearing, their midfield kept the ball moving to an inside line that had the legs on the Tipperary defence over the hour.

This was by no means a two-woman show, despite Cliona Healy notching up a goal and nine points and Lauren Homan three goals and three points as all over the field Cork worked their socks off.

In defence captain Edel Lornegan was superb, particularly in the opening half when Tipperary applied a lot of pressure.

She was out first to the ball and cleared her lines confidently, up front their forwards worked as a unit and were unselfish over the hour, the half mark of a good side as they spread the ball around well.

By the end of the opening quarter the sides had been level twice as they traded points and an Aisling Carey pointed free edged Tipp ahead with 12 minutes to the break and when Caoimhe Burke found the range the lead was extended to two but it was to be the last time they would lead as Cork came storming into the game.

O'Regan took on the Tipp defence and from 30 metres out her shot went to the top corner of the net and Cork exploded, piling on the pressure.

They won a 45 that Cliona Healy pointed.

Aisling Carey replied with a pointed Tipp 45, but finishing the half stronger, Cork hit two points courtesy of Cliona Healy.

The second half belonged to Cork and as they pushed for home Healy and Homan had early points before Maeve Coffey hit Tipperary's only

Rebel girls explode in second half



Cork's Katie McCarthy gets her shot away as Tipperary's Eibhlis McDonald closes in during the All-Ireland U16A camogie championship semi-final at Walsh Park. Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

scored of the second half as a dominant Cork defence never allowed them any room, closing them down on every attack.

Up front Cork were superb. Homan found the net after a superb solo effort, Healy continued to show her accuracy from placed balls and play, substitute Ciara Huges was also hugely effective her pace troubling the Tipperary defence.

Homan continued to cause trouble in possession grabbing two further goals, Cliona Healy added Cork's fifth before Katie Walsh added a point as Cork advanced to a final meeting with a Galway side that defeated Dublin on Saturday.

Scorers for Cork : C Healy: 1-9 (0-3 45 0-4), I O'Regan 1-0, L Homan 3-3, C Ryan, C Hughes, K Walsh 0-1 each.

Tipperary: A Carey 0-3 (0-3Fs), C Browne, M Coffey 0-2 each, C Ryan 0-1.

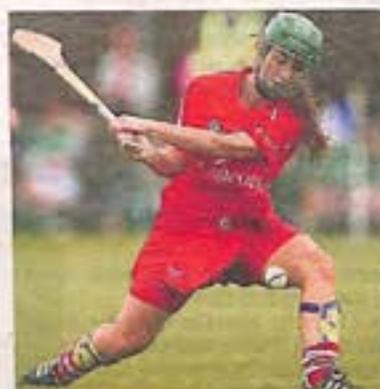
CORK: M Daly, M Ryan, E Lornegan(c), A Buckley, M Lynch, K Mc Carthy, K Daly, E Mc Andrew, R Mc Carthy, I O' Regan, C Ryan, K Walsh, C Healy, L Homan, Ciara Crowley.

Sub's: L O'Gorman for A Buckley (h/t), C Hughes for Ciara Crowley (h/t), C O'Keefe for R Mc Carthy (39), Ciara Crowley for C Ryan (43), G Collins for M Lynch (55).

TIPPERARY: K Jones, C Perdue, C Brennan, N Long, S Delaney, H McAuliffe, M Burke, N Keane, J Kelly, C Browne, A Quigley, C Ryan, M Coffey (c), A Carey, E McDonald.

Sub's: T Curtin for A Quigley (inj 38), C, O'Brien for N Keane (44), E Flanagan for E Mc Donald (50), C Nyland for C Ryan (52), R Forde for S Delaney (52).

Referee: Peter Dowd (Meath).



Cork's Laura Homan scores a goal in the All-Ireland U16A semi-final.

Nagle says his charges can take All-Ireland title

CORK manager Anthony Nagle was delighted with his charges display in Walsh Park as they stopped Tipperary's bid for three-in-a-row of U16A All-Ireland titles but more importantly secured them selves a place in the final.

"We are thrilled with our girls performance here today and just delighted to be in the final, we have worked hard all year to reach it and today they played with the determination we have instilled in them," says Nagle.

Cork's first half goal was vital as it gave them a one goal interval lead and Nagle said this was vital.

"We knew we needed to be close at the interval and it was great to be in front.

"At half time we went in and settled and just told our girls to continue to work hard as they

MATCH REACTIONS

■ Mary Newman

had been doing. Then through the second half we ignited and never allowed them into the game.

"Our defence was superb - at mid field we won everything and kept the supply going to our forwards who were on top of the Tipperary defence and to be honest we were the better team for the second half and deserved every score we got."

Nagle whilst having huge praise for his charges also acknowledged the help he and his mentors have got from the county board and the clubs;

"We are in the final and it is great but this is

about more than the mentors and team we have got huge help and support from the senior and juvenile camogie boards and the Cork clubs who have been fantastic.

"The co operation we have received has been crucial and I hope we can repay them and go all the way."

Looking ahead Nagle knows the task ahead will not be easy but he says the youngsters will be ready.

"Galway are the only side to have beaten us in the group stages, they are a strong, tough side, they were superb as they defeated Dublin in yesterday's semi final but I can tell you we as a management will let no stone unturned as we endeavour to bring this All-Ireland title back to Cork."



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

SUNDAY was such a great day for Cork camogie with the U16As and our seniors advancing to the All-Ireland finals.

Next weekend our intermediate side could make it three as they take on Kildare in Nowlan Park on Saturday.

Considering that Cork lost two minor All-Ireland finals in 2013 and 2014, both after a replay, we would have to say that camogie in the rebel county is in a healthy state. And yet it doesn't always seem that way and small things can make a big difference to a county pushing on or regressing.

Take Kilkenny - All-Ireland U16A champions in 2005, 2006 and 2007; All-Ireland minor champions in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2013; All-Ireland senior finalists in 2009, 2013 and 2014. Yet they can't achieve ultimate glory. I mentioned to someone before Sunday's game that if Kilkenny lose this semi-final it'll be a massive setback. And so it is.

Without sounding like a broken record, unless motivation, leadership, work rate, self-confidence and collective belief come into play you are wasting your time regardless of how much talent the 15 on a pitch may have.

We've nothing won yet but the improvement in Cork has been significant and one has to credit Paudie Murray, Sean Cremin, Kevin Mulcahy, Dr Wesley O'Brien, George Fitzgibbon, Niall Collins, Teddy Donovan and Damien Murray for that. How many counties could endure a 13 player panel loss and still produce a display like they did and reach another All-Ireland final? At the start of this season I privately admired Paudie for not taking his All-Ireland title and running. While not all 13 retirements were evident many were and he could have walked away with his head high.

But he didn't. He stuck with it, nurtured and developed further youth, took criticism, lost the league final, lost two group games but kept working, working, working and even though it's hard to enjoy a game when you're living it he must have enjoyed the last 10 minutes of this one.

Cork's style of play was faster this time around. The game was typically played 15 on 15. Isn't our game at its finest then! Gemma O'Connor started the fight back when Cork were seven down, winning 50/50 rucks and delivering inch perfect passes into Kilkenny's 45 metre line. So too did Aishling Thompson. She had a few wides but she was on the ball and it didn't shake her confidence as she continued to deliver fast. Julia White was outstanding again, her pace and first touch a joy to watch. Breige Corkery continues to defy logic. After her marathon for the footballers on Saturday earned her the player of the match award she was brilliant again. Her out-

All-Ireland finals ahead for Cork



At the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship Semi-Final, Cork v Kilkenny, held in Walsh Park, Waterford, Cork's Pamela Mackey is presented with her Player of the Match award by Camogie Association president, Catherine Neary. Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

stretched reach when it looked as if the pass had gone astray was what fed Katrina Mackey for her goal on 43 minutes. Again Katrina and Amy O'Connor's coolness in front of goal is priceless. Mackey had a lot to do but brought the crowd to their feet as she blasted the net. Amy coolly flicked past the advancing Emma Kavanagh while Orla Cotter, having just been deployed inside, was also coolness personified as she side-stepped Kavanagh to hand pass to the net.

Laura Treacy - what a leader she has become. Her reading of the game as a full back was excellent.

The switch of Rena Buckley, another tremendous Cork servant, back to defence paid dividends. Pam Mackey played an attacking style of game particularly in the opening half while Maeve Cahalane, Orla Cronin and Leanne O'Sullivan continue to grow as senior players. Hannah Looney also held her own. While not having a huge amount to do Aoife Murray's puck outs are certainly worth a few points.

The Cork support was great - enthusiastic and vocal. As Cork got on top the roar of "rebels, rebels, rebels" raised the roof and rallied the team. The dual header benefitted both Cork

teams and it can only inspire our young players to see the seniors win a game in such style and in such rapturous surroundings.

So it's a Cork and Galway senior final; incidentally it's also Galway that Cork meet in the minor final.

I mentioned last week that I don't see as much improvement in Galway as I do in Cork since the league final in May. But it's an All-Ireland final and both teams will raise the bar further.

If the Cork team that turned up in Walsh Park show up in Croke Park, one thing is for sure - it will take a very good team to beat them.



Cork make their way out for the second half of the Senior Camogie Championship Semi-Final. Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne



Cork's Meabh Cahalane and Shelly Farrell of Kilkenny at the Senior Camogie Championship Semi-Final. Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

AUG. 2015

CAMOGIE SENIOR ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

Cork's strength and know-how made all the difference

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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A good start to both halves wasn't enough for determined Kilkenny to unseat confident champions, Cork in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final in Walsh Park, Waterford on Sunday.

The Leesiders smashed home three goals between the 43rd and 49th minutes to turn things around and race from level terms into a match winning lead of 4-8 to 1-9.

"During the opening 15 minutes of the second half we out-scored Cork as we had done earlier," Kilkenny manager, Fintan Deegan reminded. "Then we made a few mistakes. Possibly Cork's three goals came from mistakes."

SCORING SPELL

"Really, that scoring spell was the difference between the teams," he added. Despite the disappointment of losing to the team that beat them in last year's All-Ireland final, Mr Deegan was positive that Kilkenny were moving in the right direction and new talent was coming through the ranks.

"During the opening 17 minutes we did what we have been doing all season, but Cork then stopped our run," Mr Deegan said. "They have the experience to be cope and change things to suit varying challenges."

"Cork are physically strong and very experienced. We competed with them hurling wise, but they were physically too strong." The average age of the Kilkenny squad was only 22, he reminded, but still people were all but panicking that the county should have an All-Ireland won because of all the under-age success that has been enjoyed.

PLENTY OF TALENT

"There are an awful lot of good girls there, and there is a minor team coming again, so people have to be patient," he felt. "I couldn't have asked for any more from the players. These girls deserve to win an All-Ireland, but to deserve and win one are two different

things."

After this brush with the deadly champions, his conclusion was that Kilkenny needed to get physically stronger.

"There is an All-Ireland in Kilkenny," he felt, "but there has to be a patient approach. Getting the girls into the shape Cork are in would take work. Some of Cork's best players are 27 or 28, and they are very strong physically."

He marvelled at the commitment of the Kilkenny players. They put in a massive effort at their own expense, and he was sure they wouldn't give up the quest for glory.

"I don't think their male counterparts would make some of the sacrifices they make," he suggested.

NO QUICK DECISION

There would be no quick decisions about the future, Mr Deegan insisted. He will sit down with the County Camogie Board shortly and review things. "Cork know how to win, that was basically it," the manager continued. "I am sure that in a year or two Kilkenny will know how to win too. A lot has to do with experience. Cork knew how to work their way back into the game and they never panic."

"They knew when we were on top that if they worked together they could survive. There was no panic."

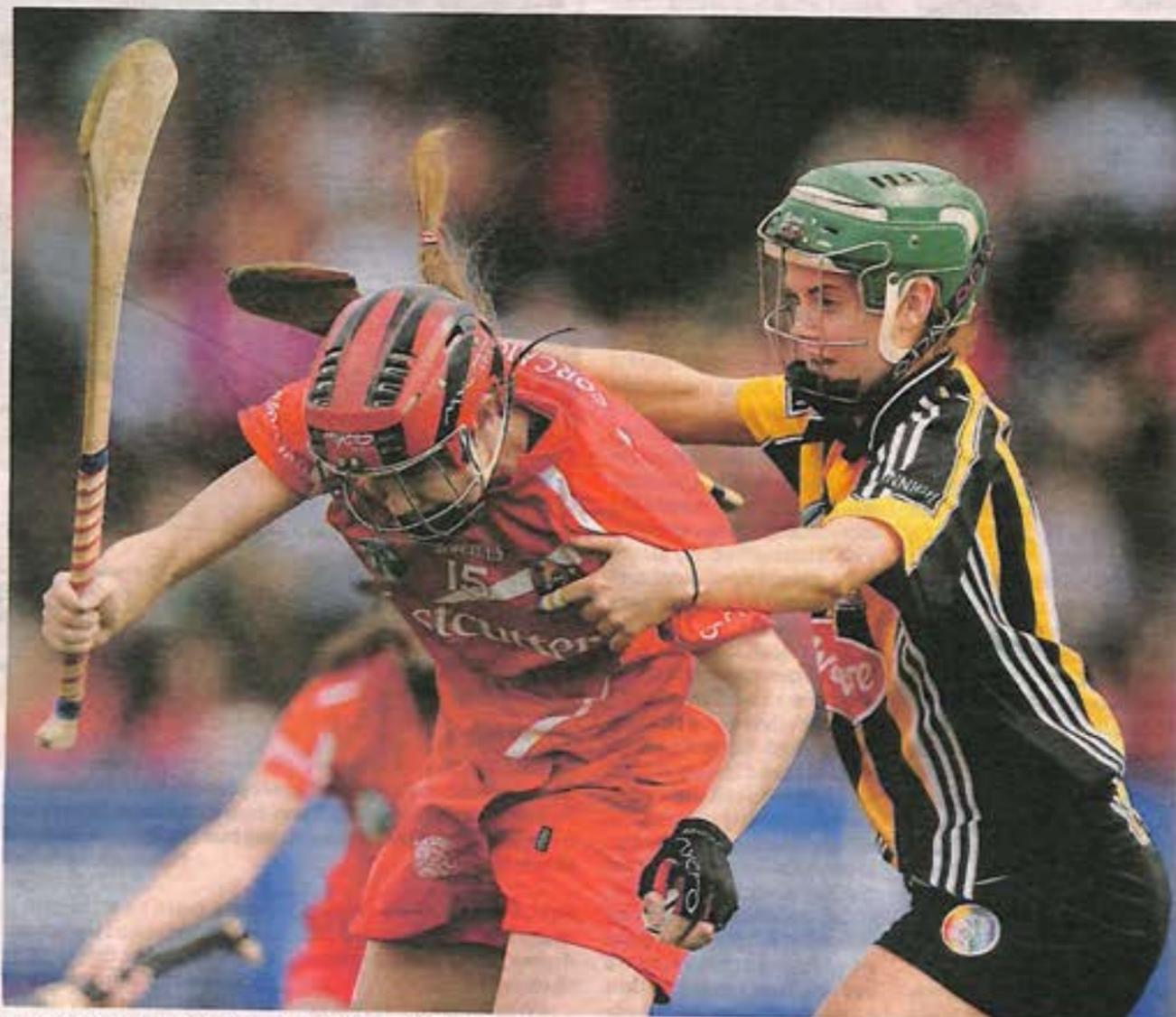
**Cork are good
The All-Ireland champions never panic.
They always hold their nerve.**

"If we find another two or three players we can drive on," he assured. "Kilkenny are not far off the mark. We lost to great All-Ireland champions. The

scoreline, in my opinion, flattered Cork. "They got three goals in six minutes that came from our mistakes. In that five or six minute period we were a bit disorganised and we paid the price. You cannot judge the entire year on a few bad minutes in one match."

Kilkenny burst out of traps and had the champions reeling early on. They grabbed a goal in the opening minute through Michelle Quilty after Ann Dalton put a fantastic ball across the square, and with points from Katie Power (2), Claire Phelan and Denise Gaule (3) they opened out a 1-6 to 0-2 lead after 17 minutes.

Cork took the long route back into the



Cork's Katriona Mackey and Stacey Quirke, Kilkenny battle for possession during the Liberty Insurance senior camogie semi-final in Walsh Park on Sunday.

Photo: ©INPHO/Ryan Byrne

game, and sneaked points per Julia White, Katriona Mackey, Amy O'Connor and Brieghe Corkery to help them find feet.

By the break they had overtaken the Nonesiders, and Cork led by 1-7 to 1-6 when the teams went in for the rest. Kilkenny opened the new half with a point from Denise Gaule from a free. However, three wides in-a-row prevented them from opening out a lead, but to be fair to the winners, they missed a few scores too during this tense stage of the match. Miriam Walsh snatched a point from play in the 35th minute to edge Kilkenny in front, 1-8 to 1-7. Cork replied through Katriona Mackey.

TURNING POINT

The turning point wasn't far off. In the 43rd minute Katriona Mackey punished some loose defending by the Cats, and she shot Cork into a 2-8 to 1-8 lead. Within a minute the green was flag at the Kilkenny end again. This time another error opened the way for Orla Cotter to find the net.

Denise Gaule picked off a point for Kilkenny to try and steady the ship, and second later they nearly grabbed a big score, but Ann Dalton's shot was saved by goalie, Aoife Murray.

When the action returned to the other end Amy O'Connor enjoyed better luck, shooting to the net and Cork into a lead of 4-8 to 1-9 lead.

The powerful Breighe Corkery weighed in with a point to swell the difference to

**Be patient
There is impatience in Kilkenny to win an All-Ireland. It will happen.**

4-9 to 1-9 10 minutes from the finish. Orla Cotter added a like score for good measure.

It was game, set and match to the All-Ireland champions.

The champions were tested to the limit and they came through with flying colours.

SCORERS: Cork - Orla Cotter (2-3); Amy O'Connor (1-2); Katriona Mackey (1-1); Julia White, Brieghe Corkery (0-2 each). Kilkenny - Denise Gaule (0-4); Michelle Quilty (1-1); Katie Power (0-2); Claire Phelan, Miriam Walsh, Ann Dalton (0-1 each).

Kilkenny - Emma Kavanagh, Stacey Quirke, Edwina Keane, Catherine Foley.

Claire Phelan, Colette Dormer, Davina Tobin, Aine Gannon, Ann Dalton, Denise Gaule, Anna Farrell, Aine Connery, Miriam Walsh, Katie Power, Michelle Quilty

Subs - Siobhan Murphy, Jacqui Frisby, Aoife Neary, Shelly Farrell, Aisling Dunphy, Catherine Doherty, Edel Maher, Meighan Farrell, Mary O'Connell, Mairead Power, Kate McDonald.

Cork - Aoife Murray, Pamela Mackey, Laura Treacy, Leanne O'Sullivan, Rena

Buckley, Gemma O'Connor, Meabh Cahalane, Julia White, Ashling Thompson, Orla Cotter, Orla Cronin, Hannah Looney, Brieghe Corkery, Amy O'Connor, Katriona Mackey.

Subs - Amy Lee, Maria Walsh, Eimear O'Sullivan, Leah Weste, Niamh O'Keefe, Sarah Buckley, Jennifer Hosford, Rebecca Walsh, Lauren Cillanain, Fiona Neville, Katelynn Hickey, Sarah Fahy, Liss Lynch, Linda Collins
Referee - Ray Kelly (Kildare).



Aine Gannon shows her disappointment after Cork beat Kilkenny in the Liberty Insurance senior camogie semi-final. Photo ©INPHO/Ryan Byrne



Cork's Laura Treacy and Katie Power, Kilkenny battle for possession during the Liberty Insurance senior camogie semi-final.

Photo: ©INPHO/Ryan Byrne

Tribeswomen get the breaks in staying on target for glory

■ McGrath's injury time 45 books Galway's place in All-Ireland camogie showdown

GALWAY	1-14
WEXFORD	2-10

DARREN KELLY
AT NOWLAN PARK

IN what set the tone for the weekend, Galway's senior camogie team booked their place in the All-Ireland final after Niamh McGrath's match winning 45 in the seventh minute of added time.

To call the conclusion dramatic would be an understatement! Wexford had clawed themselves back from a six point deficit and three Kate Kelly frees following Stacey Kehoe's second goal had levelled affairs in the 64th minute.

The fourth official in Kilkenny had signalled four minutes added time. All in attendance were preparing for extra-time, especially after Sinead Cahalan's attempt to pick out Molly Dunne resulted in a wide. Referee Cathal Egan appeared to be calling for the sliothar from Laura Brennan before he allowed one more attack.

In typical fashion, Galway fought for possession before Aoife Donohue won a free on the right. From the 65 metre line, McGrath's opportunity to slot over her fifth point looked ambitious as the clock ran past 65 minutes. In another twist, her delivery fell short but Mary Leacy failed to hold possession at the concession of the 45.

Slightly left of the posts, the Sarsfields centre forward wasn't going to miss again. The ball sailed over the bar, the Galway supporters were on cloud nine and only Brennan's resulting puck out remained to conclude a sensational finish.

Galway were strong favourites following two wins over the Slaneysiders this year, but Wexford had big names returning. Ursula Jacob started her first match of the summer and Oulart-the-Ballagh captain Karen Atkinson had been unleashed to shackle Ailish O'Reilly before the change of ends. Also, Colm McGee's squad had evolved significantly since their 2-23 to 0-9 humiliation in Loughrea in March. Only three from that encounter started this quest for Croke Park.

The seven times All-Ireland champions had done their homework on a Galway side that hadn't changed much from their previous ten games, but Tony Ward's team made it count on the scoreboard and never trailed their opponents over the 67 minutes.

McGrath opened the scoring but the first quarter wouldn't see either team seize the initiative. Wexford's leader Shelley Kehoe levelled by the fourth minute but two scores for Emma Kilkelly and Aoife Donohue gave Galway a 0-3 to 0-1 lead.

Jacob and Kelly replied to equalise again before O'Reilly, struggling for a decent break, finally unlocked the Wexford defence and popped over a hat-trick of points by the 22nd minute. Galway were starting to influence proceedings and minor Catherine Finnerty nearly got in for goal only for a critical stop by Leacy. Kelly had pointed for Wexford but their net was rattled shortly after.

Niamh Kilkenny was slow to stamp her authority before excelling in the second half, but she made a telling impact with a delivery from midfield. And after three goals in her previous three outings, Dunne continued her storming 2015, beating two opponents to the touch and Galway were 1-6 to 0-4 ahead.

Dunne responded to make it 1-13 to 2-7 but momentum was with the Leinster side who missed two other goal chances

The Tribeswomen are a more focused side this year but their concentration lapsed. Katrina Parrock, determined to exorcise painful memories from the 2013 semi when she was sent-off, looked threatening in possession. And after the Galway half-back line didn't manage a clearance, the St. Ibar's attacker sent a dangerous ball towards the square and Stacey Kehoe's slight touch helped it to the net.

Wexford were back but Galway closed out the half with two McGrath frees, making it 1-8 to 1-4 at the interval. However, a serious knee injury put paid to Kilkelly's involvement.

That being said, the slight wind now favoured the 2013 All-Ireland champions and Kilkenny made it count with two points in the opening 10 minutes. One felt Wexford had thrown all they had, but the side that dominated camogie at the turn of the decade refused to yield. Shelley Kehoe pointed before Parrock made it 1-10 to 1-6



Galway's Niamh McGrath points the winning 45 in injury time against Wexford in Saturday's All-Ireland camogie semi-final at Nowlan Park. PHOTO: DONALL FARMER/INPHO

with 12 minutes remaining.

Donohue's second score kept Galway clear while the two IIs (Kelly and McGrath) traded points for a 1-12 to 1-7 scoreline. But then Jacob set up Stacey Kehoe to hit the net and again, Wexford were back in the hunt.

Dunne responded to make it 1-13 to 2-7 but momentum was with the Leinster side who missed two other goal chances, while a Susan Earner injury from two important blocks threatened the Eyre-court keeper's continuation. Wexford applied the pressure and won the frees.

Each time, seven-time All-Star Kelly kept her cool and sent the ball between the posts. When she made it 1-13 to 2-10, it looked like another 20 minutes awaited. But

faith struck a lucky blow. One more play to produce a winner.

And like a rugby team chasing a winning try, Galway maintained the ball, won two placed balls and when in range, McGrath converted to send her team to Croke Park. A win for resilience that would be copied twice more at Croke Park the following day.

The four-week gap told in Galway's performance. While good in patches, it lacked the fluidity required if the O'Duffy Cup is going to return west. The maroon and white haven't managed to reproduce their scintillating league form yet but they do look a battle hardened battalion unable to contemplate defeat.

Galway are now 11 games unbeaten and if they come out of

Dublin with that record extended, they will be All-Ireland champions. But the holders Cork will have something to say following their 4-10 to 1-10 over Kilkenny.

Earner was brave in goal; Sarah Dervan and Lorraine Ryan were the top defenders; Kilkenny got better as the game progressed; while Donohue, McGrath and O'Reilly enjoyed big moments over the hour.

Galway: S. Earner, T. Manton, S. Dervan, H. Cooney, S. Coen, S. Healy, L. Ryan, N. Kilkenny (0-2), C. McGrath, A. Donohue (0-2), N. McGrath (0-5, three frees, one '45), E. Kilkelly (0-1); C. Finnerty, M. Dunne (1-1), A. O'Reilly (0-3). Subs: F. Keeley for Kilkelly (30 mins), S. Cahalan for C. McGrath (51 mins)

Wexford: L. Brennan, L. O'Leary, S. Nolan, C. Donohue, S. Sinnott, M. Leacy, C. Storey, D. Codd, B. Gordon, K. Par-

rock (0-1), K. Kelly (0-6, all frees), Shelley Kehoe (0-2), Stacey Kehoe (2-0), U. Jacob (0-1), U. Sinnott. Subs: K. Atkinson for Donohue (26 mins), Linda Bolger for Storey (54 mins), Lisa Bolger for Gordon (59 mins).

Referee: C. Egan (Cork)

■ Galway's under 16s kicked-off an impressive weekend for Galway teams when they defeated Dublin 2-16 to 1-4 in the All-Ireland semi-final. Clarinbridge's Carrie Dolan gave a master class with nine frees in the first half giving Lorraine Larkin's team had a 0-9 to 1-1 advantage at half-time.

Dolan concluded the game with 0-14 while Siobhan McGrath and Elisha Broderick added the goals that send them into a final meeting with Cork on Sunday week (August 30).

Galway camp pays tribute to McGrath

DARREN KELLY

AFTER a heart stopping conclusion to a compelling contest as Galway sealed a return to Croke Park, the victorious camp was quick to compliment Niamh McGrath on her match winning score.

"I think if we had lost that game, it would have been the worst defeat in my camogie career," said captain Niamh Kilkenny at the final whistle.

We were so lucky to come out of that with a point win and fair play to Niamh McGrath. She showed nerves of steel!"

"It was just nail-biting stuff there for the last few minutes," added vice-captain Sarah Dervan. "I don't know how we managed to edge it up and credit needs to go to Niamh McGrath for what she did there for that free. That was serious, serious pressure and she stuck to her guns. She stuck it over the bar."

It was a difficult few days

for McGrath and her sisters Clodagh, Orlaith and Siobhan (under 16s) as their grandfather Mick Joe McGrath (Michael's father) passed away on Friday evening.

"I'm sure when Niamh stood over the two frees, there was a lot of other things in her mind. But she showed the type of player she is. Clodagh, the performance she put in in the first half. It wasn't easy for them girls, but fair play to them," said Galway manager, Tony Ward.

"Even when it came down to level, I couldn't see Wexford beating us because, I don't know, there's just something in that team."

"We're showing the scars of battle in there," added Ward. "But I have to say fair play to Wexford. The Kate Kellys, the Katrina Parrocks, Mary Leacy, Ursula Jacob. They have numerous All-Ireland medals between club and county in their pockets, and they put us to the pin of our collar today."

Aug. 2015

CAMOGIE LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL

Late, late heartbreak as Wexford

Winning Galway point came almost six and a half minutes in

DEAN GOODISON
In Nowlan Park
GALWAY 1-14
WEXFORD 2-10

WET EYES, broken hearts, agony to lose - the lights went out on Wexford's bid to make the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior camogie championship final when Niamh McGrath nailed a straight-forward '45 almost six and a half minutes into added time in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny on Saturday.

The faces at full-time said it all: pure despondency. Teardrops on cheeks were wiped clear with sweat-soaked jerseys, leaving flushed expressions of sheer exasperation. When Kate Kelly converted her sixth free of the afternoon, with 3:44 of the allocated minimum of four minutes gone in added time, the expectation must have been extra-time.

Then referee Cathal Egan let it go on, and on, and on. There was a natural-feeling end in there. As Laura Brennan was readying to puck the ball out over a minute after Kelly's leveller, after a harmless pass up the line had flown wide, the Cork official was making an unidentifiable arm motion, a signal perhaps, and it seemed likely to be the end. It really should have been the end.

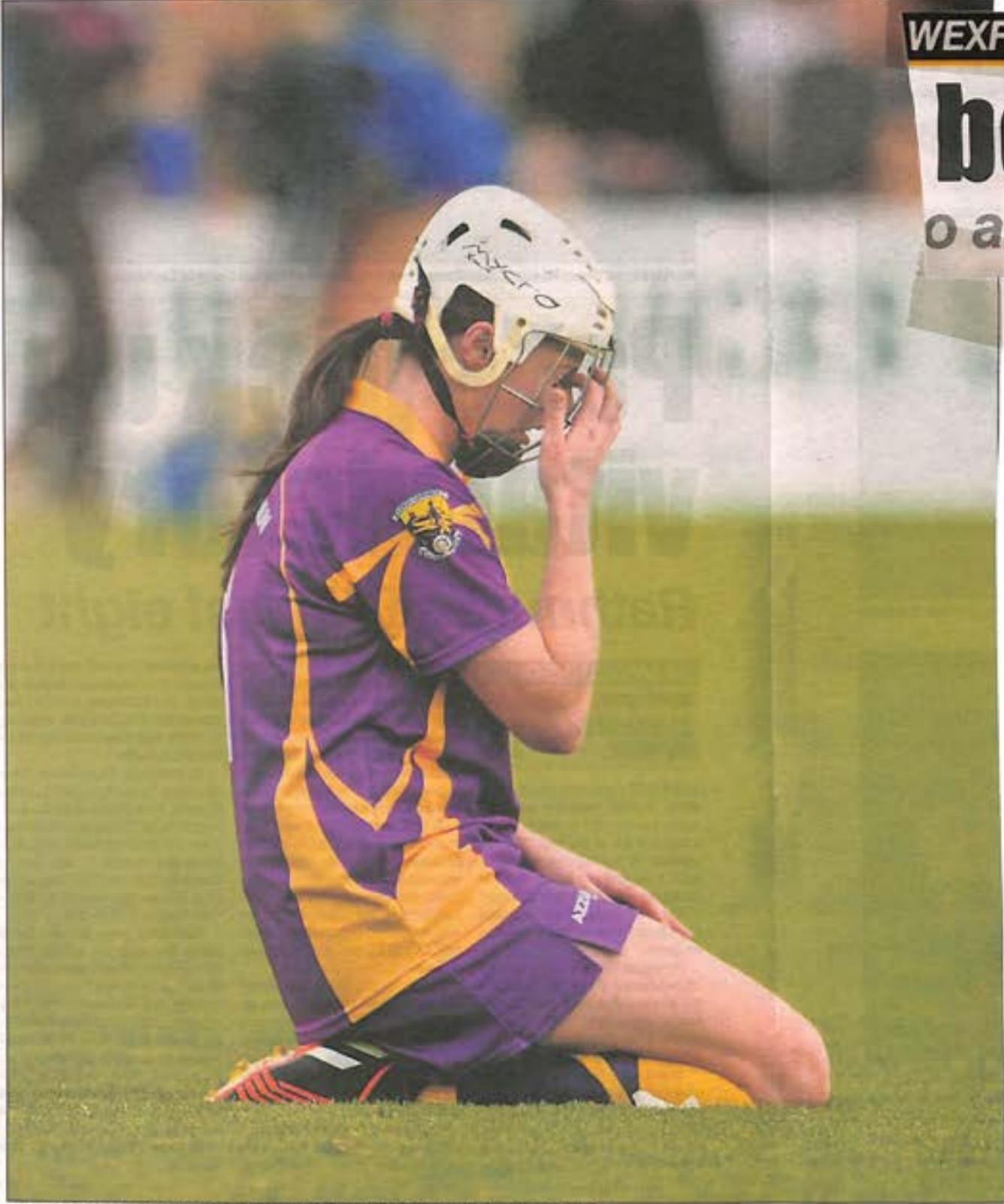
But the game kept going and Galway won a rare second-half free. It looked soft but Wexford could have few complaints over a referee who gave them more than their fair share, particularly after the interval. Even then, as it dropped short that could have been it, but still no whistle. The sliothar flicked off a Wexford hand and behind for a fairly simple '45 that McGrath nailed.

Queue pandemonium from the westerners as Colm McGee's charges collapsed on the spot. The heartiest of efforts had come up just short. Undoubtedly it was more painful a way to lose than if the result had gone the same way as the sides' other two encounters this season.

As with any game that's decided by such a small margin, the inevitable post-mortem will follow. The big question marks will fall behind the omission of two vastly-experienced campaigners; one who played no part at all, while the other was only summoned from the bench after 26 minutes.

Billy Donnelly was brave last year but he was proved to be right. When Mary Rose Kelly became available for the All-Ireland semi-final the former Wexford ladies' football manager had a decision to make, and he chose experience over the youth of Aoife McAuliffe who had played the vast majority of league games. That decision resulted in the St. Fintan's woman picking up 'player of the game' in Croke Park and her side winning the title.

Make no mistake, Laura Brennan will likely be Wexford goalkeeper for the next decade but whether, right now, the Rathnure stopper is better than a fit-again



Mary Leacy drops to her knees in dismay at the final whistle in Nowlan Park on Saturday.

WEXFORD V GALWAY

bow out

no added time

Mags D'Arcy is a question that many will ponder. If McGee believes she is, then the decision to start the Na Fianna clubwoman is justified.

However, there can be few excuses or justifiable reasons from the manager and his fellow mentors for not starting Karen Atkinson. The Oulart-The Ballagh defender came on in the 26th minute and shut down Alish O'Reilly right then and there. The Galway corner-forward had three points on the board by the time Atkinson was introduced and was causing absolute havoc - she was almost a non-factor thereafter.

These are the decisions that

a manager lives and dies by but still, all in all it's been a good year for the rookie boss. To get within a tardy referee's whistle of forcing extra-time is more than most would have expected of this side, and McGee and his management team deserve plenty of credit for this season.

Whether he can keep them all together for another shot at glory is yet to be seen but that will be McGee's task should he wish to come back for another stint as manager. It could prove difficult to keep them all with several regulars close to, or the wrong side of, 30.

They looked like an ageing group towards the end of the first-

half as Galway had the better of the game. It was 0-4 apiece after 19 minutes following scores from McGrath, Emma Kilkelly, Aoife Donohue and Alish O'Reilly for the Connacht side, with Shelley Kehoe, Ursula Jacob and Kate Kelly (two) replying for Wexford.

Two more O'Reilly points put Galway ahead and that lead increased further when 'player of the game' Niamh Kilkenny played a ball between 'keeper and full-back that Molly Dunne beat Laura Brennan to and pulled past her to the empty net.

If that goal was too simple, Galway obliged with a mess-up of their own five minutes before the interval as Katrina Parrock's ball into the goalmouth was missed by everybody, including

Stacey Kehoe's outstretched hurl, and nestled in the corner of the net.

Two more McGrath frees left Galway 1-8 to 1-4 ahead at the interval while the next couple after the break also went to the westerners with Kilkenny grabbing a brace. It was a peculiar spell in the game as Wexford started to get on top but couldn't turn their chances into scores.

Their best opportunity in the third quarter came when Parrock bulldozed her way through but lost control at the vital time.

The ball fell for Stacey Kehoe but the Oulart-The Ballagh forward pulled into the side-netting.

The Slaneysiders did point through Shelley Kehoe to make it 1-10 to 1-5



Tipperary Under 16A Camogie

Tipperary Under 16A Camogie panel that played in the All Ireland Under 16A Camogie Championship Semi Final, Walsh Park, Waterford recently.



Shauna Sinnott of Wexford tries to flick the sliothar away from Galway's Aoife Donohue.



Controversial referee Cathal Egan performing the coin toss as captains Shelley Kehoe and Niamh Kilkenny look on.

and added another through Ursula Jacob in the 49th minute to narrow the gap to four - although it could have been even better had Una Sinnott's effort slipped under rather than onto the crossbar in the build-up.

Galway responded with two of the next three points with Donohue and McGrath bettering a Kelly free.

The moment of inspiration Wexford desperately needed came, trailing by 1-12 to 1-7, with seven minutes left.

Louise O'Leary fed the ball down deep into the left corner to Jacob who looked up and played a perfect ball right across the face of goal. Stacey Kehoe grabbed the sliothar and thumped it past Eamer to put two between them.

With two minutes to go a Kelly free dropped short, and it fell to Jacob who hit the side-netting.

Then Shelley Kehoe flashed a point attempt left and wide. Galway's Dunne put three between the sides heading into added time with a well-taken point.

Kate Kelly was imperious in the final quarter and won the free that cut the gap to two. It was narrowed to one when she converted after Sinnott was felled.

With the noise pumped up, Linda Bolger tumbled and Kelly converted her third added-time dead ball to tie the game. Alas, it wasn't enough as Galway sneaked their late point to book their date in Croke Park.

Galway: Susan Eamer; Therese Man-

ton, Sarah Dervan, Heather Cooney; Siobhán Coen, Shauna Healy, Lorraine Ryan; Niamh Kilkenny (capt., 0-2), Clodagh McGrath; Aoife Donohue (0-2), Niamh McGrath (0-5, 3 frees, 1'45), Emma Kilkenny (0-1); Catherine Finnerty, Molly Dunne (1-1), Ailish O'Reilly (0-3). Subs. - Finnoula Keeley for Kilkenny, inj. (30 + 2), Sinéad Cahalan for C. McGrath (52).

Wexford: Laura Brennan; Clara Donohue, Siobhán Nolan, Louise O'Leary; Shauna Sinnott, Mary Leacy, Clara Storey; Deirdre Codd, Brid Gordon; Katrina Parrock (1-0), Kate Kelly (0-6 frees), Shelley Kehoe (capt., 0-2); Stacey Kehoe (1-0), Ursula Jacob (0-2), Una Sinnott. Subs. - Karen Atkinson for Donohue (26), Linda Bolger for Storey (45), Lisa Bolger for Gordon (60).

Referee: Cathal Egan (Cork).



Some of the Under-15 camogie players who were in action in Kilkenny on Saturday.

Under-15s busy in Kilkenny

KILKENNY WAS a very busy place for Wexford camogie teams on Saturday.

Our Senior team was very unlucky to lose the All-Ireland Senior championship semi-final to Galway with an extra late, late pointed '45. The loudest cheerleaders in Nowlan Park, with their constant chant of 'Wexford, Wexford, Wexford', were the 30 members of the Purple and Gold teams from the Under-15 development squads.

They had departed Wexford at 7.30 a.m. to participate in the All-Ireland Under-15 blitz which was played at two different venues. The Purple team went to Clara, while the Gold team travelled on to the new grounds of James Stephens.

The Purple team had a terrific struggle against Cork in their first game before facing a very strong Kilkenny Black team, who were the eventual overall winners of the 'A' competition.

Clara provided the opposition in the third and final game which Wexford won.

Four girls bravely played in this game, in spite of carrying injuries received against Cork and Kilkenny, as there were no substitutes to call on.

The Purple team which was managed by Ger Redmond and Stephenie Curtis was: Tara Murphy, Mackenzie O'Leary, Katherine Conroy, Emma Sweeney, Rita Doyle, Nora

Higgins, Imogen Fanning, Orla Fortune, Emma Sinnott, Aisling Halligan, Hannah Kehoe, Sinéad Reck, Saoirse Kenny, Kate Devereux and Aileen Murphy.

Meanwhile, over in James Stephens G.A.A. complex, the Gold team played four back-to-back games in quick succession. Kilkenny Amber, Down, Meath and Dublin Azure Blue provided the opposition.

Again there were no substitutes, so every girl played the entire four games. They too acquitted themselves with pride and there were 15 very tired girls at the end.

When they were re-united with their friends in Nowlan Park, they cheered on their Senior colleagues with gusto.

The Gold team, managed by Denis Lambert and Geraldine Curtis, was: Lauren Sinnott, Molly Power, Shannon Burns, Sarah O'Dowd, Chloe Mythen, Orla Byrne, Kate Miller, Jess Howlin, Grace O'Halloran, Jamie Egan, Kayleigh Furlong, Rachel Power, Aoife Fielding, Mikaela Lanigan and Cora Doyle.

Thanks to all the girls for their dedication, hard work and good fun and a special thank you to the parents who drove the girls to training every Saturday and supported them at the various blitzes.

They have been great ambassadors for Wexford camogie and we are very proud of them.

Rebels power their way into All-Ireland final



Cork's Julia White evading Kilkenny's Davina Tobin during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Semi-Final at Walsh Park, Waterford. Cork defeated Kilkenny 4-10 to 1-10, and now face Galway in the final at Croke Park on September 13. Picture: Sam Barnes / SPORTSFILE

Improved showing needed by Cork

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

TOMORROW: Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate Championship semi-final: Cork v Kildare, Nowlan Park, 4pm.

WITH the county senior and U16 A teams safely through to All-Ireland finals, Cork go in search of another final spot when the intermediate side step into the limelight at Nowlan Park for a meeting with Kildare.

Cork will not lack in motivation, given that the intermediate final will be held on the same day as the senior game in Croke Park, on September 13. However they face a strong test against a Kildare side that have impressed in both their championship and league campaigns this season.

They qualified for the league semi-final losing out to Waterford 1-15 to 1-7 in a cracking contest, whilst in their championship campaign they again lost out to Waterford, but had excellent victories over Kilkenny and Antrim to qualify as runners-up from group two.

Kilkenny native, Stephen Dormer, manages a side that includes Regina Gorman, Susie O'Carroll, Siobhán Hurley, Melissa Lyons, Emer Reilly and Caroline Forde in their line out and having lost out at semi-final stage in the national league they want to make amends and reach Croke Park.

Cork made a blistering start to their championship campaign with an excellent victory over Meath and went on to overcome Wexford and Down, with superb displays before a shocking performance in their last game saw them defeated by Galway.

Maybe it was the knowledge that their semi-final spot was already secured that saw them fail to ignite, but if they approach Kildare with the same attitude they will be brushed aside.

Having been hugely impressed by their commitment throughout this campaign I am sure they will improve hugely and give the performance they are capable of.

Manager Paudie Murray has managed to come through the campaign losing only one player to the senior team and this has helped his side remain settled and focused.

Cork have superb players in Niamh O'Keeffe, Lauren Callanan, Sarah Fahy, Sarah Harrington, Finola Neville, and Kaitlin Hickey.

They have been dealt a huge blow as they will be without centre-back Sarah Buckley, who in a freak accident during the half time puck around at the senior semi final tore ligaments in her ankle when she stood on a sliotar.

A big improvement is needed, but with the added incentive to join the senior team on All-Ireland day in Croke Park it should be enough to drive Cork on to victory.

Minors forge good win over Offaly

WEXFORD
OFFALY

2-12
2-10

Katie Murphy; Aoife McCrea, Sarah O'Connor (0-1 free), Doireann Kavanagh; Una Sinnott, Laura Dempsey; Eileen Roche, Noelene Shanahan (1-2), Leah Walsh (0-1); Oonagh Doyle (1-1); Chloe Foxe (0-7 frees), Shauna Kelly, Subs. - Annie Dempsey for O. Doyle, Aoife Doyle for S. Kelly.

Offaly: Shannon Tuohy; Aoibhe Whelehan, Aisling Feeney, Megan King; Ann Daly, Aisling Brennan (0-1 free), Clara Brennan; Cailin Fitzgerald (0-1), Róisín Egan; Gillian Irwin (0-1), Sarah Walsh, Gráinne Dolan; Terri Delaney (1-0), Sarah Harding (1-0), Mairéad Jennings (0-7 frees).

Referee: Pat Kehoe (Carlow).

At half-time in the Senior camogie All-Ireland semi-final in Nowlan Park on Saturday, four members of the Under-15 development squad participated in the Camán and Run competition.

This is a skills relay race, where the girls had to carry the sliotar on their hurley for 40 metres and then handpass it to their colleague and so on. The first team to get its four members across the finish line would be the winners.

Eight counties participated and the Wexford team featured Emma Sinnott, Orla Fortune, Saoirse Kenny and Nora Higgins.

Cheered on by their team-mates in the stand, they actually held a slight lead for a time. Unfortunately, the long day had its effect on them and they finished in fourth position, with just seconds between them and first place. Well done girls.



Minor and Senior starlet Una Sinnott.

WEXFORD PICKED up their first victory on the field in the Leinster Minor camogie championship with an impressive win over previously unbeaten Offaly in Ferns on Sunday.

The Slaneysiders were dogged against Kilkenny in their first outing but fell behind early and could never quite pull themselves all the way back. The hosts were losing in this one too but they kept plugging away and eventually came out as winners.

Points from Chloe Foxe and Noelene Shanahan helped Wexford into a 0-2 to 0-1 lead but the Faithful ladies hit the front when the dangerous Sarah Harding found the net in the eleventh minute.

Foxe and Sarah O'Connor brought the hosts level before dead ball specialist Foxe and Oonagh Doyle, after great work by Una Sinnott, fired Wexford into the lead once again.

A Leah Walsh point, that came with an assist from Shauna Kelly, plus points for Foxe and Shanahan put Wexford 0-9 to 1-5 in front approaching the break, and things got even better when Shanahan found the net in added time.

However, Offaly hit back through Terri Delaney and pulled level at half-time (1-9 to 2-6). Three Foxe frees kept Wexford in the game but when Mairéad Jennings added her seventh point with five minutes remaining, the visitors led by one (2-10 to 1-12).

Yet, there was one moment of magic left for Wexford and it came with just two minutes left when Oonagh Doyle beat Shannon Tuohy between the Offaly sticks to give James Flynn's side the victory their hard work and quality deserved.

Next up for Wexford is a trip to the capital on Sunday to face a Dublin side which has yet to taste victory in this campaign, having lost to Kilkenny and Offaly already. The Slaneysiders will be looking for victory to keep their hopes of making the Leinster final alive.

Wexford: Laura Brennan; Rachel Kelly, Leanne Foley,

AUG. 2015

Camogie Association
Camogie Association Official Camogie 1 Hour
Aoife Murray took some time out from All-Ireland prep to help launch @ChildFundIRL campaign <http://it.co/ajov3KHS0B>
<http://it.co/Lm6XmS0XyR>



Congratulations to the Mallow Senior camogie panel after a fantastic semi-final win over Barryroe last Sunday in Castle Rd on a scoreline of Mallow 2-13 to Barryroe 0-9. This means a historic first ever Senior County Final for the club which is a huge achievement for the girls and club alike. The final will be played in two weeks once the county board confirm the fixture. Meanwhile, the Mallow Camogie annual flag day will be held on Saturday, September 19. Please support.

Current players need to back our game



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

IT'S not breaking news at this stage that Wexford have appealed their All Ireland semi-final defeat to Galway primarily due to the 6.40 minutes additional time played, when four minutes was stipulated by referee Cathal Egan.

In the sixth minute and 13th second of additional time Galway struck their winning point. Secondly, a seemingly converted 45 by Kate Kelly in the first half which was waved wide by Cathal after failing to consult with his umpires, who seemed indecisive and of opposing opinions.

It was strange that as the initial rumours circulated that an objection would be lodged Wexford placed a tweet stating 'Best wishes to the @Galwaycamogie96 team in Croke Park on the 13th September. #tough-match#ourgameyourgame'.

Firstly let's forget about the disallowed 45. Games week in and week out in all sports at all levels are determined by similar decisions and if every game was replayed we'd hardly get past the first round.

Wexford won't win that one. The added time, once again the ladies football hooter has come into the spotlight about a way around what happened last Saturday. In fact it was due to a similar situation in an All-Ireland final a number of years ago that prompted the LGFA to introduce this.

As soon as the objection was lodged the social media comments started, criticising and citing how this must be the worst ever year for the camogie association in terms of PR.

They can certainly do without this headache I'm sure.

Just for the record, we have a great game that is generally well run. Yes there are issues around fixtures at times, the inter-county championships and how it affects club structures, our rules and our referees but these are the very same problems that crop up in hurling and football.

I doubt a week goes by when some club or county isn't giving out about something in the GAA; structures, rules, refs, systems.

How many times have we listened to The Sunday Game analysts criticise referees? That won't go away anytime-soon yet you don't have people harping endlessly about how rubbish the association is. It isn't, the GAA is a great association as is the Camogie association and the LGFA.

I don't hold back about things I feel could be improved upon within our game. Last weekend aside I have on many occasions criticised our camogie rules and the often overly stringent way they are applied by many referees. They are undoubtedly holding our game back. But those are the rules and the administrators of our organisation don't make the rules. The club and county delegates that



Cork players celebrate their magnificent win over Kilkenny last weekend. Too often the focus is on the negatives, rather than the excellence of our current stars.

Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne



Niamh McGrath, Galway, is tackled by Linda Bolger, Wexford in the semi-final last weekend.

Picture: Sam Barnes/SPORTSFILE

attend congress do; it's they that make the decisions and these are the same people that criticise from the stand. We have a rules issue but equally we have inconsistent refer-

eeing right across the board. The delegates can address point one, the association point two.

Incidentally it was also the county delegates that passed the 'coin toss'

rule at congress last year.

Now maybe they had all dozed off and missed this critical ruling. They failed in their duty.

So the poor camogie association is being attacked again. And in this case it's a bit unfair. They have done tremendous work, over the past ten years in particular.

Yes we have a way to go but isn't it great that we've come such a long way and still have potential to develop further. That's exciting!

Yes there are times we may take two steps back before one forward but that's called taking a chance, a risk, which although having backfired has made you all the stronger and wiser when you go at it again.

What surprises me is the seemingly constant negativity from many current players, ready to pounce at every opportunity. I have never seen such negativity towards one's own sport and I'm wondering why.

What the players enjoy today is a million miles from what we got. And it will get even better, of that I've no doubt.

Yes times have changed, the pressure on inter-county young adults coming from a number of angles is tough but we had our challenges too. And we trained endlessly with no one concerned about our burnout or our welfare. We expected little and loved every minute of it.

Players are by and large treated well. Many believe they deserve

Fixtures

SUNDAY AUGUST 23

Senior B Champ: Valley Rovers v Clonakilty at Enniskeane @ 3pm. Barryroe v Sarsfields at Bandon @ 5pm. Kibrittain Timoleague v Carrigaline at Bandon @ 7 p.m.

Inter Champ: Blackrock v Tractor at Castle Rd at 7pm. Enniskeane v Slabh Rua at Brinny at 7pm.

MONDAY AUGUST 24

Junior A Champ: Newcastown v Na Piersaigh at Castle Rd at 7pm.

Junior C Championship: Aghada v Courcey Rovers at Ristellan at 7.15

TUESDAY AUGUST 25

Senior Championship: Courcey Rovers v Cloughdub at Brinny at 7p.m.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26

Junior A Championship: Bishopstown v Watergrasshill at Castle Rd at 7.15

more and there is nothing wrong with that-we should always strive for better. But if players feel they deserve more they should do all they can to work together to achieve it.

The WGPA should help in what I hope will be a positive way.

It's our players that best promote our game and they need to do this.

You owe the game as much as it owes you.

All or nothing.

Reilly radar on target for Kildare

By Camogie Press
Posted 22/09/2015



Kildare 1-12
Cork 0-11

A goal right on the stroke of half time by Emer Reilly opened up a four-point cushion for Kildare over Cork and it was a margin they maintained right through the end to set up a Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate camogie final date with Waterford on September 13.

It represents a tremendous feat for the Lilywhites, coming as it does just two years after annexing the premier junior title.

Cork were heavily reliant on former senior skipper, Amanda O'Regan for their scores and Douglas sharpshooter finished with seven points. Six of those came in the first half, while Susie O'Carroll responded with five at the other end of the pitch.

It was 0-8 to 0-7 when Reilly, who finished with 1-2 from play, finished a flowing move in fitting fashion for a brilliant team goal.

The second half was a real arm wrestle as both teams defended solidly but O'Carroll, Reilly and Stobhan Hurley stretched the margin to six.

With the defensive unit never looking like conceding a goal, that was always going to be enough and Stephen Donner's charges advance to the Croke Park decider.

SCORERS - KILDARE: S O'Carroll 0-6(4fs); E Reilly 1-2; S Hurley 0-3(2fs); M Lyons 0-1

CORK: A O'Regan 0-7(3fs, 2 45s); S Fahy, C Sigerson, K Hickey, L Collins 0-1 each

WATERFORD: R O'Connell, C Flanagan, C Nolan, F Trant, A Lyons, R Gorman, C Farrell, C Forde, H McDonnell, E Reilly, S Hurley, L Keatley, S O'Carroll, N Earley, M Lyons

CORK: A Lee, E Murphy, L Weste, N O'Keefe, S Fahy, C Sigerson, H O'Regan, K Hickey, L Callanan, J Crowley, F Neville, L Coppinger, C Sugrue, L Collins, A O'Regan

Waterford goal rush does the trick

By Camogie Press
Posted 22/09/2015



Waterford 3-10
Meath 3-9

Three goals in eight minutes mid-way through the second half turned this Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate camogie semi-final on its head with Waterford just holding off a desperate rally by Meath to cement their place in the final on September 13.

The majestic Jane Dolan scored two goals and three points in the first half, with Megan Thymne also grabbing a goal, as Meath stormed into a 3-4 to 0-5 lead at half time.

Meath would have expected to be under the cosh straight after the resumption but initially, they coped with what Waterford had to offer quite well.

From the time Shona Curran breached their defences for the first time on 41 minutes though, the floodgates opened and the trend of the game was changed completely.

Aisling Power and second school student Beth Carton also found the net and with magnificent Trish Jackman bringing her tally to five points, the Déise were now three clear.

Dolan pegged back two of those but despite seven minutes of injury time and incessant pressure, Waterford held out.

SCORERS - WATERFORD: T Jackman 0-5(3fs); B Carton, S Curran 1-1 each; A Power 1-0; L Bray, J Simpson, N Rockett 0-1 each

MEATH: J Dolan 2-5(0-2fs); A Minogue 0-3(2fs, 145); M Thymne 1-0; S Hackett 0-1

WATERFORD: D Brennan, K McMahon, C Whyte, V Falconer, C Raheer, T Jackman, J Simpson, I Heffernan, L Bray, N Rockett, N Morrissey, B Carton, A Power, T McGlone, D Power. Subs: B Kavanagh for D Power, S Curran for Morrissey, V O'Brien for Simpson, Simpson for A Power

MEATH: E Mangin, E Coffey, C Coffey, G Coleman, A Keogh, K Troy, L O'Donoghue, J Dolan, K Hackett, A Minogue, A Maguire, M Thymne, C O'Brien, E Guy, S Hackett. Subs: A Gaffney for Guy, M Keogh for E Coffey, F O'Brien for Gaffney, A Thompson for Thymne

CAMOGIE

All-Ireland JACC final: Carlow 0-14
Kerry 0-3

All-Ireland Premier JCC semi-final:
Laois 1-16 Westmeath 0-8, Dublin 1-5
Roscommon 1-9

Leinster MACC: Wexford 2-8 Dublin 1-11

Corkery leads the way for dominant Cloughduv

Cloughduv 2-12
Courcey Rovers 0-6

CAMOGIE

■ Olan Allen

Cloughduv advanced to the quarter finals of the Evening Echo-sponsored Cork Senior Camogie Championship where they will face Douglas after a comprehensive win over Courcey Rovers at Brinny last night.

An outstanding display by Cork dual star Breige Corkery laid the foundation for this win. Courceys, to their credit, battled away to the finish and had plenty of possession but were unable to convert it into scores and had to rely on the excellent Jacinta Crowley who got all their points from placed balls.

They found it hard to breach a solid Cloughduv defence where Caitriona Foley at centre back gave a commanding display while, behind her, captain Eva Dunne also impressed as did 'keeper Aoife Murray.

Courceys' full-back line of Emily O'Regan, Karyn Keohane and Ciara Hayes put in an amount of work over the hour and behind them goalkeeper Claire Duggan brought off some magnificent saves. Early pressure by Cloughduv saw Breige Corkery open the scoring with a point after a good build-up involving Aoife Barry-Murphy and Rachel Hurley.

Crowley had the sides level after eight minutes with Courcey's first attack, but a quick response by Mairead Corkery and Becky Hennigan restored Cloughduv's advantage at the end of the first quarter.

Two frees by Crowley had the sides level for the second time as Cloughduv finished the half with two points apiece from Joanne Down and Anne-Marie

Ryan and one from Niamh O'Leary to lead 0-8 to 0-3 at half time. Breige Corkery left her mark on the game with two superb goals in the opening 10 minutes of the second half. Hurley played her in for the first, and the second came from a solo run as she unleashed a cracking shot to the net.

Scorers for Cloughduv: B Corkery 2-3, AM Ryan 0-3, J Down 0-2, N O'Leary (1), M Corkery, B Hannigan, R Hurley 0-1 each.

Courcey Rovers: J Crowley 0-6 (0-4 f, 0-2 65).

Cloughduv: Aoife Murray, G O'Sullivan, E Dunne, A Keleher, N McCarthy, C Foley, A Corkery, A Barry-Murphy, M Corkery, N O'Leary, B Corkery, R Hurley, AM Ryan, J Down, B Hannigan. Subs: C O'Leary for N O'Leary (46), Anne Murray for Down (55), A Dunne for McCarthy (56).

Courcey Rovers: C Duggan, E O'Regan, K Keohane, C Hayes, E Moloney, A Moloney, A O'Reilly, J Crowley, Eimear O'Reilly, S O'Reilly, L Collins, J Mulcahy, Elaine O'Reilly, C O'Neill, R Crowley. Subs: P Collins for S O'Reilly (h-t), N Twomey for Elaine O'Reilly (44), O Twomey for Eimear O'Reilly (53).

Referee: C Egan (Glen Rovers)



Kate Fennessy, Sarsfields at the Cork camogie open day

First round of under-16 Cork camogie championship

■ Mary Newman

CAMOGIE

WITH the summer holidays over, the focus returns to the U16 Cork Camogie Championship. The draws were made recently and the first rounds should be played by September 30.

U16 A: The U16 A championship is hugely competitive.

There is one preliminary round, with Aghabullogue

meeting St Finbarr's. The winner will meet Aghada. Milford/Ballyhea are a combination of both clubs and they are at home to Glen Rovers.

Holdovers Sarsfield's are pitted against Ballygarvan in what should be one of the games of the championship.

Both are contenders. Cloughduv will be at home to Sliabh Rua; Inniscarra and

Douglas meet in Inniscarra; Carrigaline make the journey to Newcestown; Kilbrittan/Timoleague host Na Piarasigh, and Ballincollig travel to Charleville.

U16 B CHAMPIONSHIP: Two preliminary rounds in the U16 B Championship. Blarney will meet Ballinasally, with the winners playing Killeagh in round one, Courcey Rovers and winners meeting Cobh.

St Catherine's are at home to St Vincent's, Dougourney will meet Enniskeane, Eire Og take on Fr O'Neill's, Ballinhassig host Brian Dillon's, Bishoptown are at home to Clonakilty, whilst Ballinora make the trip to Youghal.

U16 C CHAMPIONSHIP: Valley Rovers are at home to Kildorrey and it is good to see Kildorrey fielding at underage level again.

The winners of this game

will meet Banteer. Inniscarra's second team will meet Rockban. Blackrock make the journey to Barryroe.

It's a local derby, as Carriwohill meet neighbours, Erin's Own, and Watergrasshill have a trip to Mallow, whilst Newtownshandrum travel to West Cork for a meeting with St Colm's.

Glen Rovers' second team host Buttevant and Bride Rovers host Tracton.

Aug. 2015

Last club action before decider

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

TONIGHT
Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship, Ballincollig v Ballinhassig, Castle Road, 7pm

THIS week will spell the last club action for those that have players on the Cork team ahead of the All-Ireland final two weeks from Sunday.

Ballincollig and Ballinhassig take to the field in Castle Road this evening in a second round back door tie having lost their opening games to Douglas and St Catherine's.

Of course, the big blow for Ballincollig is the loss of Sarah Buckley to an ankle injury picked up in a warm up in Cork's senior championship defeat of Kilkenny 10 days ago. From Ballinhassig's perspective, they will welcome the return of Eimear O'Sullivan after her prolonged knee injury.

Ballincollig and Douglas served up the game of the championship thus far and if we are treated to more high intensity and exciting games throughout this championship, then we are in for a treat.

Ballincollig led Douglas by a point in additional time only for a sideline cut by Aine Donovan to deflect to the net. Underdogs heading into the game, Ballincollig jumped in terms of odds for winning this championship after their performance.

They may have come in under the radar, but that's the situation they now find themselves in and dealing with that tag is just another element of a management's work.

When one looks through Ballincollig's line-out and sees names such as Alison Coughlan, Leah Weste, Linda Dorgan, Leish Cronin, Sam Coomey, Sinead O'Callaghan and Patricia Buttimer... it's pretty impressive.

Ballincollig are always there or thereabouts; reaching the final in 2013 and losing the semi-final last season after a replay to Inniscarra.

Ballinhassig didn't have the best of starts, losing heavily to St Catherine's, but O'Sullivan was a huge loss.

Hassig are a side that can produce determined and tenacious performances, their opening round victory over Courcsey Rovers 12 months ago a prime example.

They met tonight's opponents in the quarter-final and endured a 2-16 to 2-4 defeat, but the margin didn't reflect the closeness of the tie. Ballincollig had more scoring power, however, and it's something Ballinhassig hopefully have the talent to address that this year.

With Emma Jordan, the return of Catriona Collins, Geraldine Collins, Deirdre Coomey and Niamh Sheehan, one thing is certain — Ballinhassig will give it their all. I just don't think it will be enough this time around.



Ballincollig's Patricia Buttimer tries to retain possession from Ballinhassig's Eimear O'Sullivan, during their Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship match in Castle Road. Ballincollig won by two points. Picture: David Keane



Ballincollig's Denise Cronin breaks past Ballinhassig's Hayley Cullinane, during their Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship match in Castle Road, Blackrock. Picture: David Keane

Cronin ensures Collig see off Ballinhassig

Ballincollig 1-8
Ballinhassig 1-6

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

BALLINCOLLIG got the fright of their lives in Castle Road last evening as two Denise Cronin injury-time points secured over Ballinhassig and advancement to the senior championship quarter-final.

While Ballincollig's 15 wides compared to four for Ballinhassig may depict dominance, a fairer reflection is that Ballinhassig attacked for much of the second half and had a number of chances to win this game.

It initially looked as if Ballincollig were going to comfortably live up to their favourite's tag. With Linda Dorgan and Denise Cronin running at the Ballinhassig defence, they led 0-3 to 0-1 after 11 minutes and had struck five wides. That wide tally was at nine by half-time.

While it took Ballinhassig that bit longer to settle one could see confidence coming into their game and with the excellent Emma Jordan, Eimear O'Sullivan and Niamh Sheehan driving forward they

were serious contenders as Ballincollig's defence had a busy time of it.

Trailing by a point on 21 minutes, good work by Catriona Collins saw her strike seemingly dealt with by goalkeeper Dawn O'Keefe before a flash of brilliance by Grace O'Callaghan to flick the ball out of the air, pirouette and double to the net had Ballinhassig ahead. Then Cronin with a free and O'Sullivan swapped points.

It looked as if Ballinhassig would take that lead into the dressing room but they were dealt a blow when Kate Crowley attempted to catch a 20-metre line strike from the left sideline by Linda Dorgan and it defied her into the net.

Ballincollig certainly hadn't the flow to their game which was evident against Douglas and at times distribution let them down. Ballinhassig's hunger was causing them problems as Jordan and O'Sullivan gave it everything. Equally Collig had excellent work rate from Dorgan, Alison Coughlan and Lauren Murphy.

Cronin edged Ballincollig two ahead on the restart but two from Jordan levelled it. The wides mounted up for Ballincollig, some of them very scoreable. As the game entered its last quarter it became a huge battle.

Cronin and Catriona Collins swopped points. Ballinhassig won two frees in quick succession but both fell short. Twice the ball was scrambled off the goal-line.

Taking the game by the scruff of the neck Cronin struck over from play and followed it up with a well-taken 60-metre free to give them a victory they just about deserved against a mighty Ballinhassig challenge.

Scores for Ballincollig: D Cronin 0-7 (0-3 f), L Dorgan 1-0, E Casey 0-1.

Ballinhassig: G O'Callaghan 1-0, E O'Sullivan 0-2, E Jordan 0-3 (0-2 f), C Collins 0-1.

BALLINCOLLIG: D O'Keefe; A Kiely, A Coughlan, L Weste; A Cotter, K O'Donoghue, L Murphy; P Buttimer, E Harrington; L Dorgan, J Hennigan, D Cronin; O O'Leary, E Casey, S O'Callaghan.

Sub: M Tamaud for A Kiely (36).

BALLINHASSIG: K Crowley, E Reynolds, M Reardon, K Coleman; L Jordan, H Cullinane, K Bohane; E Donovan, E Jordan; D Coomey, E O'Sullivan, N Sheehan; A M Leahy, C Collins, G O'Callaghan.

Subs: G Collins for A M Leahy (17), E Reardon for K Reynolds (47).

Referee: Andrew Larkin (Douglas)

U16s are close to ending drought

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

SUNDAY
All-Ireland U16 A Championship final, Cork v Galway, McDonagh Park, Nenagh, 3.30pm

THERE'S a huge game at McDonagh Park, Nenagh this Sunday as Cork go in search of their first title at U16 A level since 2003 when they take on Galway in a game that has the makings of a thriller.

Cork were superb as they defeated Tipperary in their semi-final clash where they ran out convincing 5-11 to 0-8 winners. Galway are the only side to have beaten Cork, when the sides met in the round robin stages.

Cork looked to be well in control leading by six points but Galway came back into the game to run out winners on a 3-12 to 1-11 scoreline. This was a big boost to a Galway side who topped the group and overcame Dublin in their semi-final clash.

Galway are on a bit of a roll. Their senior team are also through to the All-Ireland final whilst their hurlers are also doing well so the buzz is back around the county. The U16 side will be bidding for the first title since 2004 whilst for Cork it has been 12 years since they completed a three-in-a-row.

For a county such as Cork, 12 years is a long time to be without an U16 A title but Anthony Nagle and his fellow mentors Ken Bulman and Eileen O'Brien have put everything into bringing the title home. They report a clean bill of health since the semi-final and are looking forward to reversing the result this time out as Nagle explained.

"We know Galway are a very good side but we felt we let it slip the last time we met, we are really looking forward to Sunday and we know the girls will give it everything to bring the title back to Cork."

In their semi-final outing Cork had a nervous start and were fortunate to lead by a goal at half time but from the restart they showed what they are capable of.

Again on Sunday it will be vital for them to get fast ball to their inside line where Lauren Homan, Cliona Healy and Katie Walsh will trouble any defence. Cork are captained by full-back Edel Lonergan who led by example in the semi.

The Galway dangerwoman will be Carrie Dolan, who was on target with 2-8 when the sides last met. Cork will need to cut off the supply from players such as Mairead Dillon, Ava Lynskey, Leah Burke and Rachel Murphy.

Finals are always had to call especially at underage level. Sometimes nerves play a huge part. Cork are hungry for success and their management team have instilled a great belief into them.

The wait could be over.



Carrie Dolan, Galway lifts the U16 A All-Ireland Championship trophy after the game in Nenagh. Pic: Gareth Williams / Press 22



Galway celebrate after beating Cork comprehensively. Pic: Gareth Williams / Press 22

Excellent Galway overcome Rebels

Galway	3-15
Cork	0-8

U16 CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

NO disputing the result in McDonagh Park, Nenagh yesterday as Galway gave an awesome display to lift the U16A All-Ireland title holding a disappointing Cork side scoreless from play.

Galway, having lost the last three finals, were focused and ready for the expected challenge but sadly it didn't materialise as Galway were on top all over the pitch.

From the start, captain Carrie Dolan led by example finding the net with huge confidence in the third minute

after good work by Ava Lynskey saw her cut inside the Cork defence and blast the ball to the net.

The score set the tone for the game as Galway tore into Cork and the ball hardly crossed the halfway line as a starved Cork attack got no supply of quality ball as the Galway midfield ruled supreme.

Stronger on the ball, Galway closed Cork down and were happy to go into rucks where inevitably they came out with possession. Referee Liz Dempsey had a busy time over the hour as six yellow cards and one red ensured she was kept on her toes as frustration led

to silly fouls being committed on both sides.

Galway were 2-6 to 0-1 ahead after 20 minutes. Siobhan McGrath kicked to the net after Carrie Dolan did all the hard work. Despite adding three points to their tally, all from frees, Cork had a mountain to climb in the second half as Galway led 2-9 to 0-4 at half-time.

The second half pattern followed a similar one to the first with Galway showing huge hunger and intensity which Cork could not match. And even though Galway lost the services of excellent centre-back Tiffany Ni Coisteabhla for a second yellow card offence 10 minutes into the half, Cork had no answers.

Twice the sides swapped points but still Cork failed to avail of the numerical advantage as Galway came at them

in waves, Elisha Broderick grabbed her side's third goal on the three quarter stage and they just played down the clock from here to the final whistle as Cork had no response.

Scorers for Galway: C Dolan 1-11 (0-9 1-0-2-45), S McGrath 1-1, M Dillon 0-2, E Brodenck 1-0, A Lynskey 0-1.

Cork: C Healy 0-7 (0), L Homan 0-1 (0).
Galway: S Healy; S Cannon, L De Burca, R Murphy; A Murphy, T Ni Coisteabhla, L Helebert; S Ridge, E Gaffney; A Lynskey, S Spellman, M Dillon; E Broderick, C Dolan (c), S Mc Grath.

Subs: M Mannion for S Ridge (45).

Cork: M Daly; M Ryan, E Lornegan (c), A Buckley; M Lynch, K Mc Carthy, K Daly; E Mc Andrew, R Mc Carthy; I O'Regan, C Hughes, C Ryan; C Healy, L Homan, Ciara Crowley.

Subs: C Collins for R Mc Carthy (1/4), L O'Gorman for M Lynch (35), Clara Crowley for C Hughes (36), K Walsh for A Buckley (41), N O'Riordan for C Ryan (49), T Naughton for R Murphy (57), N Jenkins for S Cannon (58).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).



Dejected Cork players after losing the, U16 A All-Ireland Championship Final in Nenagh. Pic: Gareth Williams / Press 22

Nagle: We had no answers

■ Mary Newman

CORK manager Anthony Nagle was disappointed his charges failed in their efforts to lift the All-Ireland U16A title but acknowledged they were defeated by a stronger Galway side.

"They were hugely impressive and we simply had no answers. All over the field they were on top, it's just very disappointing for the girls as they gave huge commitment, we had over 60 training sessions and a huge amount of games and every one of those girls worked so hard. We have a very disappointed dressing room here behind us at this moment.

"We came up here today to win, we were focused and ready but maybe the occasion got to us."

Nagle acknowledged Galway were very motivated having lost three finals in a row.

"They have been in the last three finals and their determination to take this title was something we were well aware of all year, they got a great start with a goal after just three minutes and it upset us, we simply never got into the game at all.

"It's very hard to lose an All-Ireland final but I'm sure going forward from today our girls will have learned and be better for it."

Sunday
30th August, 2015
MacDonagh Park, Nenagh

3:30 pm • All-Ireland U16 A Championship Final Cork v Galway

1:45 pm • All-Ireland U16 B Championship Final Dublin v Waterford

Clár Oifigiúil • Luach €2

John O'Shea
And Siúrthair



Corcaigh

Dathanna: Dearg agus Bán

1 Megan Daly M. Ní Dhálaigh Douglas		
2 Molly Ryan M. Ní Riain Carrigaline	3 Edel Lonergan E. Ní Longargáin (Capt.) Sarsfields	4 Aideen Buckley A. Ní Bhuachalla Cloughduv
5 Maeve Lynch M. Loingsigh Newcestown	6 Katie McCarthy C. Ní Chárthaigh Aghabullogue	7 Katie Daly C. Ní Dhálaigh Sliabh Rua
8 Eimear McAndrew E. Níc Aindriú Ballygarvan		9 Ruth McCarthy C. Ní Chárthaigh Sarsfields
10 Isobel O'Regan I. Ní Riagáin Ballygarvan	11 Ciara Hughes C. Ní hAodha Cloughduv	12 Ciara Ryan C. Ní Riain Clonakilty
13 Cliona Healy C. Ní hÉilí Aghabullogue	14 Lauren Homan L. Homan St. Vincent's	15 Ciara Crowley C. Ní Chruaíoch Youghal

MNA IONAID

16 Sarah Ahern S. Ní hÉatháin Ballygarvan	19 Lucy O'Carman L. Ní Chormáin Dungannon	22 Rebecca Keane R. Ní Chéin Iniscarra	25 Katie Walsh C. Bhreatnach Glen Rovers	28 Grainne Cahalane G. Chatháin St. Finbar's
17 Chloe Collins C. Ní Chóiláin Milstreet	20 Catriona O'Keefe C. Ní Chaoimh Youghal	23 Kate Wall C. de Sháil Kilbrittain/Timoleague	26 Nora O'Riordan N. Ní Riardáin Rockban	
18 Grace Collins G. Ní Chóiláin Éire Óg	21 Clara Crowley C. Ní Chruaíoch Ballinascanly	24 Olivia Murphy O. Ní Mhurchú Blaney	27 Siobhán O'Sullivan S. Ní Shúilleabháin Bride Rovers	

Management: Anthony Nagle, Ken Bulman, Eileen O'Brien
Physio: Orla Coughlan



Gaillimh

Dathanna: Marúin agus Bán

1 Sarah Healy S. Ní hÉilí St. Thomas's		
2 Sinéad Cannon S. Ní Chanáin Sarsfields	3 Leah Burke L. de Búrca Kiltullagh/Killimordaly	4 Rachel Murphy R. Ní Mhurchú Sarsfields
5 Áine Murphy Á. Ní Mhurchú Androhan	6 Tiffany Ní Coisteabhla T. Ní Coisteabhla Cois Fharnaige	7 Leanne Helebert L. Hoileabard Ballinderreen
8 Shannon Ridge S. Níc Iomaire Shamrocks		9 Emma Gaffney E. Ní Ghamhna Craughwell
10 Ava Lynskey A. Ní Loinscigh Androhan	11 Sarah Spellman S. Ní Spealáin Sarsfields	12 Mairéad Dillon M. Diolún Kilconieron
13 Elisha Broderick A. Ní Bhruadau Castlegar	14 Carrie Dolan C. Ní Dhúláin (Capt.) Clarinbridge	15 Siobhán McGrath S. Níc Craith Sarsfields

MNA IONAID

16 Yvonne Lyons A. Ní Laighin Sarsfields	19 Grace Finnerty C. Ní Fhianachta Mullagh	22 Tara Naughton T. Níc Neachtain Pearses	25 Emma Reynolds E. Níc Ránaill Cappataggle	28 Rachel Helebert R. Hoileabard Kivvara
17 Emma Waters E. Ní Múisce Craughwell	20 Niamh Jenkins N. Níc Sheiridin Pearses	23 Niamh Treacy N. Ní Threasaigh Eyrecourt	26 Mary Dunphy M. Ní Dhonnchaidh Craughwell	29 Mary Larkin M. Ní Lorcáin Shamrocks
18 Molly Mannion M. Ní Mhainín Mountbellew	21 Lauren Gilligan L. Ní Chollagáin Craughwell	24 Laura King L. Ní Chionga Turloughmore	27 Eimear Porter E. Ní Phóirtín Killmar	30 Shauna O'ane S. Ní Dhuáin Kilbarner

Manager: Lorraine Larkin Coach: Gerry Helebert
Selectors: Gerry Dolan, Kevin Connolly, Alan Moran Physio: Laura Scully

Wins for Galway and Waterford in the All Ireland U16A and U16B Finals

All Ireland U16B Camogie Championship Final:

Dublin 1-7 v Waterford 2-8

Dublin Scorers: Sarah Murphy 1-0, Rebecca Lewis and Beth Whyte 0-1, Aisling Andrews, Saoirse English, Aoibhe Dillon, Chloe Mullen and Saoirse Mullen 0-1 each

Waterford Scorers: Kalesha Tobin 1-3, Niamh Murphy 1-2, Anne Corcoran, Aisling Madigan and Aisling Baumann (0-1 each)

Player of the Match: Kalesha Tobin

All Ireland U16A Camogie Championship Final:

Cork 0-8 Galway 3-15

Cork Scorers: C. Healy 0-7, L. Homan 0-1

Galway Scorers: C. Dolan 1-11, S. McGrath 1-1, M. Dillon 0-2, E. Broderick 1-0, A. Lynskey 0-1



Áth Cliath

Dathanna: Gorm agus Dubhghorm

Port Láirge

Dathanna: Bán agus Gorm



1 Megan Thomas M. Nic Thomáis Eirín's Isle		
2 Aoife Farrell A. Ní Fhearail (Capt.) Whitehall Colmcille's	3 Niamh Mulroney N. Ní Mhaolruanaidh Castleknock	4 Emily Browne E. de Brún Naomh Jude
5 Laura Morgan L. Ní Mhuireagáin Lucan Sarsfields	6 Rebecca Lewis R. Lobhaois Faughs Celtic	7 Nicole Malcolmson N. Nic Mhaolcholaím Thomas Davis
8 Zoe Couch Z. Couch Oliver Plunketts Eoghan Ruadh		9 Caoimhe Hughes C. Ní hAodha Castleknock
10 Sinéad Wylde S. Wylde Cuola	11 Aisling Andrews A. Nic Aindú Castleknock	12 Emma O'Byrne E. Ní Bhroin Good Counsel
13 Sarah Murphy S. Ní Mhurchú Castleknock	14 Aoibhe Dillon A. Diolún Naomh Mearnóg	15 Chloe Mullen C. Ní Mhaoláin Faughs Celtic

MNÁ IONAID

16 Dara Cook D. Nic Dhábhóc Crumlin	19 Beth Whyte B. Ní Bhanáin Good Counsel	22 Aoife Moore A. Ní Mhóra St. Vincent's	25 Emma Forde E. Nic Giollanáth Naomh Mearnóg	28 Siobhra Andrews S. Nic Aindú Ballinree St. John's
17 Caoimhe Cook C. Nic Dhábhóc Crumlin	20 Saoirse Malin S. Ní Mhaoláin Faughs Celtic	23 Emma Ryan E. Ní Riain Faughs Celtic	26 Kate Brittan C. de Bristiún Lucan Sarsfields	29 Chloe Behan C. Ní Bheacháin Oliver Plunketts Eoghan Ruadh
18 Ciara Byrne C. Ní Bhroin Na Fianna	21 Rebecca Beggins R. Ní Bheagáin Kilmacud Crokes	24 Enya Kennan E. Nic Thiaráin St. Vincent's	27 Mairéad McCarthy M. Ní Chárthaigh Naomh Bríd	

Management: Georgina McClelland, Paula Branigan, Sinéad Cook, Eilish Andrews, Austin Rock, Andy Molloy, Cecil Beggins, Stephen Hoary

1 Ciara Jackman C. Seac Gailltír		
2 Sinéad Cunningham S. Nic Cuinneagáin Gailltír	3 Taylor Healy T. Ní hÉillí (Capt.) De La Salle	4 Clodagh Curran C. Ní Chorráin Dungarvan
5 Clara Griffin C. Nic Griffin Tramore	6 Shauna Fitzgerald S. Nic Gearailt Gailltír	7 Collete Hogan C. Ní hÓgáin De La Salle
8 Kate Lynch C. Ní Loingsigh Gailltír		9 Anne Corcoran A. Nic Corcráin Gailltír
10 Chloe Dempsey C. Ní Dhíomasaigh De La Salle	11 Aisling Madigan A. Ní Mhadagáin De La Salle	12 Faye Curley F. Nic Thoirealaigh Lismore
13 Saoirse English S. Inglis Tramore	14 Kaiesha Tobin C. Tóibín Dungarvan	15 Niamh Murphy N. Ní Mhurchú De La Salle

MNÁ IONAID

16 Shauna McGrath S. Nic Craith Abbeyside	19 Sally Kelly S. Ní Cheallaigh Tramore	22 Muireann Cuddihy M. Ní Chuidithe Tramore	25 Craíne Heffernan C. Ní hÍfearnáin Ferrybank	28 Beth Norris B. Nairín Clonea
17 Sadie Mai Rowe S. M. Ní Rua Butlerslawn	20 Darina Shanley D. Nic Shearlaíoch Brickey Rangers	23 Heather Hayes H. Ní hAodha St. Mollean's	26 Claddagh Power C. de Paor Clonea	29 Laura Murray L. Ní Mhuir Cappoquin
18 Aisling Baumann A. Baumann Dungarvan	21 Laury Foran L. Ní Fhuaráin St. Anne's	24 Katie Ryan C. Ní Riain De La Salle	27 Aisling O'Connor A. Ní Chonchóir Brickey Rangers	

Manager: Declan Drohan Selectors: Derek Healy, Philly Curley
Mentor: Martina English

Young Cork camogie fans meet their heroes

■ Padraig Hoare
SUPPORTERS of Cork's All-Ireland camogie finalists met their heroes at an open training session last night.

The players greeted their young fans, as selfies were taken, autographs signed and questions answered at Castle Road, ahead of the final on September 13.

Cork want to win their second consecutive Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie title against Galway on Sunday week.

The team showed buckets of character, and no little skill, when they obliterated Kilkenny in the semi-final, showing exactly why 'girl power' is so highly regarded in the Rebel County.

Youngsters from all over Cork were treated to displays of their skill and strength at the open training night, as the players showed that they are determined to emulate last year's winning team.

The young fans, the inter-county players of the future, got to see first-hand the skill and dedication that's needed to become champions like their heroes.



Top: Ashling Thompson, captain, and Meabh Cahalane (left) and Orla Cronin signing autographs for young fans at the Cork senior camogie team open training night for supporters at Castle Road ahead of the All-Ireland final. Picture: Denis Minihane

Failure of appeal was right call

IT'S no surprise that Wexford lost their appeal last Thursday and thankfully now Galway can focus all their energy on preparing for their showdown with Cork.

Maybe they were already focused as this was a long shot by Wexford but it must have been at the back of their minds all the same.

In truth, this was poor sportsmanship. My feeling on it is that Wexford knew they hadn't a hope of winning their appeal but wanted to cause a stir all the same. Well they've won no fans that's for sure.

Cathal Egan, according to the rules, was correct in his 6.35 minutes of additional time but even if he had erred, in sport you take these decisions on the chin. You might be fuming in the immediate aftermath of the game, feel hard done by for a few weeks but then get over it. And there are possibly as many times when the decisions will go your way.

It was disappointing that Cork didn't reach the All-Ireland intermediate final last Saturday with their defeat to Kildare. It would have been great bringing two teams to Croke. In my view they are a better team than what they produced on the day.



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

Maybe the prize got to them a little but credit to Kildare who were physically very strong. This was Kildare's first string side and for the game I'm sure most neutrals are happy to see them in the final. It would have been a dream for many of Cork's panel to play in Croke Park but that dream isn't over; there is certainly something to build on here. It's hard to get the balance right; the decision as to whether you give a player intermittent playing time on the senior squad or hold them for the intermediate grade where they'll get significant playing time.

For a young player's development you would have to say that the latter is the right option unless they are genuinely in with a chance of being in the first 20 and actually being called upon during the senior championship. The management of this particular group of players was well thought out and we almost got to two adult finals.

Waterford made it through to the final with a one-point victory over Meath. Three goals in eight minutes midway through the second half turned this semi-final on its head with Waterford, then in turn holding off a desperate final rally by Meath to cement their place in the final on September 13.

Our U16A team play in the All-Ireland final in McDonagh Park Nenagh tomorrow at 3.30pm against a Galway side we are capable of beating, so it's 50/50. To win this would be a huge boost to underage in the county and best of luck to manager Anthony Nagle and his backroom team.

Hopefully the travelling support will be strong and the girls get to experience the same adrenaline rush they did in Walsh Park two weeks ago when a large Cork following really got behind them.

The countdown to Cork's senior showdown is gearing up. Tomorrow the Cork senior team will train in Middleton GAA Club ahead of the final between 10am and 12 noon and will stay behind to greet supporters anxious to meet their heroines. From the players perspective it's always great to be still training in September; it has a different feel to it.

Ray Kelly of Kildare will referee the senior final. Ray took charge of this year's semi-final a fortnight ago and had a very good game. He was



Ballincollig's Olivia O'Leary is tackled by Ballinhassig's Katie Reynolds, during their victory in the Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship. Picture: David Keane

referee for the 2014 All-Ireland Intermediate final and has overseen numerous league finals and inter-county Minor All-Ireland finals.

To mark the centenary year of the Ashbourne Cup, which was recently won by WIT for 2015, an evening of celebration will be held in Croke Park Stadium on Saturday, September 12, the eve of the finals.

To celebrate this special occasion a celebratory mass as well as a banquet dinner will be held to allow all

in attendance to catch up and to reminisce on the history of the great competition that is the Ashbourne Cup. All involved in the Ashbourne over the years and everyone involved in camogie are invited to attend on what promises to be a great evening.

The Camogie Board's €50 'Sponsor A Block' campaign remains open for all those wishing to purchase: Payment can be lodged direct to AIB: BICAIBKIE2D, Sort Code 93-41-78 IBAN: IE98 AIBK 9341 7877 0793 39.

BLACKROCK

Our intermediate team negotiated a very tricky fixture against a useful Tracton side on a beautiful night for camogie at the pristine Castle Road. Both teams knew that victory for them would see them qualify for the county semi-final and this resulted in a game where mistakes were plentiful. It took our girls all of 10 minutes to register their first point which tied up the game but that was the only time we were behind on the scoreboard for the remainder of the match.

Michelle Murphy & Katelyn Hickey formed a good partnership at midfield and as the first half wore on they gradually got to grips with the challenge and dominated the last 10 minutes of the half which resulted in us scoring five unanswered points leaving the score 0-9 to 0-3 at the break.

The resumption of the second half should have seen us push on, especially as Tracton were reduced to 14 as they had their full back sent off but our discipline left us down and we gave up easy frees. With 12 minutes remaining Tracton had reduced the deficit to just two and we needed some of our more experienced players to stand up and in fairness Róisín, Aine, Hayley and Grace all got on the ball more to close out the game. Katelyn was unlucky not to convert a 21-yard free that came crashing back of the crossbar and the rebound by Clodagh just went the wrong side of the post. We gave away a lot of unnecessary frees during the game and we were punished for it as all of Tracton's scores (bar one) came from placed balls. On the plus side it was a victory over a good side that had beaten us twice in the league and now means we are qualified for the County Semi Final. A lot done, but more to do.

Blackrock 0-13 Tracton 0-9.

C Coughlan, A McCurtain, A Murray, T Cummins, C Ryan (A Nagle) R deFaoite, M Hurley, K Hickey, M Murphy, H Ryan, C Kelleher, D NIMHuin, S Broderick (S Carroll), G Mulqueen, C O'Keefe.

ST CATHERINE'S

Club Sponsors: Neville's Shop & Agri.

U13 Camogie final date is not yet set in stone, however, the county board are hoping to play it on Saturday 29th or Sunday 30th August. We wish the girls the very best of luck in their game where they will take on Castletyons.

Clodagh Bolger received third place in the All Ireland Community games in Athlone last weekend where Clodagh represented Waterford in the Long Puck. There was very little between the top three in the final. This is a great achievement for Clodagh, and her family. Clodagh plays with St Catherine's U13 and U14 and we are all very proud of her achievement. Well done.

CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

The Cork U14 squad were a happy bunch on Sunday last when they beat Clare in the final after playing five games in all at the Camogie Ragg Pitch, Thurles. The Cork girls got off to a bad start and were beaten well by Kilkenny in the first game, Kilkenny proved to be by far the better team. Cork went on to play Clare in the second game and again Clare were the stronger of the two teams.

At this stage it looked as if the Cork girls would be heading home early from Thurles. However, Cork went out to play Waterford in the third game and gave it their all. The girls worked very hard and managed to beat Waterford and stay in the competition. Cork were then drawn to play Kilkenny in the semi-final, the girls were on top of Kilkenny from the very start and managed to pull away from them in the last few minutes of the second half, one would not think that they were the same team that Kilkenny had beaten in the first round. The girls were now in top form and ready to take on any team.

The final draw was between Clare and Cork, what a game of camogie, from the word go both teams were chasing every ball, blocking, hooking and giving it everything.

Final score: Cork 2-3 Clare 2-1 Well done to Linda O'Donnell who played in all five games.

Well done to the Cork development squad who also played in Thurles on Sunday last. This was the last outing for the Primary Cork Development squad and we would like to say well done to Niamh Mulcahy and Niamh O'Regan for being part of the squad and representing their family and club.

The very best of luck to some of our U14 panel girls who start 1st year next week. We wish you all the best for the year ahead. Our U11 girls play their final on Friday evening next in Ballincollig at 7pm against St Finbarr's. Good luck to all concerned.

On Friday 28th August, we are joining with St Catherine's GAA to hold the annual Night at the Dogs Fundraiser in Youghal. This annual event is fun for all the family and a great round up to the summer just as players are heading back to school. Sponsorship opportunities and tickets are available from team managers; your support is greatly appreciated.

BRIDE ROVERS

U11 Camogie: On Saturday, the U11s played away to Cobh. It was a very closely fought contest, particularly in the first half with the score standing at nil all. Cobh, however, were stronger in the second half and scored three fine goals despite the best

efforts of our goalkeeper and defence who played remarkably well. Kate and Abbie scored two excellent points and Bride Rovers were in hard luck not to notch up a couple of more scores. Well done to the team who are improving with every game.

Team: Cliona Edmonds, Emma Collins, Naoise McCarthy, Ava Barry, Lily Murray, Abbie Hoare (0-1), Kate Larkin (0-1), Michelle Geaney, Aoife McCarthy, Mollie O'Connell, Ruby Broderick, Nikita Parle.

U15 Camogie:

Bride Rovers U15 girls displayed a magnificent performance against St. Catherine's on Monday evening. Both Emma Barry and Sarah Murphy hit the sliothar over the bar before Ella Quinlan scored a goal. Just before half time Caoimhe Hazelwood scored a point, so Bride Rovers went into break time on 1-3. At the start of the second half, St. Catherine's put the sliothar over the bar two times before Arianne O'Flynn scored a mind blowing goal (2-3 to 0-7).

However St. Catherine's didn't sit still and put another two over the bar (0-9). After this Bride Rovers played even better and the back line with Emily Larkin, Claire Hickey, Sarah Geaney and goalie Rachel O'Flynn kept St. Catherine's from scoring any goals or points. Aislinn O'Connor scored a goal from far which ended beautifully in the top corner of the net (3-3). Arianne O'Flynn responded with another goal (4-3). Just when substitute Shauna Hayes came on she scored a nice point (4-4) and Aislinn O'Connor put another one over the bar with final score ending 0-9 for St Catherine's and an amazing 4-5 for Bride Rovers.

Team: Emma Barry, Aislinn O'Connor, Rachel O'Flynn, Arianne O'Flynn, Shauna Hayes, Sarah Geaney, Sarah Murphy, Claire Hickey, Emily Larkin, Caoimhe Hazelwood, Fiona Barry, Ella Quinlan, Kate Quirk, Caoimhe O'Sullivan.

Junior Camogie: Our Junior camogie season came to an end on Sunday afternoon when we were defeated by Watergrasshill 3-6 to 1-2 at Castle Road. Our thanks to our very small panel of girls who played throughout the year for their sportsmanship and commitment to Bride Rovers camogie. We wish Catherine Power a speedy recovery following her injury and best wishes to Yris for her upcoming wedding.

Clothes Collection: First Friday collection of old clothes, shoes and handbags will be taken at the Community Centre on

September 4th from 7.30 to 8.00pm.

Don't forget you can stay in touch day to day with all the latest news on Twitter, @roversgaa, and on Facebook.

GLEN ROVERS

It's been a busy few weeks for our junior team as we got remaining games in championship completed, we overcame Charleville in a great contest before facing St Catherine's in a game where our opponents needed a win to qualify and we needed a draw. We led at the break 1-9 to 1-2 but for the second half were under huge pressure as St Catherine's applied huge pressure. With three minutes to go it was level and our defence had to be at their best as the pressure was on.

Led ably by captain Lisa Cotter they stood firm to hold a 1-13 to 4-4 scoreline, a result which gave us a place in the county semi final, we await a date for this game which looks as if it will be Banteer who will be our opponents.

Our U9s and U10s got back playing matches when they had a great trip to Iniscarra whilst our U11s were in Bishopstow for an enjoyable game. Our U13s got their Seandun competition up and running on Tuesday next when Blackrock visit us at 6pm. Our U10s are heading to Ballinhassig Saturday for the Declan Crowley tournament whilst our minor team are in action Wednesday in championship against Ballyhea/Milford. We are off again on Sunday to support the Cork U16 team in the All Ireland final the bus is full and we extend best wishes to Katie and Nora and the cork team and management.

We are hoping to organise a bus to the All-Ireland senior final in Croke Park on Sept 13th to support our girls and their team anybody interested in travelling parents can accompany younger girls please let team mentors know by Wednesday next as bus must be booked and match tickets organised.

CORK

Cork Camogie Board Senior Camogie Open Training Cork Senior Camogie Team will hold the following open training sessions ahead of the All Ireland Final, Sunday 30th August in Middleton GAA from 10am to 12pm.

Thursday 3rd September in Castle Road from 6.30pm to 8pm. Sunday 6th September in Clonakilty from 10am to 12pm. Players will be available after training to meet those in attendance. Please come out and show these girls your support ahead of the Final.

U16 A All Ireland Final U16 A All Ireland Final: Cork v Galway on Sunday 30th August in MacDonagh Park Nenagh at 3.30pm.

Best of luck to the team and management. Please travel and support this group who have put in a tremendous effort all year.

JENNY TO WHISTLE HAPPY TUNE AT HQ

THE phone rang. Jenny Byrne answered.

She heard that she was selected to referee the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate Championship final between Waterford and Kildare in Croke Park on Sunday, September 13.

"You are just in shock. It takes a while for news like that to sink in," she says.

The messages of congratulations began to pour in.

CREW

One of the first things Jenny did was to contact her umpires, her trusty crew of Damien Noble, Conor Dodd, Karen Cassidy and Mary Nalty.

"They are with me all the time, and it's a nice reward for them to be umpiring in Croke Park on All-Ireland final day."

Having such a close-knit team is one of the joys of the job. "We really enjoy going on the road to matches."

"And one of the best things of all is having the meal after, looking back on the game, and all the slugging that goes with it."

Among those on the blower were Pat Martin and Brendan Cooper.

"I'm delighted for them because it's another boost for Dublin Camogie. They have given me wonderful encouragement over the years."

Karl O'Brien was also in touch. Karl was the last Dub to referee the All-Ireland Senior Camogie final in 2010.

Jenny's thoughts strayed to another All-Ireland final referee, the former President and ex-Crumlin and Dublin player,



Dublin's Sinead Wylde in action against Waterford's Sinead Cunningham in the All-Ireland U16B Championship Final at McDonagh Park, Nenagh on Sunday.

Pic: Lorraine O'Sullivan/www.cquinnphotography.com

Aileen Redmond. "I was refereeing the Dublin Feile finals in Parnell Park.

"Aileen was there. She was very complimentary, and she gave me the confidence to go further."

This is Jenny's third year at inter-county level.

"The standards in Dublin refereeing are good. We have the National test for referees, and we always have to be sharp on the changes like the advantage rule, etc."

One of the sharpest refer-

ees of them all was Dublin's Aine Derham. She brought such a presence to the stage. "Aine was just brilliant. She did so many All-Ireland finals. She had a remarkable career."

Jenny's own path has seen her retire from Clondalkin's Round Towers. "With the refereeing, I wasn't able to make club training, so something had to give."

"We had such marvellous days at Towers. We had success too, and I finished

up last season after we won the Senior 7 Championship at O'Toole Park. So that was a nice way to go out."

Two of her Towers club colleagues, Karen Cassidy and Mary Nalty, are among her umpires now. Jenny decorated the full-back position.

Her favourite player was Galway's commanding centre half-back, Therese Maher. "She was a great player. I met her last year. She signed a sliotar for me. She couldn't have been nicer."

Brilliant Bluebirds will fly Dublin to the Moon

THE Battle of the Blues. It was something to savour. Sunday's All-Ireland U16 B Championship final between Dublin and Waterford in Nenagh.

Waterford took the prize by four points, 2-8 to 1-7. But for most of the way, the outcome was balanced on a match-stick.

"We have no complaints," reflected Dublin's Paul Beecher. "Our girls gave it everything."

"They were fantastic. And we are so proud of them. We were still level with ten minutes to go."

"We had our chances. It was tit for tat. But when they got the late goal, we just couldn't pull it back."

The applause for both sides thundered all around McDonagh Park.

"In fairness, Waterford are a good side. It's their first team. And they have some excellent players."

Dublin's super sixteen's are known as the Bluebirds. And, over the years, they have been up with the dawn chorus perfecting their skills in the Phoenix Park and other venues.

Such devotion to the craft will be seen for many years to come.

"It's been a fabulous season for the Dublin U16's. Our 16A's lost to Galway in the semi-final, and Galway won the All-Ireland final well against Cork."

"Then our 16B's went all the way to the All-Ireland final. And they deserved it. They showed such spirit against Derry in the semi-final."

"It's been a marvellous journey. We have all learned so much. The players have really enjoyed it. There's a lovely spirit in the camp."

"Many of these girls will now move on through the ranks. There has been huge development going on."

"The parents have been terrific. And there was just so much respect between everybody. It was great."

BOARD NOTES

■ **County Board Meeting:** Next County Board meeting will be on Monday 14 September in Parnell Park at the usual times - 7pm for Minor Board 7.45pm for Co. Board.

■ **U16s:** Tough luck on our under 16B team who lost this year's All Ireland under 16B championship final 1-07 to 2-08 to Waterford. Well done to the players and management and to the many supporters who attended the game.

■ **Senior 1 Playoff:** Senior 1 play-off between Ballyboden and Naomg Uinsionn takes place on Tuesday, 1 September in O'Toole Park. Please note starting time has been brought forward to 6.45pm. Should be a thriller. Be there.

■ **Dublin Club Championships 2015:** Juvenile championships have started this weekend. Adult championships start on Tuesday and Thursday 8/10 September. Please find all fixture details on www.dublincamogie.ie. Team mentors must wear bibs at all championship matches. Mentors must contact appointed referee 24 hours prior to match. Referees are required to respond to mentors confirming their attendance. Best of luck to all teams.

■ **Child Protection:** Please note that all coaches involved with under 18 players must be Garda vetted and must also have completed Irish Sports Council's Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop. An Rúnaí will post Child Protection Brochures to all clubs during the week.

■ **All-Ireland championship finals:** Check www.camogie.ie for full details. 12.00 Premier Junior Laois v Roscommon, Intermediate Kildare v Waterford, Senior Cork v Galway. Be there. Tickets purchased prior to day of games are cheaper!

Ashbourne to get President's cheque

AGNES O'Farrelly was central in starting a camogie tournament for third-level colleges in 1915.

The Ashbourne Cup was born. Agnes was a leading figure in the Camogie Association. She was the Professor of Gaelic Poetry at UCD.

Lord Ashbourne was President of the Gaelic League.

He spoke seven languages. He always wore a kilt.

Agnes asked him to donate a trophy. He was happy to oblige. The Ashbourne Cup is one of the most prestigious competitions of them all. Some of the greatest players that ever picked up a stick have graced its corridors.

And now, on the eve of the All-Ireland Camogie final, there will be 100 candles on the birthday cake.

The gala event is taking place at the

Croke Park Hotel on Saturday week, September 12. Preparations are going well. Bridín O Maolagáin has been the inspiration.

She won five Ashbourne medals with her beloved UCD.

It will be a night of nights. So many stories to tell. Extra-time. Maybe even penalties.

* Ticket details: camogie.ie or Camogie Office (8658655).

Two senior sides yet to hit a ball

County draw for minors revealed

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

THE draws for the Minor County Championships at A, B and C levels were made at the recent county board meeting and with all first rounds down to be played on or before September 3 it is interesting to take a look at the games we can look forward to.

In all of the three championships teams must field at fifteen a side, unlike the league competition, which was played on thirteen a side basis.

The first names clubs have home venue and in the A grade holders Sarsfield's meet Kilbrittan / Timoleague.

It is important to note that in all of these championships there will also be losers rounds, in the A championship the four losing teams will go to losers round and the two winners of this will join the four winning clubs in round two, one winner from round two will get a bye to the final.

In the Minor B championship there are 12 teams' the six losing teams playing off with the three winners of this joining the six winners from the first round.

Two of these teams will be drawn to play in round two with the remaining seven going to the quarter final to be joined by the round two winner.

Twenty clubs will participate in the Minor C championship and ten teams will go through as winners of round one whilst ten losers will play off with the five winners joining the ten winning teams one of these will be drawn to go to quarter finals with the remainder playing in the quarter finals.

All minor championship must be played by September the 3rd at the latest so by next weekend we will know who the winners are and who will be battling it out in the loser's rounds in the week ahead.

FIXTURES

Minor A Championship: Sarsfield's v Kilbrittan Timoleague Aghabullogue v Cloughduv Glen Rovers v Ballyhea Milford Brian Dillon's v Killeagh.

Minor B Championship: Ballygarvan v St Finbarr's Carrigaline v Enniskeane Ballincollig v Eire Og Fr O'Neill's v Valley Rovers Douglas v Ballinacorney Courcey Rovers v Millstreet

Minor C Championship: Na Piarasigh v St Catherine's Clonakilty v Ballinascarty Tracton v Cobh Barryroe v Carrigrohilly Blarney v Newtownshandrum Sliabh Rua v Blackrock Charleville v St Vincent's Bishosptown v Ballinora Inniscarra v Newcestown Youghal v Bride Rovers.

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

WITH the round-robin series of championship games from Senior B to Junior C are at this stage almost all at quarter- or semi-final stages it is time to take a look at championships in all grades.

Senior: Given the success of the inter-county teams the championship programme has been severely curtailed in fact two clubs Ballygarvan and Glen Rovers have yet to strike a ball as they received walkover in their first round games from Imokilly and Seandun something which was very displeasing to the clubs involved.

Cloughduv found them in similar position having received a walk over from Carrigdhoun but they finally got their championship campaign up and running at the start of this week.

The three clubs that received walkovers were put into a group and two of the winners from round one were drawn to join them and one team from the losers, St Catherine's and Milford who won their opening round and Courcey Rovers, who lost were the three teams to make up round two with Ballygarvan Glen Rovers and Cloughduv.

Ballygarvan will meet St Catherine's with Glen Rovers meeting Milford both of these game going ahead after the All-Ireland final.

Earlier this week Cloughduv met a Courcey Rovers side who had lost out in round one to Inniscarra and on the night Cloughduv had too much strength for Courcey as they ran out winners on a 2-12 to 0-6 score line and they now go through to meet Douglas in the quarter finals which will be played after the Senior All-Ireland final.

Ballinacorney and Ballincollig will have met on Thursday last in a bid for a quarter-final spot all the other games will not take place until after the All-Ireland final.

Senior B championship: In section one Eire Og with victories over Clonakilty, Mallow and Fr O'Neill's are through to the semi final they are joined by Mallow who overcame Fr O'Neill's in their last game on last weekend.

Section Two has been an interesting one Barryroe who re graded down to Senior B this season after three year at Senior grade have wins over Carrigaline, Aghabullogue and hot title favourites Sarsfield's but they lost out to Kilbrittan/Timoleague who had wins also over Aghabullogue and Carrigaline. Sarsfield's have also three victories defeating Kilbrittan Timoleague, Carrigaline and Aghabullogue therefore we have three teams on six points with just two to go through to semi finals.

Sarsfield's, Barryroe and Kilbrittan/Timoleague ended on level points and in a play off to decide who advanced Sarsfield's overcame Kilbrittan/Timoleague to grab the second spot.

The pairings are Mallow v Barryroe, Sarsfield's v Eire Og.

Intermediate: Just five teams participated in the Intermediate cham-



Ballincollig's Elaine Casey sidesteps the challenge of Ballinacorney's Hayley Cullinane, during their Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship match in Castle Road, Blackrock. Picture: David Keane.

pionship the smallest amount in several year and certainly this is a grade that needs to be strengthened, it lost clubs who re graded to Junior A but five teams in a championship is just not enough to keep a real competitive interest alive as the teams will have also participated in the same league group already.

Tracton edged it over Enniskeane in the first game and went on to defeat Sliabh Rua, before losing out to Blackrock.

The Rockies have been going well defeating Sliabh Rua and Tracton but they lost out to a Brian Dillon's side that have three wins under their belts Enniskeane lost out to Tracton but defeated Sliabh Rua and will have Blackrock to play in their last game.

Brian Dillon's last game is done for decision on this weekend against Tracton but the semi final pairings will be Blackrock v Brian Dillon's and Tracton v Enniskeane these game are down for the weekend of 19th/20th.

Junior A: The Junior A championship is always fiercely contested and this year it has been the same, Newtownshandrum who regraded from Intermediate this year and they drew with Bride Rovers in their first game before defeating Bishosptown, Watergrahill had a win over Bishosptown and Bride Rovers and must play St Vincent's, Newtownshandrum.

St Vincent's games will not go ahead until after the All-Ireland senior final but they have a win under their belts over Bride Rovers but have Watergrahill, Bishosptown and Newtownshandrum still to play.

With a lot of game to be decided predicting the two to advance from this section is hard at the moment.

Section two is cleared Newcestown who also re graded down to Junior A this year have qualified for the semi final with wins over Youghal, Douglas and Na Piarasigh. The second spot is still up for grabs Youghal and Douglas



Cork's Julia White reacts to a missed chance. Her club Douglas won't be in action until after the All-Ireland final. Pic: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

meet in the last game where a win for Douglas would secure them a place in the last four were Youghal to win it would bring themselves and Na Piarasigh back into contention and force a three way play off Junior B It went down to the wire in the Junior B section one where cobh with victories over Glen Rovers, Cloughduv and St Catherine's secured their semi final spot.

Glen Rovers over came Cloughduv and Charleville and met a St Catherine's side who had drawn with Cloughduv defeated Charleville and lost to

Cobh. A draw was enough to give Glen Rovers the semi final spot.

In Section Two Banteer topped the group with wins over Ballinascarty, Ballincollig and Inniscarra, the second spot is up for grabs between Ballinascarty and Ballincollig who meet this week and the winner here will meet Cobh whilst Banteer play Glen Rovers both semi-finals down for decision this weekend.

Junior C: The junior C championship is also moving ahead smoothly Kildorrey will meet Sarsfield's in the quarter finals, the winners of this will play Millstreet and its Castlyons versus Ballyhea.

Sunday Independent

LIFE

30 AUGUST 2015

A photograph of Ashling Maelen sitting on a rocky, grassy hillside. She has long, dark, wavy hair and is wearing a grey tank top and a grey and white plaid shawl draped over her shoulders. She is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background shows a rugged, natural landscape with rocks and some greenery.

**ASHLING'S
DREAM**

**FROM TEARAWAY TEEN
TO CULT HEROINE**



POSITIVE SIGNS

OUT OF THE DARKNESS

She has struck a chord with young people just as the late Donal Walsh did during his short life. Twenty-five-year-old Ashling Thompson is a modern sporting heroine for a new Ireland. She talks to **Barry Egan** about waking up in an ambulance after a car crash in 2009, trying to deal with her boyfriend's suicide in 2012, and how staying positive, both on and off the field, brought her to where she is today — captain of the Cork senior camogie team and a new icon of Irish sport. Photography by **Kip Carroll**. Styling by **Liadan Hynes**

One of Ashling Thompson's tattoos says: "Never give up on what you really want to do. The person with big dreams is more powerful than one with all the facts." This quote by Albert Einstein embodies Ashling as much as it does her indomitable spirit.

Ashling is no ordinary sports star probably because Ashling is no ordinary woman. The Cork camogie captain is a modern sporting heroine for a new Ireland: a GAA star who has come out openly about her mental-health problems and her boyfriend's suicide.

Even allowing for cliché and marketing spin, the young woman from Newtownshandrum in Co Cork has brought herself out of a pitch-black place in her life in a manner that belies her age. Along with some brave others such as Bressie, the 25-year-old has helped change the culture and made it OK to speak about mental health and suicide in Ireland.

"I don't blame him," she says of her boyfriend and the terrible tragedy that befell him. "I'm not mad or anything, because I have been in that position. I know what it feels like. And it is very hard to come out of it. Five or six times, I contemplated it myself. 'Is this worth it or not?'"

"I remember driving around in my car at times, on my own, thinking, 'This is shit. Why do I bother even living?' You know? Because you would honestly think tomorrow is going to be the exact same. So why should I bother going through this pain and agony? And this black cloud is constantly following you around and you can't get rid of it."

How long did it take to chase that black cloud away?

"Jesus. It still comes around every now and again, not in the sense that I'm ever thinking..."

Ashling says The Good Devil and The Bad Devil sometimes sit on her shoulders

looking for a reaction, looking for trouble.

And you tell the Bad Devil to f**k off, I'm not talking to you?

"It is exactly like that," she says. "But nowadays it is never in a way where I contemplate... life or..." She pauses, gathering her thoughts. "Some days you might feel down on yourself. But you are still always carrying it a little bit."

The last time Ashling saw her boyfriend alive (just before he decided not to go to Funderland with her) is also something that she carries around with her. "To this day, not in a way that I'd put myself in a bad place, it just always crosses my mind. I'll ask myself the question, and think for a minute, and forget about it and move on with my day. But it could come back again. Every time I think about him, I ask myself some sort of a question."

And does she ever have an answer?

"Not really, no, because I just never expected it and nobody else did. So you can't, really."

How does she try to deal with it, the loss, the pain?

"Just continue to play sport. Continue to focus my mind on something else. Continue to do things for different charities, like Cycle Against Suicide for Pieta House. Or Headstrong," she says, referring to the non-profit organisation supporting young people's mental health in Ireland. "I'm an ambassador for them."

Ashling firmly believes that becoming a Headstrong Hero will help break the stigma surrounding youth mental health. "I want to share my experience with everyone," she continues. "I suppose it is kind of shocking for someone like me to come out with it, because people see GAA players as strong figures. You'd rarely hear someone in the GAA talking about depression," she claims, "because it is seen as a weakness, whereas it is not a weakness."

"It is a massive strength, because young girls look up to me. Young boys look up to me. Older women, teenagers, everyone can relate in some way because, you know, only

very few escape a traumatic experience in their lives."

After a car crash in 2009, the internal trauma resulted in Ashling suffering bouts of depression. But after her partner took his own life in 2012, Ashling fell into an even darker place of personal torment and inner pain.

"It was really bad depression. It got to the point of no return. It was going one way or the other. I don't like to put a definite word on it but people know what I'm talking about. I was rock bottom."

How did you get up again?

"I just stuck with my sport," she says.

"Frankie told me to trust him," she adds of her coach Frank Flannery at her club, Milford GAA.

"And I didn't trust anyone really at the time, because I had lost all hope; and friends and family, I just pushed them away and got myself involved in all the wrong kinds of crowds. I wasn't training. I decided to keep my mind ticking over by getting involved with eejits," she says, meaning the 'wrong elements' for a serious sportsperson.

"And messing," Ashling adds, again not elaborating by what she actually means (although she alludes to being through a lot of scary experiences she can't talk about).

"And not being interested in going to watch training or going to match games."

Frank changed all that in Ashling. "He could totally relate to me, because he was battling his own demons in the past. I think it was that relationship; we just saw totally eye to eye. I never had that with a trainer. I trusted in him completely. Sometimes you need an outsider to come in and throw a few home truths at you."

What did he tell you?

"He didn't have to tell me. He knew what kind of a place I was in. He just basically said, 'If you are going to trust anyone, just give me one chance. Trust me.' That was at the very beginning in 2012. 'I completely trusted him and said I would give it one more shot.'"



POSITIVE SIGNS

Prior to Frank's arrival in 2012, her team, Milford Camogie Club, had, she explains, "lost a lot of county finals and semis. In 2011, we were knocked out in a quarter final, and that was so rare because we were the best team in the county. We could just never finalise a win. So it was really disappointing for four or five years to get beaten on the trot constantly. So I had had enough of it. When we got knocked out of the quarter final, I was like, 'Fek this'. But when Frank came in, he told us we have eight steps to an All Ireland."

Frank led the team to an All Ireland in his first year.

"We were laughing and saying, 'If we get past the county final, we'll be happy'," Ashling laughs now. "And as the year went on, we won every game. We were unbeaten in 22 championship games in three years. So as the wins came, the hard work was paying off. I just knew if I stayed positive upstairs and did my training and stuck with the team — and they did the same — it felt like the hard work had paid off."

A testament to all that hard work is that Ashling is now Cork captain, and she and her team secured their spot in the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie All-Ireland final — on September 13 against Galway in Croke Park — when they comprehensively saw off Kilkenny two weeks ago in the semi-final.

As Ashling tweeted after the game, "Winning isn't everything . . . Oh no wait, it actually is!!! #FuckThat #CrockerBound #RebelettesAbu".

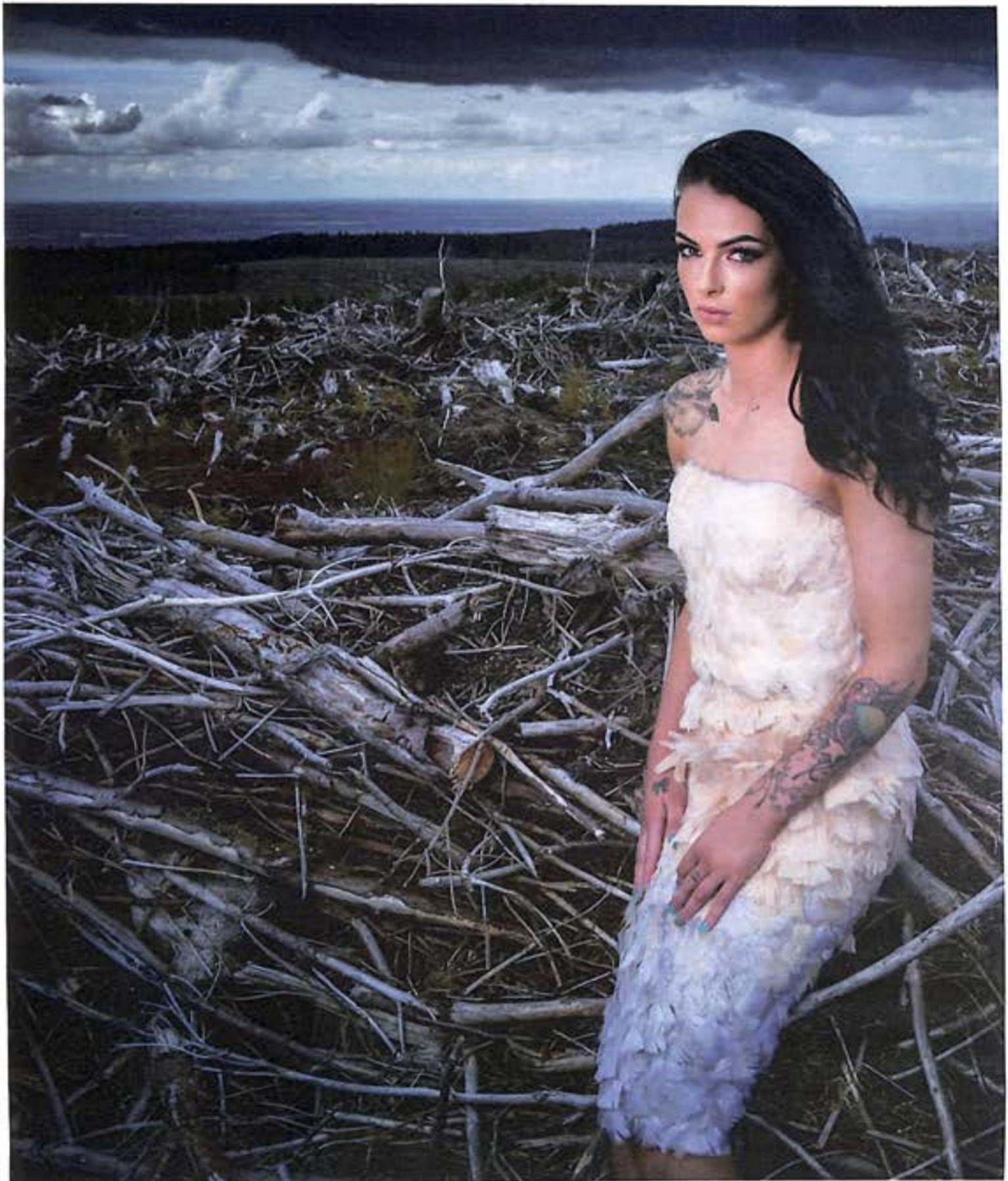
Ashling is full of belief in her and her team's sporting prowess on the field of dreams. Ashling also has another kind of faith. Although she doesn't go to Mass, she prays every night and before every game. Ashling has a powerful sense of empathy too. If she reads on social media about someone having passed away, she will always "say a *Hail Mary* or an *Our Father*" — even if she didn't even know the person who died.

"I am very religious now because I wasn't [religious] when I was a little black sheep. I totally lost faith in God, because so many bad things had happened to me."

Her love of sport started straight away, she says, "once I was ready and able at five years of age." Young Ashling didn't have to look far for inspiration: both her parents competed in sports. Her mother Sheila was an athlete who ran marathons and played camogie and hockey, while her father Mattie was a hurler.

"It was a genetic thing, really," Ashling says of her love of sport and her desire to compete in sports herself. Ashling started playing camogie when she was six. "I was brought into sport from the get-go, really. Sport was in my blood. My mother said I was always a very active child, and wanted to be outside constantly. I always had a hurley in my hand or I was always kicking a football."

In terms of signs of her future ability, Ashling says you "wouldn't really get to know that until you start playing sports. Like when you start playing camogie, you never know until the skills come to you a couple of years down the line. Everyone is a beginner at the start, you know. But,



I suppose, after a while, once you get the skills of camogie and get them all right, you will know from there really, whether you are going to be [any good].

"You can tell, though. Even from young wans, and watching them at camps and stuff," she adds. "You can tell who's going to be a superstar and who is not." Some would say that Ashling is probably a superstar in her own way.

"But then you have some people who mightn't have been good at underage level — there are plenty of county players out there that never go on school teams," she says.

How much of sporting success is more head than body? "I think it is 50/50 — 50pc

'It was really bad depression. It got to the point of no return. It was going one way or the other . . . I was rock bottom'

getting your body right and getting your eating habits right and getting in shape, body-wise, but I think 50pc of it is mental. Like, no matter how much in shape you are, if you are not right upstairs, you are not going to perform.

"Your head is more powerful than your body. Your mind overrules whatever you do. And if you think you are tired and say, 'Oh, I'm tired', then you are going to be tired. Whereas if you are tired and you say to yourself, 'There is still more in me', you'll keep going. Your mind overrides anything."

Ashling says she has a habit of physically drawing positive signs — actual mathematical plus signs — on her hands before a game. "So if I ever feel the pressure



coming on, and you're obviously holding a hurley and a ball, you see the plus signs every now and again. It tells me to stay positive even when the shit hits the fan and you are down six points in a game. It reminds me to keep in a positive state of mind because the mind is more powerful than the body."

How does Ashling put that into practice when Cork are down six points, and then 10 points in a game? How does she maintain the positivity even when psychology doesn't seem to be working because the game looks like it's being lost?

"It is all to do with pure belief. You do it in training. You master that pure belief in training. You train to the point of — you

know, you think you can't go on because you are so exhausted. You train yourself to fight through that tiredness. That's how you bring it to the game, but obviously you have to have the belief and the desire to do it, and the fight to keep going."

Does it make it more difficult to put the theory into practice when she also has the responsibility of being captain of the team too? When players drop emotionally or psychologically in a game, are they looking to you to pick them up?

"They are," she answers. "I mean, that is the role of a captain, really. You are a leader on the field, along with many other girls who are leaders. Everyone has to be a leader. But people will look to you,

because you are the captain. So if you drop your head and completely give up, you are portraying that to the rest of the team.

"Even if someone was a captain over me and I saw them dropping their head and things like that," she continues, "that would put a doubt in your mind. Maybe not in mine, because I would know what to do in that situation, but there are so many younger girls."

So when you play camogie, do you play without doubt?

"Obviously there are times where you doubt things, have doubts, but I always know you will get the best out of yourself by staying positive, no matter the situation."

And when you lose?

"It is in the past. I never like to lose; even it is a challenge match or a game of chess or a game of cards. I am just a sore loser in general. I am great crack to be around, in some respects, but I take the game very seriously."

This burning intensity for some truth, not just in sport, seems central to her very being, almost her *raison d'être*. I say to her that she reminds me a bit of another Corkonian sports hero in that regard — Roy Keane. She doesn't balk.

"I take it extremely seriously. The girls know that, too. That's why they look up to me a lot, and especially the younger ones," says 25-year-old Ashling. "And I know they do. Because I know when people look up to me and when they don't. And literally every time I speak, they are looking straight into my eyes. Because they know that I am 120pc serious about it."

"Even as a teenager, I was always extremely driven. That never left me."

You wanted to be captain of the Cork camogie team when you were a young teen?

"Sure, you only dream of it. I always dreamed of it, but I never thought it was going to be a reality. The dream was Cork camogie. Even to make the team, never mind be captain. And captaincy was a bigger dream onto the dream. The dream was just to make the team. Captaincy was a million miles away."

Ashling first got on to the panel in her Leaving Cert year, although she dropped out of camogie to concentrate on her studies. It was around this point in November 2009, when she was badly injured in a car crash.

"I was rear-ended by a car and my car was completely written-off." She woke up in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. "I was just in shock." The medics in the ambulance were talking to her, but she was unable, as she remembers, to talk back.

Was she frightened she'd never walk again — or that she'd never play again?

"No, I am the type of person who even when I get a belt in a game or could have a broken hand in a match, I'd be like, 'Oh, it's grand. The pain will wear off in a minute'. So straight away, I thought, 'I'm awake'. I tried moving my arms and my legs. I was like, 'I can feel them. I'll be fine in a few days'."

Where does Ashling think she got that kind of emotional courage?

"I suppose we bought into tough love. We were never babied," she says referring to herself and her two older siblings, Michael and Nigel. "I got it from my mam and dad. My dad would have been a serious hurler, an aggressive hurler. My mother was an athlete, but she was a winner. She was the last woman in her time to win the old Cork City Marathon. She was sponsored by adidas at one point. That was the type of person that I looked up to."

You were almost bred to be a winner. I say to her.

"Oh, bred, like! Born and bred. But even my parents' sisters and my mother's brothers were all the same. It's all tough love. No one is babied — or 'I love you' or hugging," Ashling says.

"And when you are involved in sport — I have been involved in a load of sports — and anything I ever did, my mother drove it into me. 'You are to run your legs off. You are winning this game. I don't care'. She trained me underage as well."

Would Ashling look into the crowd during a match and see her mother?

"I wouldn't even have to look. I would hear her before I'd see her. 'Come on, Ashling!' But she'll only roar at you when she knows that you need it. When you need that lift."

That is when, adds Ashling, Cork are down in game and "we're sitting back — and she knows I'm sitting back a bit and not going hell-for-leather."

Is that to conserve energy?

"No. Sometimes you go through the motions in games. It happens."

After the car crash in Cork, Ashling was in "a low place" because she "tried to come back to playing sport as quick as I could and it just wasn't coming."

The recovery wasn't coming quickly enough because Ashling, as he says herself, "just wasn't able". She had deep muscle damage to both her back and her neck. The physiotherapist told her she was looking at a long road to recovery.

It took Ashling three years to come back to where she was previously. Before that full recovery came about, Ashling was playing sport but she wasn't the same athlete that she was before the accident "because I had lost a serious amount of weight as I wasn't eating or sleeping".

"I am fully back now," she continues. "I'm carrying no injuries."

In a game when she is going hell-for-leather, does she have that fear that she might injure her back again?

"No. Not one bit. Never. And even if it was sore, I would never think it is coming back," she says. "I am not like that," she says, attributing Flannery in 2012 with instilling that inner self-belief, but explaining that Frank's arrival was just prior to the most traumatic moment of her young life.

"He died in June 2012," Ashling says of her boyfriend's suicide. "And Frank had come in a few months before that."

You had started on the road to sporting recovery and then, with your boyfriend's death, you stepped off again. You didn't want to be on that road again after what happened?

POSITIVE SIGNS



Cover

Dress, American Apparel.
Coat, River Island
Jewellery throughout, Ashling's own

Contents

Top, Topshop.
Skirt, River Island

Page 12 and 13

Dress, River Island.
Coat, Topshop

Page 14

Top; skirt, both Umit Kutluk

This page

Top, Topshop.
Skirt; coat, both River Island

Opposite page

Jumpsuit, River Island

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D2, tel: (01) 616-9967, or see brownsugar.ie

With thanks to The Powerscourt Hotel Resort
and Spa

Reawaken your senses in the Garden of Ireland with a picturesque break at Ireland's finest luxury five-star resort. Powerscourt Hotel Resort and Spa has the perfect overnight package for you to explore Powerscourt House and Gardens, just 30 minutes from Dublin — perfect for gardening enthusiasts, foodies or those looking for an escape. The Bloom at Powerscourt package includes a luxurious overnight stay for two, with breakfast overlooking the Sugar Loaf, a gourmet dinner in the newly refurbished Sika Restaurant and complimentary access to Powerscourt House and Gardens. This package is available from €150pp sharing, midweek only. For details, tel: (01) 274-8888, or see powerscourthotel.com

"No. No. I was completely broken again. Back to square one."

What was your mother saying to you when you were hanging around with people who you earlier referred to as eejits?

"She couldn't really do anything about it, because I was so in my own world. I didn't care what happened to me, but I didn't care who I was hurting along the way. I just thought, 'They'll get over it'. I didn't realise that I was actually destroying their lives as well," Ashling says, meaning those close to her.

"They were so disappointed. The most

frustrating thing was being helpless. They were just completely helpless. You could tell me one thing and I would do the exact opposite."

Asked how it feels to be described as a hero for young people, she smiles.

"It is amazing. But I am very proud as well and humble about it. Fair enough, I was rebellious and I was this and that, but stuff happens, like.

"That happens to a lot of teenagers where they go down a bad path and they don't think of anything outside of what they are doing. They don't think about who they're hurting along the way. It takes

scary experiences. I have been through a lot of scary experiences in life. Things I couldn't talk about honestly because it would get me in trouble with the people I was involved with. Some people could probably put two and two together, but I had no fear whatsoever. No fear of anyone."

Did she bring that on to the playing pitch? "I did at times, and I was sent off. If anyone said anything to me, it was fist up straight away."

Ashling freely admits that she let her friends and family down by her actions.

"My family were there for me through

thick and thin when I lost every friend I had."

Ashling still lives at home with her parents in Cork. "I want to live at home with my mum and dad for as long as I can, because you have a roof over your head with no bills to pay. You get to spend time with your family. You have your whole life to spend it away, so you may as well make the most of it."

"I am going to continue playing with Cork," she says at the end of our conversation, "and my club for as long as I can, really."

Long may she run. **B**



Cotter leads way through radical era

ALL we can do as players is play our game to the best of our ability, carry it, develop it and then step aside for the next generation.

As each decade passes great players pass the baton on. There is always another star coming behind; always another leader.

Evolution will always be in there in sport and the speed of it turns faster and faster. A decade ago inter-county players wouldn't have had a gym programme designed for them, tailored to suit the individual. It would have been inter-county training three times a week and club training in between. Nowadays gym work, nutrition, performance analysis and sensible rest are part of the mandatory makeup of most inter-county players.

When I met Orla Cotter for coffee last Monday evening she was coming from her gym session.

"It's a programme I got from Mike Carroll last year and I've stuck with it," Orla informed me. "It's part of my routine for the last few years. It's not as intense now as it was at the beginning of the year. It's plyometric training, explosive stuff, getting a bit of power and sharpness. I'm doing it twice a week. I've been doing a gym programme for the last three years and it's very beneficial to me, it's certainly helped my game."

Orla is a current 'carrier' of our game. This is her time and unquestionably she is a leader in the Cork



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

team of the past three years. With the retirement of players such as Joanne O'Callaghan, Jennifer O'Leary, Anna Geary and Angela Walsh, Orla's presence has taken on an even greater importance.

Now in her 10th season and with four senior titles to her credit; 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2014 the gap between 2009 and 2014 was an eye opener.

"When I first got on the Cork team it seemed like we'd be in Croke Park almost year and then you realise that you're not and just what it takes. So last year meant so much after not having been there for so long."

Orla's accuracy from placed balls has been instrumental to Cork's success but she isn't just a dead ball specialist. Her points from play, work rate and distribution form a crucial part of her makeup and it is no surprise that she has won three championship 'Player of the Match' awards in the past two seasons.

A PE and Irish teacher in Midleton College thankfully the 27 year old still has a number of years left in the Cork jersey; that is if she doesn't go into premature retirement, which many players seem to do in the mod-

ern age. So is that on the table?

"It's a big commitment but I just love the training. I wouldn't give that up. When you're a teacher and off for three months you always think of travelling for that time. My famous last words this past few years is that I'll go travelling but I haven't done it yet."

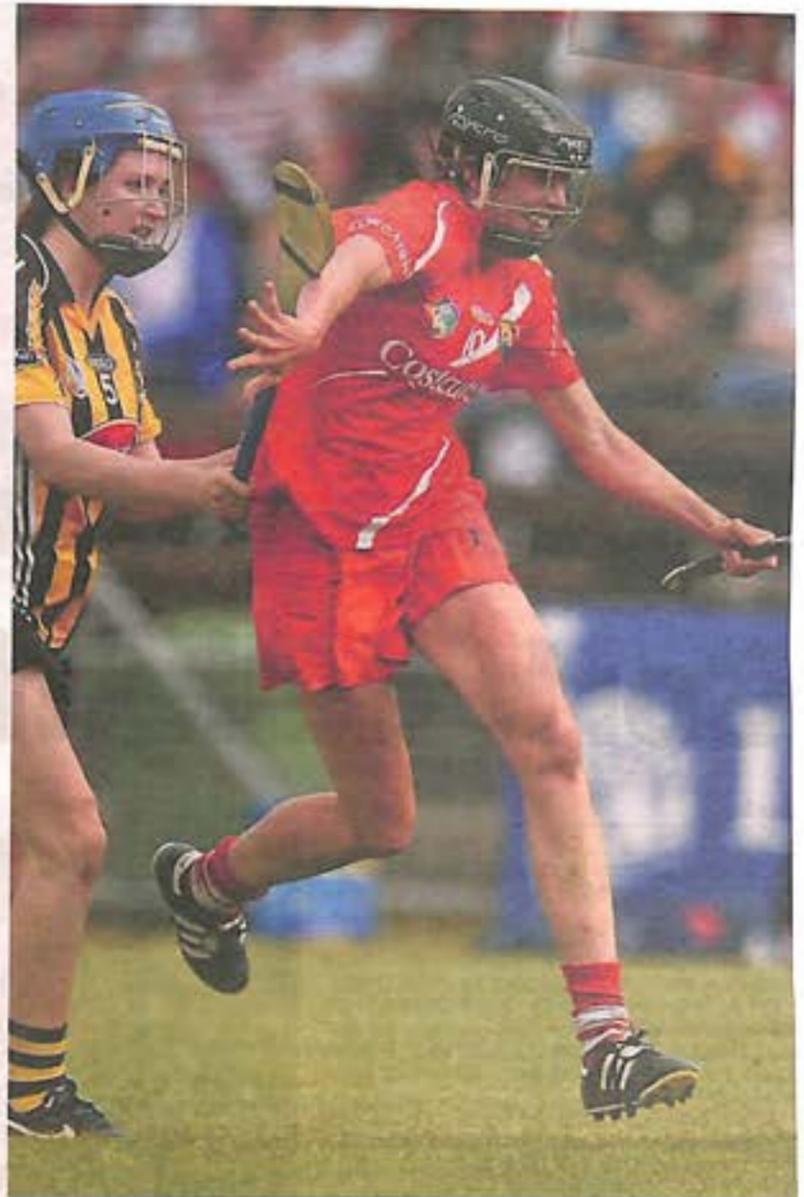
Fingers crossed that Orla puts that travelling on hold until her mid-thirties at least.

It hasn't been the perfect year for Cork, losing the league final and suffering two championship defeats to Galway and Wexford but we would do well to remember that Paudie Murray used the league and the championship format to blend in new players.

He played it cute, aiming to get into a quarter final playoff. But supporters were concerned when Cork were defeated by Wexford in Sarsfields on August 18; it was more the manner of the defeat which raised questions. But it all changed from there.

Orla picks up the conversation, "I'd be lying if I said that I wasn't worried after the Wexford game either. But I think after that we just came together. We threw everything out there about why it wasn't working, what was going on. We as players trained harder, brought more intensity to training. Work rate is our key. Work rate everywhere."

The quiet, unassuming St Catherine's player has brought huge pride to her club. She in turn is proud of them.



Orla Cotter, Cork, is chased by Claire Phelan, Kilkenny, in the semi-final.

Picture: Sam Barnes/SPORTSFILE

"We've had great people involved in the club, Pat and Marie Clancy were in charge for years and more recently Denis Walsh and they've put in great work. It was an unbelievable feeling beating Milford (in 2009) who of course have taken over since. I've been lucky to have been involved with some really great players there."

Then we get onto the reason we're meeting; September 13 and Galway?

"Yeah sure look they've beaten us twice already this year so they're going to be confident going into the

match. They'd a tough victory over Wexford in their semi-final. Obviously no All-Ireland is going to be won easy.

"They've strong players down the middle, they're physical, they're fit and they're fast."

"We'll be expecting a fierce battle but as long as we get a performance on the day I think things will look after themselves."

One thing is certain, Orla will be a leader on the day. It isn't time to hand the baton over yet. In the meantime it's in safe hands.

Brian Dillon's Camogie Club

Our U14 team did our club proud with a tremendous effort against Newtownshandrun which finished in a draw in the league QF, which was held at the Tank. What a game this was. Without exaggeration this was one of the best games seen at the Tank in a long time. Credit to both teams, the match was played in great spirits and there wasn't a bad challenge in the entire match. There was great support for Dillons including our intermediates who finished training earlier.

Dillon's were on top in the first half but credit to Newtown who came back strong in the second. In the last minute Katie O'Brien made a world class save to deny our opponents certain victory. The full time score was 4-1 to 2-5, and so came extra time. The skill shown from these young players was exceptional and their commitment was commendable.

The game was on a knife's edge and could go either way. Both teams wanted it as much as the other. Eve O'Connor and Abbey O'Farrell were rock solid in defence and were well supported by Clare Mulcahy, Eileen, Aoife O'Callaghan, Jasmine and Mary O'Sullivan were a great half back line. Hannah Roche and Anna Myers ran themselves in to the ground.

Rebecca Barry was at her best. Olivia Gibson was quite simply awesome. Chloe Ahern, Ria White, Aine, our two Aoifes, Megan and Courtney gave it everything. Extra time was a pleasure to watch. Both teams were exhausted but still they drove each other on.

Newtown went a goal up but Dillon's dug deep and got their reward when Hannah Roche hit the net. The referee blew up at all square again, 5-2 to 4-5. An absolute cracker of a game. Neither team deserved to lose and it was great to see both teams line up to shake hands. These girls are a credit to both clubs. A replay is required and let's hope it's just as exciting. A word of appreciation for the referee Dominic Rooney who allowed the game to flow and without a doubt contributed to a great contest.

Our Intermediates put on an awesome display in dispatching Enniskeane in our third round championship match which was held in Cloughduv. We have now won our first three championship matches but this performance was by far our best.

Enniskeane didn't turn up on the night, they are better than that. However everything went right for us. Our preparation, our attitude, our distribution and our execution was superb.

CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

Our full back line were solid particularly Deirdre Keane. Our half backs were inspirational especially Amanda Dorgan who showed just how good she is. Susan Brosnan and Steph Mangin were dominant in midfield.

All our forwards played their part. Sinead Mills and Shauna Cronin are a handful for anyone. Caoimhe Rodgers is in the form of her life and it's great to see Clair Dooly back to her best. We used five subs and Lauren Barry and Siota Deane made an impact. Final score 7-12 to 0-6.

Bride Rovers Camogie Club

U11 Camogie: On Friday afternoon, Bride Rovers travelled to Ballincollig to play Aughabullagh in U11 camogie. Unfortunately, the girls were no match for the very strong opposition and were well defeated.

However, they fought to the bitter end and held Aughabullagh scoreless in the latter third. Well done girls on a valiant effort. **Team:** Aoife McCarthy, Naoise McCarthy, Mollie O'Connell, Lily Murray, Ruby Hicks, Ava Barry, Emma Collins, Ruby Broderick, Kate Larkin, Michelle Geary, Niamh O'Sullivan, Nikita Parle Junior Camogie.

Our Junior camogie season came to an end on Sunday afternoon when we were defeated by Watergrasshill 3-6 to 1-2 at Castle Road. Our thanks to our very small panel of girls who played throughout the year for their sportsmanship and commitment to Bride Rovers camogie. We wish Catherine Power a speedy recovery following her injury and best wishes to Yris for her upcoming wedding.

St Catherine's Camogie Club

St Catherine's U13 girls played Castletyons in the U13 Cup Final (12 a side competition) played in Rostellan last Saturday on what was a beautiful sunny day. St Catherine's got off to a very good start and held Castletyons well in the first half, going in a point up at half time. However, it was Castletyons who came out the livelier team in the second half.

Try as they may St Catherine's were unable to get the ball into the net and Castletyons slowly pulled away.

All 17 girls played magnificently and showed great heart and courage throughout the game. Both teams were a credit to their families and clubs.

Team: Genny Galvin, Karley O'Brien, Niamh O'Regan, Niamh Mulcahy, Sarah Norman, Laura Mellerick, Clogadh Bolger, Rusheen Walsh, Eve England, Tessa Condon, Niamh Spillane, Jess O'Brien, Hazel Sheehan, Cliona Dunning, Chloe Draper, Jane England, and Chloe Kearney.

Well done to each and everyone. We would like the younger players to continue training on Saturday morning from 11 to 12 and the older players to continue training with the U15 girls on Thursday evening 6.30-7.30.

On Friday 28th August, the U11 girls travelled to Ballincollig for their Go Games finals against St Finbarr's. There was a full turnout of 15 girls who all played the full match and gave their all. While scores are not kept at this age, the girls fought tooth and nail for every ball against a strong St Finbarr's side.

Well done to all of the team which consisted of Aine Twomey, Kiana O'Sullivan, Ellen Duncan, Chloe Draper, Eryn Dillon, Amy Leahy, Lucy Barry, Lucy Aherne, Keira O'Donnell, Dawn Clancy, Sara Clancy, Tara Leahy, Jessica O'Brien and Doreann Hayes and to all of the friends and family who have provided great support throughout the season. Training will continue on Saturday mornings at 11am.

U8 camogie girls took part in Go Games Finals on Saturday. The girls played with great skill and confidence. They were split into two teams playing Eire Og and St Columns. Thanks to all the parents for travelling and great support.

All Ireland Camogie Final on 13th Sept, Cork v Galway. Bus leaving the village to support Orla and Finola. Under 16s €25.00, adults €45.00 including match tickets. Names and money as soon as possible to avoid disappointment to Neville's Post Office.

Cork Supporters Club are holding a "Guess the Score" card. €2.00 per line, first prize a weekend stay in Louis Fitzgerald Hotel. Please support.

For all current news, please follow us on facebook "Official St.

Catherines Camogie

Erin's Own Camogie Club

U8s: Erin's Own travelled to Ballincollig last Saturday to play in the Go Games. The girls played St Colum's in a very exciting match. They were delighted with their boot bags and their pink slottars thanks to Cork Camogie. Well done to all the parents who travelled and to all coaches involved.

U13s East Cork B League Plate Champions: 5.4 to 3.2 Erin's Own travelled to Aghada to play Dungorney in the East Cork B Plate Final. Erin's Own started off very strong with two Quick goals from Grainne Guest and Helen Savage which put them in a great place in the first half.

Erin's Own put lots of pressure on Dungorney and Our Mid Field players Maeve Wall, Shauna Corry and Helen Savage played extremely well. Aoife Kelleher (captain) had a very solid game with the help of Vivienne Keating. In the first few minutes of the second half.

Dungorney rallied back scoring a few goals but our players were always on top. In the second half Ella Collins scored a fantastic goal and played very good when she came on. Our backs Clodagh Fox and Emma O'Neil had great games and our goalie Kate Cogan made some fabulous saves.

Team: Kate Cogan, Niamh Kelleher, Maeve Wall, Katelyn Quaine, Emma O'Neil, Fiona O'Neil, Aoife Kelleher (c), Helen Savage, Sophie O'Neil, Ella Collins, Vivienne Keating, Kate Cogan, Alanah Mahon, Grainne Guest, Shauna Corry, Clodagh Fox, Emma Daly, Kiera Mulcahy. Coaches: Michelle Guest, Catherine Cogan.

U15s: Erin's Own hosted Watergrasshill on Saturday the 26th in a East Cork League match Watergrasshill started well with two unanswered goals but then Erin's rallied back and came into their own winning a fantastic match. The outcome was 7.3 to 4.3 Well done to all the girls and to all coaches onwards now to the next game.

The Cork Senior Camogie team will hold their final open training session on Sunday 6th September in Clonakilly between 10am and 12pm.

Players will be available after training for photos and to sign autographs. Please come out and show your support to the girls as they prepare for the All Ireland Final Sunday 13th September where they face Galway in Croke Park at 4pm.



Paul Gallagher, Skechers Ireland, with Muiriam Walsh, Kilkenny camogie team; Gráinne Kenneally, Waterford ladies football team; Gemma O'Connor, Cork camogie team and Annie Walsh, Cork ladies football team; at the launch of the WGPA and Skechers partnership, supporting the WGPA Player of the Month, at Skechers, Opera Lane, Cork. Picture: Jim Coughlan

CAMOGIE

■ Mary White

CORK camogie star Gemma O'Connor and footballer Annie Walsh helped launch the WGPA's new partnership with Skechers, on Leaside.

O'Connor - who will contest her 11th All-Ireland camogie final on September 13 against Galway, and Walsh, who will bid to win a 10th ladies football All-Ireland title for Cork on September 27, announced the sponsorship deal in the Skechers store on Opera Lane.

The partnership will see Skechers support the WGPA Hero Award for the Player of the Month in ladies football and camogie.

Speaking about the deal, O'Connor said: "It's great that the WGPA is making such inroads for camogie players and ladies footballers and the deal with Skechers is a massive boost."

The monthly WGPA Hero award represents the first joint initiative of this kind for ladies football and camogie, which reflects the ethos of the WGPA to unite both codes.

The winners will be jointly selected by votes from WGPA

Cork stars launch new WPGA deal

members and by the public through social media.

Speaking at the launch, chairperson of the WGPA, Aoife Lane, said: "We are delighted to have Skechers on board as supporters of our

monthly WGPA Hero initiative. Skechers are a growing brand across Ireland, which reflects our own status as a relatively new organisation hoping to improve the welfare of players nationwide."

Meanwhile, Cork will learn who they face in the All-Ireland football semi-final on Saturday, with Dublin's clash against Armagh now changed to 2pm so as to avoid a clash with the Dublin and Mayo men's football semi-final replay.

Éire Óg take on fancied Sars side

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE countdown to Croke Park may be on, but the local championships continue to advance this weekend with games not involving Cork senior players going ahead.

In the senior B championship Éire Óg, who are always strong contenders take on a lively Sarsfields team, who have continued their impressive progress in their first year in the grade.

The Mid-Cork side lost out in the final of 2013 and failed to build on it last season. This year they have put in huge work and are there once again pressing for honours. They have good players in Ellen O'Herlihy and Claire Meany but they will meet strong opposition from a strong and focused Sarsfields, who last year won the intermediate title. Stalwart Emer Fennell continues to impress in a line-up that will include Lucy Allen, Ellen Murphy, Katie Barry and Chloe Casey.

Barryroe, who re-graded this year from senior, have once again made it to the last four and they will meet a Mal-low side, who like Éire Óg have been trying for several years to annex this title without success.

They will meet a Barryroe side that took senior B honours in 2012 and having spent two seasons at senior level they re-graded this year. Claire Sexton, Eimear White and former Cork senior Síle Burns are their threats.

There is just one game in the intermediate championship where Brian Dillon's meet Tractor in the last game in the round robin series, with both sides already through to the semi-finals. Tractor will meet Enniskeane and Brian Dillon's face Blackrock in the last four.

The Junior B championship semi-finals go ahead this weekend with Banteer meeting Glen Rovers' second string and Cobh facing either Ballincollig or BallinacCarthy. Cobh were impressive in taking the Junior B league.

Banteer were impressive in annexing the Junior C title last season following their acquisition of players from Castlemagner the side has expanded and gained in confidence. In the Junior C championship its down to semi final stages where Millstreet will meet Kildorrey whilst Castlyons are in action against Ballyhea.

FIXTURES

Tonight: Intermediate championship: Brian Dillon's v Tractor, Castle Road, 6.30pm.

Tomorrow: Senior B championship semi-final: Éire Óg v Sarsfields, Castle Road, 6.45pm.

Junior C Championship semi-final: Ballyhea v Castlyons, Castle Road, 3.30pm.

Senior B Championship semi-final: Barryroe v Malloy, Castle Road, 12pm.

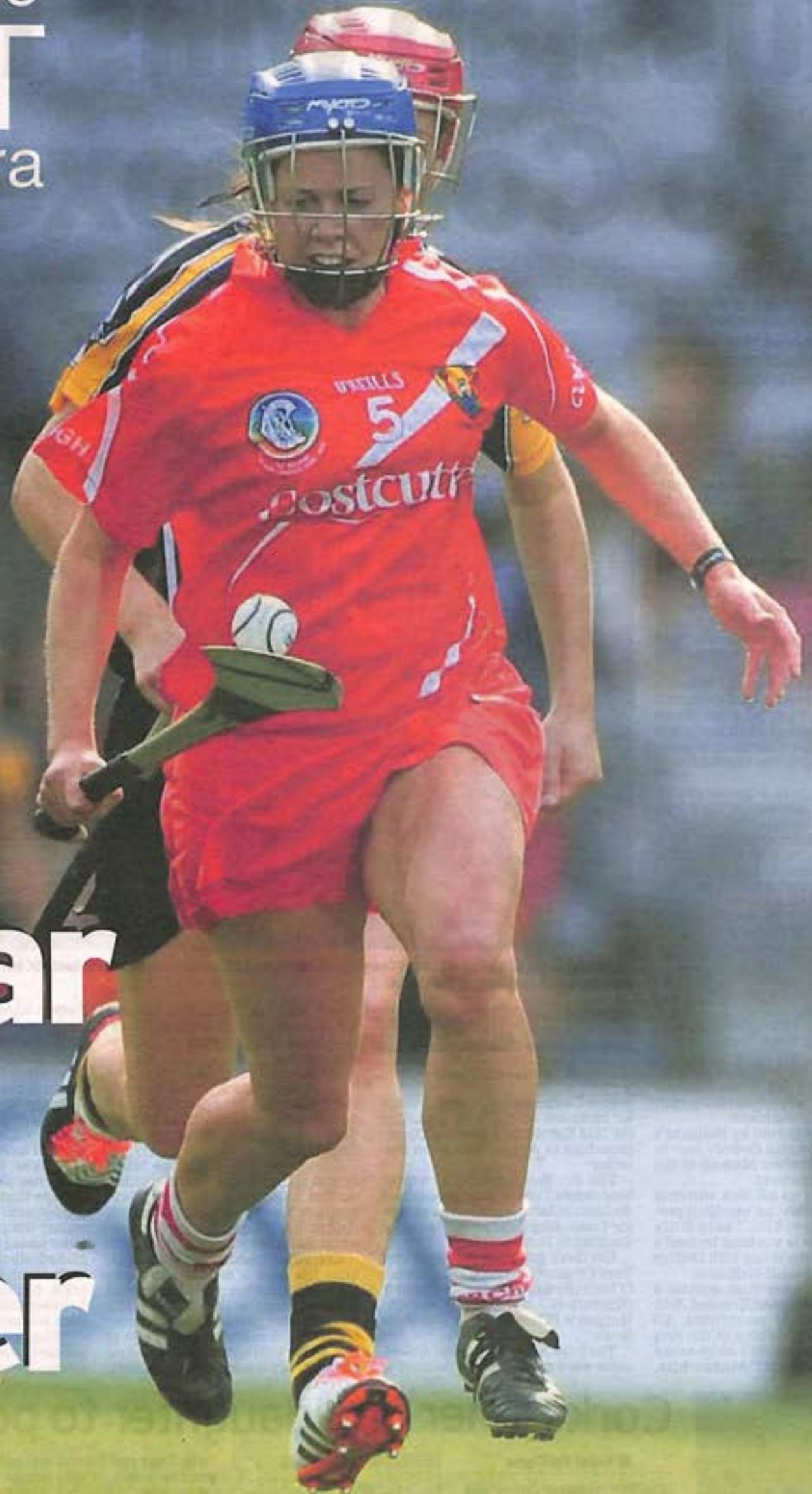
Junior B Championship semi-finals: Banteer v Glen Rovers, Castle Road, 6.30pm; Cobh v Ballincollig or BallinacCarthy.



Cork's Julia White goes past Kilkenny's Davina Tobin in the recent All-Ireland semi-final. White will be hoping to play her part as Cork seek to retain the O'Duffy Cup on Sunday. See P52-53 for more. Pic: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

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Monday Extra

Cork's Eimear O'Sullivan in the break during last year's All-Ireland Senior Camogie final at Croke Park.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Eimear eyes Croker glory

See page 5

Cork cope in face of losses

CAMOGIE

■ Éamonn Murphy

WHAT'S most remarkable about the Cork camogie side who this Sunday defend their All-Ireland crown is the turnover in the starting 15.

Gone from the team that got the better of Kilkenny 12 months ago are Joanne O'Callaghan, Anna Geary, Jennifer O'Leary and Angela Walsh, as well as Eimear O'Sullivan.

The only survivor in the squad is O'Sullivan, a colossus at wing-back against the Cats, who has been hampered by injury. She is still certain to feature this Sunday against Galway because she was an integral element to the 2014 All-Ireland triumph.

You would have expected her absence, on the back of four retirements, would have destabilised the team.

O'Callaghan was one of the best corner-backs in the game, while Geary excelled in shackling Katie Power on the biggest day of the year. The wristy O'Leary and athletic dual ace Walsh struck the vital goals in '14.

As well as the veterans' departure, Joanne Casey, who was introduced late in the All-Ireland final, and Denise Cronin, who featured heavily in the run-up to Croker, are also gone from the panel.

Huge credit therefore must go to the new faces in last month's semi-final demolition of Kilkenny: Leeann O'Sullivan (Glen), Meabh Cahalane (St Finbarr's), Hannah Looney (Killeagh), Orla Cronin (Enniskeane) and Amy O'Connor (St Vincent's).

There's no question the nous of bainisteoir Paudie Murray and his backroom team, in their fourth season at the helm, has helped steer them through potentially choppy waters. Their display in the league final loss to the Tribe in Thurles was pretty sloppy in parts, while Cork appeared to be limited by their sweeper structure.

You can be sure though, Murray and co were quite willing to lose in spring with their eyes on the business end of championship.

They were actually underdogs in the All-Ireland semi-final against a Kilkenny gunning for revenge. They had to line out the day after dual warriors Rena Buckley and Briega Corkery lined out in a gruelling football quarter-final against Galway. Yet at the final whistle were 4-10 to 1-10 in front.

While steering Cork to another decider, the same management was at the helm of the intermediates, who only just missed out in their All-Ireland semi against Kildare. Keeping both sides on the road this far brought intensity to training and a healthy battle for places. The blend of experience, Corkery and Buckley have 14 senior All-Irelands each and are still utterly motivated, and hungry rookies should prove decisive this Sunday.

Gemma will give



Cork's Gemma O'Connor celebrates after last year's All-Ireland camogie final win over Kilkenny at Croke Park.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Camogie



Barbara O'Connell

GEMMA O'CONNOR is very glad of the two constant things in her life right now.

Her family and her career in the army.

Both have helped her to become the great player she is and more importantly the great person she has become.

Right now one is helping the other, and by that I mean the training and conditioning Gemma receives in the army is helping her cope and deal with some very tough personal issues in her life. And that is her mum's illness.

Just over 12 months ago the dreaded 'C' word caught up with her mum, her rock, her inspiration.

Tonight her mum Geraldine is still battling bravely showing no sign of giving up or letting cancer win.

She is doing in real life what we see Gemma do on the pitch for the Barrs and Cork every time she picks up a hurley. She will do the same next Sunday and hopefully she will inspire Cork to retain their title by fighting for every ball, every inch and give every ounce of energy she has to help Cork win. Just the same way her mum is treating her battle with cancer.

We expect so much so often from star players like Gemma not knowing what is going on in their private lives.

We don't understand or forgive easily if we feel they left Cork down by playing poorly, but who are we to judge them when we are not walking in their shoes.

Yet Gemma won't use this personal tragedy as an excuse if Cork lose or she plays poorly. Gemma doesn't do excuses or self-pity.

It's not in her nature thanks to the advice and guidance she got from her mum growing up and her army training. Geraldine O'Connor, 55, of Ballypahan has been Gemma's rock all through her life and the former Glen player, who introduced Gemma to camogie from a very early age, is top of Gemma's mind right now.

"Being asked the question about my mam's illness is a sensitive one and one I find avoiding at times," O'Connor says. "But anybody that knows me in Cork know that I wear my heart on my sleeve and it's hard to hide the heart-break that I might be going through at the time."

"The dreaded 'C' word has hit my family in more ways than you can imagine and now it has hit the one person who means more to me than life itself. There were times when I didn't know if I could bring myself to training because, mentally and physically, I felt drained from the worry."

"My mam is such a fighter and at the moment she is certainly giving her all. She will never ever accept defeat especially during the toughest times. This though has always been her mantra and that's why I have become the passionate and driven player I am today." Having spent the past 11 years in the army, O'Connor is no stranger to hard work as she combines a busy career with life as a sports star.

"Army life is full of different opportunities and definitely is a job with a difference."

"Because of this I have travelled to Africa and the Middle East, worked alongside the Garda Síochána and Prison Service and trained and instructed on various courses like the recruits. Before all this though you are

it her all for Cork

How you to make banner headlines for final

CAMOGIE



Gemma O'Connor with her parents Geraldine and Donal and Joanne O'Callaghan and her parents after last year's All-Ireland camogie final win at Croke Park.

LIBERTY INSURANCE and the Camogie Association are calling on all clubs, schools and counties to bring their banner to Croke Park on All-Ireland Camogie finals day, next Sunday, September 13.

The best banner will win €1,000 for their camogie or GAA club, courtesy of Liberty Insurance.

If the Cork fans have to do is design a banner and the best one will be chosen on the day by a judging panel at half-time during the senior final against Galway with €1,000 going to their nominated camogie or GAA club!

During half time of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior final an announcement on the loud speaker will encourage supporters to raise their banners in the air.

Three judges will be on pitch and will select the banner that they view as most eye-catching, smartest or funny.

The prize is strictly non-transferable.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Tourism and Sport Michael Ring TD, recently launched Ireland's participation in the inaugural European Week of Sport.

Over 250 sport and physical activity events will take place across Ireland until September 13.

The Irish Sports Council is the national co-ordinator for the European Week of Sport in Ireland which aims to promote sport and physical activity across Europe.

One of the flagship events will be the Great Dublin Bike Ride (GDBR). Other flagship events include, Free Outdoor Adventure Days, All-Ireland Camogie Championships Final, All-Ireland Ladies Football Final, An Post Rebel Tour of Cork, Parkrun events and the Tipperary Mini Marathon.



Cork camogie star and Gemma O'Connor promoting the WPGA's 'Behind the Player' campaign.

put through a few gruelling tests and training regimes.

"It is something I have always relished and always found that I like to be pushed to the limits.

"Not only the physical but the mental pressure you endure as a soldier can only but stand to you on the camogie field.

"Having that courage to keep going to the bitter end, no matter what the situation is an advantage to any sports person. Especially as a woman."

Next Sunday, Cork will take on Galway who have already beaten Cork twice this year and O'Connor knows this will be a tough task ahead but she

believes it's one they are now well prepared for.

"Galway have beaten us twice already and I wouldn't say we are worried but, sure, we are very much aware of the threat Galway pose.

"They are the form team at present and certainly they would feel that this is their All-Ireland for the taking.

"We are in a different place at the moment and we have grown throughout the championship and improved in each game. We are looking for the complete performance and we haven't managed it yet this year but like any game we will certainly look to grind out the right result.

"There is a lot of talk that we are a team in transition, missing so many of last year's panel. While that is true, we are a team who can adapt and we have been doing that quite well throughout this year's campaign."

Speaking to O'Connor about commitment we can't but mention dual players Briega Corkery and Rena Buckley and for O'Connor they are two exceptional women.

"Briega and Rena are so unique. They have that "just put the head down and do it" attitude. Some people might say they are mad to do what they do. Go from work to camogie training then the following day do the same but

Galway have beaten us twice already and I wouldn't say we are worried but, sure, we are very much aware of the threat Galway pose"

this time it's football training.

"At the weekends they would have either a camogie or football match and as you all know sometimes both games even on the same day. Multiply that by club level and there isn't even enough days in the week for it. This is done all year every year and while I think that maybe it's too much or a sign of madness, you would have to take your hat off for the dedication and commitment these girls give. It's second to none and they have the accolades to prove it. Not only that, but they are driven as ever and they both are amazing athletes and I have no doubt they will play a huge factor in the result on Sunday."



Minister for Tourism and Sport Michael Ring launched Ireland's participation in the inaugural European Week of Sport.



Eimear O'Sullivan is eager for a return to action in the All-Ireland senior camogie final next Sunday after being out with injury.

EIMEAR O'SULLIVAN knows how lucky she is to be looking forward to another All-Ireland senior camogie final.

O'Sullivan missed out on the quarter-final against Tipperary and the semi-final versus Kilkenny after what initially looked like an innocent knee injury at training.

She is eager and ready for action and looking ahead to Sunday's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie final against Galway.

Having come on as a substitute against Kilkenny, she came through a tough championship game with her club last week when they narrowly lost out to Ballincollig in a thrilling clash, and with the injury cleared up it's all systems go for O'Sullivan.

"At this stage I have four weeks training under my belt and hopefully I am looking forward to featuring at some stage of the final and while the team has not been announced yet, I will be ready if needed," she said.

With three senior and a senior B All-Ireland medal already safely tucked away at home, Eimear is now a mature member of the panel and is one of the players guiding the younger panel members and this is something she enjoys.

"I know how hard it is to come into a team as a young player, this year we have a lot of new players on the panel and they have all fitted in really well to the group."

Having come through the ranks from underage level with her beloved Ballinhassig, she also lined out with the Cork Institute of Technology where she completed a degree in Accounting and won an Ashbourne Shield medal.

Eimear has been holding a hurley in her hand for as long as she can remember and this comes as no surprise given that the hurleys were

O'Sullivan is ready and willing

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

made in the O'Sullivan back garden out in Briar Hill where father Johnny was always busy cutting and shaping sticks for a legion of hurlers and camogie players.

The O'Sullivan family are steeped in GAA tradition, father Johnny hurled with his native Ballypheane at junior level before lining out at senior level for Youghal, the parish where his late father Jack was born.

He later returned to lead Ballypheane to a city junior championship title.

On putting down roots in Briar

Hill, Johnny immersed himself in the Ballinhassig club as did his wife Nora (nee Duff) and as their sons and daughters began to play with the local club, it was inevitable that he would get involved. Having served in various roles John is currently the club secretary.

Hurling and camogie is a way of life for the family, John jnr., Brian, Kevin, Declan and Paul all hurled with the club as did sisters Linda and Jennifer and now the baby of the family is a leading light in the Cork camogie set-up and a big contingent of family will, as always, converge on Croke Park.

Eimear said: "I suppose yes, they will all be heading up for the day."

Last year was a dream season for Eimear, who gave a terrific display in the final which led to her being

named player of the match, something she was hugely honoured to receive. But that is forgotten now as she bids to make it back onto the starting 15 for Sunday's final.

"Last year is gone and forgotten we must now give it our all to retain the title but we are in good shape and ready to go."

Eimear won her first All-Ireland medal against Sunday's opposition in 2008 and knows them well.

"Galway will be very strong we saw that already when they beat us in the earlier round of this championship and in the league final."

"But we will give it our very best shot they are in final the same as us and it is all about how we play on the day."

■ Tomorrow Barbara O'Connell talks to Gemma O'Connor.

Kilkenny: Galway boss Ward 'eats, sleeps, drinks camogie'



Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie final
Cork v Galway

Sunday: Croke Park, 4pm
Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare)
TV: RTE Two
Bet: Cork 10/11, Galway 11/10,
Draw 15/2

Daragh Ó Conchúir



Galway captain, Niamh Kilkenny has described All-Ireland-winning manager Tony Ward as a man who "eats, sleeps, drinks camogie".

Ward was in charge when the Tribeswomen won their first All-Ireland senior camogie title in 1996 and at the filler once more when the long gap was bridged in 2013.

The Sarsfields clubman remains at

the helm and has brought the westerners back to the Liberty Insurance final once more.

"He has a fantastic record," enthused Kilkenny. "He just loves camogie. He'd be on the phone to you 24 hours a day if you let him. He's always making sure we have everything and we're well looked after. He eats, sleeps, drinks camogie. He's a fantastic manager."

Ward was also in charge of the intermediate team that made it a tremendous double two years ago at Croke Park.

"To win both that day was a massive boost. That (intermediate) success has brought on the current team. There are a lot of girls on the senior team now that were successful with the intermediates that day."

"We were so long waiting for it and it definitely brought on camogie a massive amount in Galway."

Galway have had a huge turnover since 2013 but so too have Cork, with the likes of Joanne O'Callaghan, Angela Walsh, Anna Geary, Jenny O'Leary and Sara Hayes no longer part of their

Hawk-Eye will reveal fastest sliotar speed queen

Sports science will be to the fore in Sunday's All-Ireland camogie finals, with the quest to find who has the fastest strike of the sliotar.

The Camogie Association will use exclusive ball speed data available to its sponsors, Liberty Insurance — who launched the technology last year for All-Ireland hurling championship matches in Croke Park — for Sunday's All-Ireland finals.

The fastest ball speed recorded was a strike by Kilkenny's TJ Reid in the 2014 All-Ireland hurling semi-final against Limerick, when a speed of 181.1kph was measured.

Just a few months after that, the fastest recorded serve in women's tennis was registered at 210.8 km/h by Germany's Sabine Lisicki, so it will be interesting to note the speed of some of camogie's

leading stars on Sunday. The speed of the sliotar will be measured using Hawk-Eye technology, and is based on shot attempts above the crossbar and within four metres of the uprights. It detects points only, using eight high speed cameras, with both ball and posts tracked in real time.

Meanwhile, Ray Kelly from Kildare will take charge of the senior final between Cork and Galway. Jenny Byrne (Dublin) will oversee the intermediate final between Waterford and Kildare, and Grainne Coulter (Down) will referee the junior final between Laois and Roscommon. In the intermediate final, Waterford and Kildare will be vying for a potential double, as both are also contesting the All-Ireland intermediate football final on September 27.

— Mary White

tastic player. It just shows the character of Cork. They have this never-say-die attitude.

"They work so hard on and off the ball and it just proves it again that they're back in an All-Ireland final."

"We had them in the league final and the first round of the championship. Both games were extremely tight. We were up a good few points at half time in the league final and Cork came back again within three."

"In the first round of the championship it was just two points near the end that sealed victory for us."

"We know a lot about them and it will obviously give them great motivation going into the game that we have beaten them twice already and they'll probably want to get one back on us."

"We're under no illusions. It's going to be an extremely tough game but it's a challenge that we're looking forward to."

There will be no fear of any complacency in the Galway camp despite the two wins. The five-point aggregate margin from two games is good enough rea-

squad. Kilkenny admits: "It's hard when they've a lot of key players that

retired. Jenny O'Leary is definitely one that stands out in my mind. She's a fan-

Cork bid to retain O'Duffy Cup

Finbarr McCarthy

The fact that Cork are actually back in the camogie All-Ireland Final is testimony to the work of the players and the backroom team, given the transformation that the team has undergone since last year's final.

No fewer than five players, who were central to the win over Kilkenny, are no longer involved for a variety of reasons. It says a lot for the character of the present group, a point not lost on dual star Rena Buckley.

"It's a lot of players, and very good players at that, to be without. But you just get on with it and move on, that's what happens with all teams. But, to be fair, the new players have been brilliant all season."

The team have been a bit inconsistent but yet reached the finals of the three competitions that they have entered this season, winning one and losing one. The latter, ironically, was to Galway in the league final, this Sunday's opponents.

As for the league decider, Rena makes an interesting point, saying: "We were very poor in the first half and allowed Galway to build up a good lead, we improved in the second half but gave ourselves too much ground to make up; that's something we cannot afford to do on Sunday."

September is, as ever, a busy month for Rena as she gets ready for the two finals - the Ladies Football decider is in three weeks' time - but the Inniscarra player is unfazed by the demanding schedule. "At this



Cork players, including captain Ashling Thompson, celebrate after beating Kilkenny in the Liberty Insurance All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Semi-Final. PHOTO: SAM BARNES

stage, I am well used to it, it takes a bit longer to adjust back to camogie after football but it's OK and look, this is the time of the year to be playing in the big games and I'm really looking forward to both matches."

Gemma O'Connor is another of the more experienced players and, like Rena, she cannot wait for Sunday: "It's the place every camogie player wishes to be and I would not swap it with anyone."

It's been a strange campaign for the team and Gemma concedes they were inconsistent: "That's true, but at the end of the day the objective was to get out of the group, we were always confident of doing that, irrespective of what position we came in."

"We did get to the League final, which was good considering we were developing a new team,

but I think the win over Tipperary showed how far we had come since losing that final (league)."

The win in the Quarter-Final of the Championship against Tipperary, and in Thurles let it be said, sent out a clear signal that the champions were back on track.

"We started badly but once we got the first goal we grew in confidence and won well in the end," says Gemma.

Next up were Kilkenny, the team they defeated in last year's decider, and many people's favourites to win this year's title; but Cork left no one in any doubt that their crown was not going to be surrendered easily.

It was without doubt their best display, Gemma agrees: "No question about that, we had a slow start but once we settled there was only going to be

one winner. We were very determined we would win and win in style."

As Gemma prepares for what will be her 11th final, she agrees with Rena about denying Galway a good start. "They are a very good team, they were champions in 2013, so we know we face a very tough task and we must impose ourselves on the game from the very start, but I am confident we can do that because we are coming good at the right time."

For Gemma, there is added motivation as her mother Ger, herself a former player with Glen Rovers, is having her own battle with cancer, but the army officer won't use that as an excuse. "It has been tough but she is fighting hard and that is exactly what I will be doing on Sunday - and that's what she would want me to do."

The key to Sunday is how Cork's new players will cope with the occasion that is All-Ireland Final day, and this is where the experienced members will be of immense help - and that is crucial.

For Leanne O'Sullivan, Orla Cronin, Meave Cahalane, Hannah Looney and Amy O'Connor, this represents the biggest day in their Cork careers. To date, they have passed all the tests and if they repeat their form of the earlier rounds, the champions need have no fear of Galway.

Throw in the likes of Brieger Corkery, Aoife Murray, Orla Cotter, the Mackey sisters, Catriona and Pamela, Laura Treacy, along with team captain Ashling Thompson, and it's a clear indication of how well the new, and the not so new, players have

blended into a formidable team.

Galway, of course, will face the game in a confident mood; Their two wins over Cork are a factor and in Tony Ward they have a manager who is only too well aware of what is required to win on All-Ireland Sunday.

The League champions have in Niamh Kilkenny, Susan Earner, Emma Kilkelly, Niamh McGrath, Molly Dunne and Ashling O'Reilly, some very good players and several were on the winning team in 2013, only their second-ever title, and they will be keen to complete a league and championship double.

Cork's Julia White, like her colleagues, is well aware of the threat that Galway present: "It's a huge challenge for us but one we are really looking forward to, we have trained hard all year, we fell short in the league final, but we are, I think, a better team right now."

Julia also makes the point that the team holiday in April was a help, apart from the fact that they had to trek to Derry shortly after their arrival back.

"We had great craic and we bonded well out there, and while we had a patchy group phase, we always felt we would come good. The win over Kilkenny in the semi-final was our best display all year, now one more and we will retain our title; that's the plan anyway."

Cork, to some, may be surprise finalists but there is quality in every line. That, coupled with the desire to make it back-to-back wins, will make them very hard to beat and for that I expect the O'Duffy Cup will be in the South Mall on Monday night.



Orla Cotter will be a key player for Cork when they play Galway on Sunday in the All-Ireland Final. PHOTO: SAM BARNES



Sport is compiled by LOUISE CASHELL

If you have any comments on SPORT or if you would like a topic covered email: lcashell@corkindependent.com



Niamh Kilkenny: Intermediate success has brought on the current team.

son for that. Cork's All-Ireland final record another.

"You have to take every game individually. It's another game for us to play. It doesn't become an All-Ireland final until the final whistle is blown. You have to keep focused on the task at hand."



Galway's Niamh Kilkenny and her Cork counterpart Ashling Thompson at the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Finals Captains Day. The Camogie Association will use Hawk-Eye for the first time at Croke Park on Sunday when Cork will be bidding to retain their crown and equal Dublin's record of 25 senior All-Ireland titles. Full details on the three finals are available on www.camogie.ie #supportersport CATHAL NOONAN / INPHO

These camogie star twins couldn't imagine life without each other

Cork camogie stars, twin sisters Pamela and Katrina Mackey speak to Mary White about growing up and their special bond, ahead of this weekend's All Ireland final

TWINS Pamela and Katrina Mackey will line out in Sunday's Senior All-Ireland Camogie final in Croke Park, and they'll have each other's backs.

For the last 23 years they've had each other's backs, and nothing will ever change that.

From Douglas, the Mackeys are the youngest of four. Their older sisters Caroline (29) and Jessica (26) aren't as sporty as they, but none-the-less their sisters will be in Dublin along with their mother, Mary, roaring on Cork against Galway as the Rebels go for two in-a-row.

Should they win, there's a holiday to South Africa to look forward to with their mother, Mary, in November.

Sadly, their father, John, passed away in 2007 from cancer, but the support from their mother and sisters has inspired Pamela and Katrina to become a duo of rising stars in the modern game.

"Dad passed away when we were aged 15 from stomach cancer," reveals Katrina.

"It was sudden enough so it was hard to take at that age because we'd just done our Junior Cert. He was sick for a while, but he was stubborn so he was treating himself. He gave in eventually and went to the doctor and was diagnosed at the end of August. In September, he went into hospital and passed away at the end of October, so it was fast enough in the end.

"He'd played a little bit of hurling for Blackrock, but the sportiness probably comes from our grandfather, William Higgins from Glasheen, who actually played soccer for Ireland back in the day."

"We've always been sporty I suppose," adds Pamela.

"Mam just loves coming to watch our matches, and although our parents never really played a lot themselves, they always supported us, as have our sisters."

Their parents met in a dance hall in Crosshaven, and it was in 1992 that the twins were born.

From a young age, it was obvious that the shy and reserved double team adored being in each other's company. Not only that, but they were obsessed with hurling and camogie, and would be spotted with hurleys in hand wherever they went.

"Our mam brought us down to the street leagues in Douglas to play against the boys every Saturday morning. She could tell we could play and see there was something there I suppose," says Pamela.

"We were always practising and we were obsessed with it, and brought our hurleys absolutely everywhere," Katrina smiles.

Both supping on a latte, it's obvious the Mackey sisters are a kind-spirited force, who love nothing other than to be in each other's company.

Growing up they were much more alike than they are now, and every now and then played pranks on their primary school teachers by swapping seats in the classroom. The only way to tell they were different was with what hand they wrote with - Katrina her left, and Pamela her right.

Other than those antics, there wasn't much time for messing, with study and sport to the fore.

They would get the exact same Junior Cert results - six As and five Bs - while attending Christ King Secondary School in the city, but the Leaving Cert is a different tale.

"I was disgusted! She got 20 points more than me!" Pamela laughs.

"Yeah, I got 515. Pamela was in the A class, and I was in the 'high B' class!" Katrina sheepishly admits.

"I got 495... I didn't even break the 500 mark!" Both attended UCC to study Chemistry with Forensics, and are now entering their second year of their PhDs. But, despite what some people think, it's not a case of copycat.

"We just have the same interests. I wouldn't do something just because Pamela was doing it," Katrina admits.

"Yeah, we picked the same course in college because we were always interested in crime, and that's it. We obviously like each other's company but we are our own person at the end of the day."

"I hate when people say we're too close and that we're like the same person, because we're individuals in our own right," says Katrina.

"That gets on my nerves too. Or, if someone says 'ye're always together' or 'ye've to get away from each other'. But, it's different for twins and people just don't get it."

"You'd like for people to see us as individuals," Katrina adds.

"But, sport is definitely our life too. Whether it's playing matches, going to training or watching games, it's all we do. We might go to the beach to chill-out, but other than that it's definitely all sport."

"We might go to the cinema the odd time, but we love taking our two Jack Russells for walks," Pamela says.

"They're called Joey and Charlie. Charlie is the youngest and he's a pest! He's obsessed with food and just wants attention 24/7. He's like a child really."

"Yeah, but it's really cute!" Pamela reminds

"I hate when people say we're too close and that we're like the same person, because we're individuals in our own right."

her sister.

Before every game, they take Joey and Charlie for a walk down to Crosshaven, and they'll complete the same routine again this week.

Both are All-Star winners, Katrina as a forward and Pamela as a back, but to have each other on the team has without question improved their games.

"We'd be very critical of ourselves..." admits Pamela.

"Yeah, we would be, and I suppose we'd criticise ourselves first rather than each other."

"It's more advice really that we'd give each other. And, besides, I'd never criticise Katrina because she'd probably eat me without salt!" laughs Pamela.

"We'd be tough on ourselves really if we didn't play to our potential. I was worse, but I think I'm after getting better," Katrina reveals.

"Oh it's the worst feeling ever... I'd be cranky after for a week!"

"Yeah, she would be! Pamela's definitely the crankier of the two of us!" Katrina adds with a chuckle.

But, what is it that makes their relationship so special?

"She's always there," says Pamela, "You always have somebody. You always have your sister and sometimes you'd be dependent on her, but it's nice having her there."

Katrina sips on her latte and nods in agreement.

"I just couldn't imagine life without Pamela really..."



AMBITIONS: Pamela and Katrina Mackey when they were younger, dressed in the county colours. The sisters line out in the Senior Camogie All-Ireland final on Sunday, at 4pm against Galway in Croke Park. Live on RTÉ 1.



PAMELA: FACT-FILE

Personality: Competitive, hard-working, ambitious
Favourite colour: Purple
Favourite band: Bruce Springsteen
Best film ever: The Godfather
Most admired sportsperson: Usain Bolt
Favourite food: Fish
Pet hate: Messy people
You'd do 10 laps to avoid: Cutting the grass!
Favourite twin thing to do: Walk our two dogs in Crosshaven together.



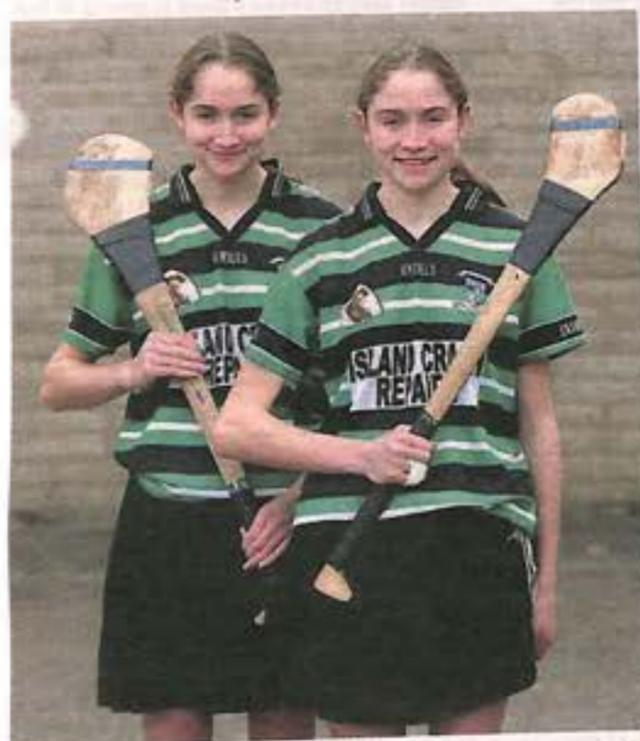
KATRINA: FACT-FILE

Personality: Ambitious, determined and fast
Favourite colour: Orange
Favourite band: Bruce Springsteen, Simon & Garfunkel, Bob Dylan
Best film ever: The Godfather
Most admired sportsperson: Ronan O'Gara
Favourite food: Chicken korma or fish
Pet hate: Loud people and gardening
You'd do 10 laps to avoid: Cleaning out the dishwasher!
Favourite twin thing to do: Cook together.

Ashbourne Cup Centenary Celebration - 100 Bliain!



WALKIES: Before every game, the twins take their Jack Russells Joey and Charlie for a walk down to Crosshaven, and they'll complete the routine again this week ahead of the All Ireland camogie final. Picture: Larry Cummins.



Left: Pamela and Katrina Mackey dressed in their club colours, the duo play for Douglas GAA. **Right,** the pair who are currently studying PhDs, were conferred with their BSc (Chemistry with Forensic Science) at UCC last year. Pictures: Eddie O'Hare and Denis Minihane

TO MARK the centenary year of the Ashbourne Cup an evening of celebration was held in Croke Park Stadium on Saturday, September 12th - the eve of the 2015 Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championship Finals.

To celebrate this special occasion a celebratory Mass as well as a banquet dinner to allow all in attendance to catch up and to reminisce on the history of the great competition that is the Ashbourne Cup.

Many involved in the Ashbourne Cup from over the years, as well as the wider Camogie community, were in attendance on the night, which was kindly organised by Brídín and Aidan Ó Maolagáin, who are themselves steeped in the Ashbourne Cup tradition.

The centenary edition of the Ashbourne Cup was held in DCU in February, and Waterford IT were the eventual winners in another fantastic tournament.

• Former Camogie Association President Mary Moran has written and published '100 Years of Ashbourne Cup'. This documents the games and personalities involved over the past century and copies are available by emailing marymoran@iol.ie

White eyes dream finale for Rebels



Camogie

Rory Noonan

SHE may not be old in years, but Julia White is now one of the most experienced players in the Cork camogie squad.

The 24-year-old Douglas player has seen her ups and downs with her county and will be hoping that it will be another high against Galway on Sunday.

Having already lost to the Tribeswomen this year, she doesn't want to experience that feeling again come 5.30pm on Sunday.

"This is where all players want to be at this time of the year, this is why you go training back in October or November and put in the hard slog through the winter months in the horrible weather, so yeah we are delighted to be in the final on Sunday.

"We have had lots of ups and downs this season on our way back to the final and Galway have had two good wins over us. They beat us in our two meetings to date, (league final and round-robin stage of All-Ireland qualifiers), and they will have taken an awful lot from those wins.

"But we were hurt by those losses and hopefully now we can get one back on them. But on the other side they know now they can beat us and will go in confident they can make it three wins over us this year.

"They are an experienced side and mentally they are tough, so it's going to be difficult for us and we are under no illusions of the challenge we face.

"Even though we are the defending champions we will be considered underdogs by many and I can understand that, as you have to take each season as it comes and based on our season then yeah, I can see why that would be the case.



Julia White in action for Cork against Kilkenny's Davina Tobin in the All-Ireland semi-final in Walsh Park, Waterford. Picture credit: Sam Barnes / SPORTSFILE

"We are a team in transition, having lost a number of players who started in last year's final, with nine of the side that started that final, starting against Galway in the league decider this year. It has been tough getting used to them not being around, but training has been going well lately and hopefully we are peaking at the right time.

"Because of those changes a lot of people were writing us off before the league or championship even started and that was added to when they looked at our form overall in the round-robin stage of the All-Ireland series.

"But we have concentrated on ourselves and that's all you can do really and with a lot of hard work, we are back to defend our title.

"Looking at the league final, Galway played better than us over the 60 minutes, but we can take a lot from the second half when we came back at them and had we another few minutes, then God only knows what

might have happened.

"But at the same time we wouldn't be looking at two many positives from that game. It showed how dangerous Galway forwards can be and how strong a team they are. We can take heart from the way we responded in the second half and took the game to them.

"We were able to get the scores when we put the pressure on and we will look on that as a positive from that game. Their half-back line is very strong and looking at them they are definitely a side you wouldn't want to be falling behind to.

"Once they get in front, they can defend superbly and make it difficult to break them down, so a good start is going to be vital for us. This is something we haven't been lucky enough to have in a few matches, so that's something we have been working on.

"We're not always going to be able to launch this massive attack and come from behind and as you saw in the league final we ran out of time



Julia White in action during the camogie league final against Wexford.

Picture: Brendan Moran /Sportsfile

and lost. I think Galway will be able to hold on if they get in front, so it's vital we don't let them get out in front of us."

Looking at their semi-final clash with Kilkenny, again it was a game that many felt Cork wouldn't win, but it also had a little bit of personal significance for Julia.

"Yea, a lot of people were surprised at the huge score we put up, but again we can only concentrate on ourselves and not worry about anyone else. When you look at the performance we got a few goals, (four), but there wasn't a lot when it came to the points, so on another day you mightn't be lucky enough to get those goals."

Julia has recently taken up a job at Loreto College in Kilkenny, as a PE and chemistry teacher, getting the job before the game and starting work within a few days of beating them.

"It was kind of strange as the pupils didn't really know who I was and

that I played for Cork. One of their players, Aine Connery, is teaching there as well so it was a bit awkward for a day or two, but they are all really nice.

"It's a big camogie school so I am looking forward to getting involved in that side of things over the coming year. The students aren't really aware and I haven't made them aware that I play for Cork as yet.

"But they had a jersey day ahead of the All-Ireland men's final and I wore my Cork jersey so there was a few questions after that. They are obsessed with camogie and hurling up there and it's a good place to be, so I am looking forward to the challenges that will bring for me personally." But for now, Julia's concentration is on Sunday and hopefully bring the O'Duffy Cup back to Cork for another year and adding to an already impressive medal haul.

Don't miss our eight page All-Ireland senior camogie preview special in Friday's Evening Echo.

Mackey reveals 'horrendous' Spike Island session brought Rebels

Cork camogie star Katrina Mackey grimaces when she recalls the squad's overnight bonding session on Spike Island this summer.

Last year, coach Paudi Murray organised an adventure training day trip for his panel, but given the exodus of so many key veterans, a longer stint was required to help bridge the gap between his new recruits and the remaining stalwarts from the 2014 All-Ireland-winning team. And so they headed off into the darkness.

"It was horrendous," the Douglas forward laughs. "For the first hour they let us walk around and have a cup of tea. I suppose it was luring us into a false sense of security."

"But, then we had to trek around the island carrying rifles and sacks with



Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie final
Cork v Galway

Sunday: Croke Park, 4pm
Referee: TBC
TV: RTÉ Two
Bet: Cork 10/11 Galway 11/10
Draw 15/2

Mary White



rocks in them, weighing nearly 50kgs on our backs. We only had military ration

packs, which we had to cook ourselves, and it was freezing in the tent.

"I'd seven jackets on and I still couldn't get warm. But the hard work stood to us. There's such a gap in age between the older and younger girls, that trip definitely helped bring us together as a team."

Last year, Katrina and her twin sister, Pamela, would have been some of the youngest players in the squad, but now they're veterans at just 23 years of age, after the departure of Joanne Browne, Jennifer O'Leary, Angela Walsh, Annie Geary and Sara Hayes.

"Their absence is huge," says Mackey of the exodus. "They're irreplaceable. Players had to step up then because there was no option but to. The past year I think myself and Pamela

have become leaders. It's funny because we were one of the youngest 12 months ago, but that tells you a lot about the transition."

Twice Cork have played, and lost to, their All-Ireland final opponents Galway this year, but Mackey believes things have changed since that last defeat.

"Losing to them in the League final was probably a lack of experience. They're quite strong and physical, and we should have beaten them in the championship game. We found out at breakfast that Eimear O'Sullivan was out with a knee injury and I think her absence and experience threw us a little bit."

"But, with every game the younger players who have come onto the squad

are playing better, and you could see that in the semi-final against Kilkenny," added the chemistry and forensics graduate.

Katrina's twin, Pamela, was named MVP in the semi-final for her defensive display against the Cats, but for her it was the collective effort which was a defining moment in the season.

"It was a massive win," admits Pamela. We were the underdogs going into that, no doubt, because Kilkenny had been trashing everyone in the group stage. But, our workrate won it.

"Their forwards are really skilful and were doing damage in the first half, but mentally we were tougher and that boiled down to how hard everyone worked in the second half."

Both have learned to relax in the lead

Evening Echo Cork Sports World

als Captain's Day in Croke Park ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland final were Cork's Ashling Thompson and Galway's Niamh Kilkenny. Picture: Cathal Noonan

Thompson gunning for Galway

ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE FINAL COUNTDOWN: P2-6

els together

up to the All-Ireland final, but on the day itself they'll use a trick or two from sports psychologist Canice Kennedy to focus them further.

"Canice did some work with us this year and last, and I'll read through his stuff the night before the game," says Katrina.

"It's just to try do little things to focus the mind during the warm-up, like counting the number of passes you give or make, and just to really hone in on something specific so that you're not getting overawed by what's going on. Everyone's bought into it, so hopefully we can get the job done against Galway."

Meanwhile the Camogie Association has confirmed that Hawk-Eye will be in use at Sunday's All-Ireland finals.



Women deserve better than this

CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

ANOTHER issue that Ashling, in a different way, feels strongly about is how women are treated compared to men within the GAA set-up.

"I feel that camogie and ladies footballers don't get the recognition that they deserve compared to the men.

"Look at the Cork ladies footballers, they are going for their 10th All-Ireland title in 11 years and we are going for our fifth in 10 years.

"When you tell people outside the county about these achievements they can't believe what we have done and nobody has a track record like that. If that was the men it would be a massive deal, there would be statues up of them.

"So yea, I don't feel we get the recognition we deserve, but at the same time the players themselves know what they achieved, I know myself what I have achieved and that's the more important thing.

"When you look at the way the lads are looked after gear-wise etc with Cork then yea of course it would be nice if the women were looked after in the same way, considering the success of both over the last 10 years or so.

Struggling

"It's fair to say they are rugging big-time and we are carrying the county and we get little or no thanks for that. There is no credit given, only from family and friends and those that would be in the now.

"But I do think that the camogie association and the WPGA (Women's Gaelic Players Association) have stepped up in recent years and hopefully in time this will get better and change.

"But money is king and there is more money in the men's game than the women's and that will always be a problem.

"We have got to help ourselves too and avoid clashes with camogie and ladies football when dual players are concerned, no matter what county you are talking about, it wouldn't happen in the men's game.

"You wouldn't see them having to play two big games in a day, not to mind a weekend, and hopefully this is something they are going to sort from next year and things like that can only help as well."

With the big game just days away Ashling admits she has been visualising leading her side out at Croke Park since she was made captain and hopefully lifting the O'Duffy cup.

"We are really grateful to be in the final, but nobody wants to go there and lose and Galway will be feeling the same way and hopefully we can give on and retain our title," concluded Ashling.

Thompson: Icon



FAN-TASTIC: Cork captain Ashling Thompson surrounded by autograph hunters after a game.



A YEAR ago and not too many people outside of the world of camogie wouldn't have known too much about Cork camogie captain, Ashling Thompson.

But over the last year she had become an icon, to not just GAA players, but indeed many more as she has spoken out about her personal life and the demons she has faced and conquered.

Camogie has played its part in that and on Sunday, the Milford star will be hoping to lead her county to All-Ireland success for the second year-in-a-row.

The striking 25-year-old sports massage therapist is a far cry from where she was a few years ago and is now a far more relaxed and comfortable person within herself and fulfilled one of her dreams on Sunday as she leads the Rebels out for an All-Ireland final.

"It's a dream come true for me to lead Cork out on Sunday and I'm very thankful to my club for putting me forward as captain and to everyone who has supported me along the way. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I'm very grateful to have it.

"Galway have beaten us already twice this year and everyone is saying third time lucky for Cork, but those games were earlier on in the year. It was a poor performance from us in the league final, but even though we lost in the first game of the round robin stage of the championship I was happy with our performance overall.

"We lost out in the last five or 10 minutes, but as I said it was at the start of the year and I think we have come around a lot since then. We have dealt with those mistakes and have had to learn from them and I think we are in a much better place now.

"I have no doubt Galway will be too but I definitely think it will be a 50/50 game on Sunday.

"Looking back to the league final against them I think if we had another five minutes we might have beaten them. We were down so much at half time, having played poorly in the first half, we were much better in the second-half.

"We made a few changes, maybe we should have made them earlier, but we weren't really concentrating on winning the league, the All-Ireland has always been our aim, even though I like to win every game and competition that we play in.

"But we did learn a lot from that game, making switches earlier as well as changes to our tactics and the way we played and we have moved on. As I said we are in a better place now as a team.

"At the start of the year a lot of people were writing us off, with a number of departures from the squad, and that was a bit harsh on us, but at the same time you don't want to be blown up either.

"We didn't want people saying that Cork will push on and win again, especially with so many new people in the squad. But I like to be an underdog. I like to be vulnerable or people to see me as vulnerable.

"Because then they don't know what to expect. That's why this year I think it makes it that bit more special to go to Croke Park, because even in the semi-final we were completely written off against Kilkenny.

on and off field

Ashling speaks about blue days

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan



Cork captain Ashling Thompson: I like to be underdog because then teams don't know what to expect. We lost a lot of players, that's why this year it was special to get to Croke Park.



Ashling Thompson, captain, at the Cork senior camogie team open training night for supporters at Castle Road, ahead of the All-Ireland final against galway on Sunday. Picture: Denis Minihane

“Being captain is only a name or title they put on someone, it's more important that you are a leader, both on and off the pitch, and everyone has to be a leader, everyone in the squad and everyone who steps onto the pitch on the day of any game”

“We didn't stand a chance according to some and I suppose the hammering we gave them sent the message back loud and clear about us. But we are still going in as underdogs and I think it is a good way to go into it, with no pressure on our shoulders. There is no big talk about us and we like to keep a low profile.” Being captain can bring

Ashling it's only a title. “Being captain is only a name or title they put on someone, it's more important that you are a leader, both on and off the pitch, and everyone has to be a leader, everyone in the squad and everyone who steps onto the pitch on the day of any game. “They all have to take the armband and I certainly don't fall any more.”

If anything it has helped me to play better and I don't think I have ever played as well as I have this year with the county. I think it gave me a lot more confidence, I just feel more at home and if anything it has boosted me. “I suppose, like all players, I get nervous before a game but they are

boots and hurleys are sorted then I am ok. I don't think about the game too much on the day, until I have to, as it could suck your energy and you don't want that going into any big game. “I have been lucky enough to be there with my club as well and they are days that you never forget and hopefully we can make it another on Sunday. They were all different wins in their own ways, but it all adds up to the one thing and there is nothing to beat that feeling and it gets better every

THE last year has been one of a very personal journey for Ashling as well, one in which she has spoken out about her own personal experiences and how she hit rock bottom suffering from depression.

She was seriously hurt in a car crash in 2009 and in 2012 her boyfriend committed suicide.

Her struggles started when she suffered serious back and neck injuries in a car accident in 2009.

She had just finished her Leaving Cert and was starting college, and was also delighted as she made the Cork senior squad.

But a collision close to her family's home in the Newtownshandrum area left her unable to train and led to her dropping out of college and the downward spiral started from there.

But with the help of camogie and coach, Frank Flannery, she turned her life around to where she is today.

Since becoming Cork captain Ashling has courageously spoken out about these on how they effected her life and that it's ok not to feel ok and she has become both an inspiration and hero to many for what she has done.

“Some people would have known my story and I suppose a lot more know now, and I just wanted to see if I could help people. In the country we live in today there are a lot of issues with mental health and suicide and I think I was given this platform to speak out.

“I know what it feels like to be in a bad place, you know especially being young and feeling that way.

“I know plenty of teenagers and older, normal people, and I could actually count at least 10 people that I would know locally in my community that have committed suicide in the last five years.

“I just think that speaking out in a massive issue as well as people don't want to do that, they might be afraid or embarrassed. I just think that the more known I become the bigger the platform and the more people will hear the messages.

“I suppose players are seen by many as tough and strong people and wouldn't talk about something like this, but it's very important to speak out as younger people will listen to and look up to you as they mightn't listen to a regular person.

“I just think that it's really important to highlight it and to give people hope, not just players, but everyone and that's why I decided to speak out, just to let them know my story and as I said to get the message across that it's ok not to feel ok.

“And if you have mental health problems so what like, there is a solution to every problem and there's always a

Cremin is all fired up and is living the Croke dream



Sean Cremin playing a key role with the Cork camogie set-up.

AS with every successful team there is a backroom crew that are invaluable to its success.

Some are familiar names and relatively public figures, others are very much behind the scenes, their contribution equally as important.

Paudie Murray had to build a new management team this year as former successful members such as Matthew Twomey and Brian Barry stepped down. One of the phone calls he made was to St Finbarrs club mate Seán Cremin, who alongside Dr Wesley O'Brien is now hurling coach to the team while Kevin Mulcahy is the conditioning coach.

It was a phone call Seán won't forget. "I got a phone call from Paudie last January. I thought about it for a couple of days. I initially had reservations as being 26 years of age I wondered if I would have the respect of older players and mainly respect from players who had won an All-Ireland. I had very little experience of camogie at any level.

"I asked myself did I have enough knowledge of it, was I qualified enough to be involved with the All-Ireland champions and try and retain the title but in the end it was a no brainer. I know Paudie from the 'Barrs, he's a very capable individual, he knows his stuff, he's very professional and his thoughts would be very modern, so I couldn't turn down the opportunity".

Were his reservations well-founded?

"To be honest I was taken aback by how it was an automatic respect. There was no challenge for me to impose myself on the players. It was a smooth transition. I suppose the fact that Paudie was still there as manager, it was a continuation. It wasn't a brand new scene with all new faces. It was many of the same players, the same manager, Niall Collins was still there as stats guy. So was it a challenge? I would have to say no, the way it worked out. The players were very willing to listen".

It's unusual for someone so young to be so involved in coaching and cease playing himself, why is that? Seán laughs as he states:

"I suppose I wasn't very good if I'm being brutally honest. I never would have been the most athletic player. I got to the stage where I realised it was going to be junior B or nothing. I had a bit of success with the coaching; with UCC we won two All-Irelands with the Freshers B team and I started off coaching underage in the



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

DEBTS. WE WERE ALL UCC COUNTY a few years ago and I stayed involved with the minor teams the last couple of years and this year I became involved with the U16s".

The only male teacher in an all-girls secondary school, teaching PE and Irish in Mitchelstown Presentation Secondary School, Seán was instrumental in starting off camogie in the school for the first time last year. So it seems that coaching really is in his blood; "I did PE in college and when you get to a certain stage in that course you choose to major in coaching or health so I chose coaching".

It's been very much a team effort in getting to this All-Ireland final. It's been shoulders to the wheel between players, coaches and management. Galway stand in their way of glory and Seán feels it'll be a different sort of game to the semi-final win over Kilkenny.

"Galway will be well organised, well drilled, they'll be very well set up. I think it'll be a different challenge for us. It'll be a tougher game but we have to go in with the mentality that if we perform we'll give ourselves a chance; it's all you can do in a final".

Hurling is in Seán's blood; Cremin is a name synonymous with St Finbarrs, a long and proud family tradition with the club. Seán gives me some family stats:

"Grandad Donie has four senior medals from his playing days, then we had the golden era where my father John played from 1976 to 1990/1991 and played in 16 county finals and won 11 county medals which is very impressive by anyone's standards. I knew I wasn't going to live up to that so that was another reason for going down the coaching route", he laughs.

"One of my main passions is the Barrs. If it wasn't for the Barrs I wouldn't have got the opportunity to



Sean Cremin is looking forward to the big day out in Croke Park on Sunday.

be involved in any Cork teams and I've very grateful for that. I'd class myself as a Barrs man more than a Cork man. I place huge value on the club. We won under 16 Premier 2 this year and it's one of the most enjoyable wins I've ever had. To win any county with the 'Barrs is fantastic".

While the long term dream is to

coach the 'Barrs to a senior county title, walking out onto Croke Park next Sunday is the present dream. "To be honest it's what drove me on all summer. When we got to the business end of the season the thoughts of Croke Park became more of a reality. It's a day out I never thought I'd get the opportunity to have, so at the age

of 26 to be a coach and out on the pitch on All-Ireland final day; I know I won't be playing, it's about the players but still it's a great day".

All the Cremin family will be travelling; "It'll be a different family day out from our side of things. As I said I never really had big days as a player and my first big day out now will be in Croke Park".

We wish him all the best. Galway will be well organised. I think it'll be a different challenge for us. It'll be a tougher game but we have to go in with the mentality that if we perform we'll give ourselves a chance

“Grandad Donie has four senior medals and we had the golden era where my father John, from 1976 to 1991, played in 16 county finals and won 11 county medals, impressive by any standards.”

A labour of love for Glen Rovers star O'Sullivan



Hazel O'Regan and Leanne O'Sullivan with Aimee Desmond holding the O'Duffy Cup at the Mercy Hospital Foundation GAA Fun Walks presentation last year. Pic: Darragh Kane

As we chatted, her U10s were a huge priority for Cork camogie player Leanne O'Sullivan as she tried to juggle it so that she could make their training session and also ensure her own training for the All-Ireland final wasn't neglected as the countdown to Croke Park continued for the UCC student from Dublin Hill.

By normal standards, Leanne was a late starter to the game. Her own camogie career didn't take off until she was 12.

"My brothers played hurling and I used to puck around with them. All the girls going down playing a lot in my class were playing with Glen Rovers," Leanne O'Sullivan said.

"I knew about the club as they would call to the school and I said to my mum I would like to go down. I joined and straight away and I was made feel part of the group. I just fell in with the U12s and went training every Tuesday and Sunday with all the other girls.

"I just fell in love with it, the whole experience was wonderful."

It is to her credit that Leanne still diligently attends those Tuesday and Sunday sessions, only now instead of being the pupil, she is very much the master, as she helps guide another generation of Glen Rovers girls on what she hopes will be the same road as herself.

"I really enjoy coaching the young girls and I think it is only right we give something back, after all there were coaches there to help me when I came down and I really love training the young girls. They are wonderful and eager to listen and learn."

Club chairman Mary O'Brien has huge praise for Leanne.

"Leanne arrived and we could see immediately she was talented. She played her first game in March 2006 in an U12 B league and in no time at all she was established on our U13 and U14 teams. The club are so proud of her she is a wonderful girl and a great role model for our youngsters who all look up to her."

Leanne blossomed as part of a strong underage structure and was on the U16 side that captured the county league title, where she was named player of the match.

"It was great to win that league and we really were thrilled. Most of us had played U13 and U14 together."

At club level progress continued to

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

be made and it came as no surprise that the club captured the minor A team two years later.

"That was great, because we had a young team with a lot of U15 and U16s joining us, and weren't favourites at all but we put in a lot of work."

"I remember one night when Kelly Newman, one of our selectors was taking the training session and she had just had an operation for a cruciate injury and the rain was coming down in torrents, but she was out there, ready for training."

"That motivated us to go out onto that pitch and train. I think that was the night that drove us all on."

At inter-county level Leanne didn't enjoy much success despite lining out with the Cork Colleges U14 and Cork U16s and minors.

Her first medal was with the Cork Junior side as a 17-year-old.

"The junior competition was only one game in Munster."

"I suppose the experience of that made me want more."

Thrilled

Leanne joined the Cork intermediate and senior squads in 2013 and was thrilled to be part of the Cork senior panel that won the national league in 2013, but the big highlight came in 2014 when as a member of the intermediate team she won a national league division 2 medal.

"That was a great thrill because nobody gave us a chance. Down were hot favourites but we gave it everything to win the title and the feeling after the game was brilliant, to go on then and be part of the senior panel that won the All-Ireland was the icing on the cake really."

Last September it was off to UCC for Leanne and another new experience as she began colleges camogie.

"Colleges camogie is so different because you get to meet different players. Again it was great to actually play with players such as Joanne Casey and the Mackeys at a different level. I was sub with Cork seniors but to get to play alongside them was brilliant and another step up the ladder for me. We won the



Cork's Leanne O'Sullivan beats Kilkenny's Meighean Farrell to the sliotar in a league clash at the Mardyke. Picture: Caroline Quinn

Purcell Cup, so it was some consolation for the hard winter training."

Despite having lots of success at club level Leanne's biggest thrill was helping her club go back up senior.

"My biggest thrill has to be winning the 2013 Senior B county and for us to be back up senior. When I joined the senior team the older players used tell us how hard it had

been for them battling away for years from underage to senior B trying to win something."

Leanne has huge support on the home front. Mum Anne is a member of the club and helps with first aid whilst Dad Bill and older brothers Jason, Keith and Kevin all support her.

Leanne had huge praise for her

club who make it very easy for herself Jenifer Hosford and Lauren Callanan to be part of the Cork senior set up. "This year there are three of us on the Cork senior panel and it is great that Lauren and Jennifer are there with me."

"Ger Riordan, Sandie Fitzgibbon and Deirdre Sutton have been there themselves and know what we have to do, they don't put any pressure on us at all at club level and it is great to have that support. The club girls are fantastic and even when we are not training we drop down still to the field to be around the gang."

"That is what it is all about: the girls you come up the ranks with."

“The club girls are fantastic and even when we are not training we drop down still to the field to be around the gang”



Camogie

Rory Noonan

'This is what you dream about'

RELAXING at Midleton GAA clubhouse, after a training session and a meet the fans morning, Laura Treacy was looking forward to Sunday. And why wouldn't the Cork and Killeagh defender be?

Back in the All-Ireland final to defend the title, won after a magnificent comeback against Kilkenny last year, in which she played her part.

But don't let her good nature fool you, she may be just 20 but already Laura has shown she is fast becoming one of the top defenders in the country, one few forwards fancy coming up against.

Just like all the squad Laura can't wait for Sunday and is looking forward to the occasion as the Rebels bid to put back-to-back titles together.

It's somewhat strange that the defending champions are going into the game as slight underdogs, but they are up against a Galway side they are undefeated all season, including two wins over Cork.

"This is what you dream about as a young player, running out for you county in an All-Ireland final in September, it doesn't get any better than that as a player. But we are coming into the game as underdogs as we take on a Galway side that haven't lost a game all year.

"It's probably theirs to lose, they have beaten us twice already and have outstanding players, from Ailish O'Reilly in the corner, to Niamh Kilkenny, so we will be up against it. But we are training well and hopefully we put in a performance on the day and grind out a result.

"In the league final they completely outthured us in the first-half, we were under savage pressure in the backline, their forward's movement was unbelievable. They ran straight through us and opened us up very well.

"We re-grouped at half-time and said we don't care what the score is, but we wanted a performance out of each other in the second-half and see where we end up after that. To be fair everyone upped their game by nearly 100% and I think if we had another five minutes we might have won it.

"But as soon as we got close to Galway they kept plugging away and got scores at vital times which showed just how mentally strong they are, as well as being a very skilful team.

"So going up now to play them at Croke Park is going to be a massive challenge, we know that if they get ahead it will be really tough to come back. We have to start well and bring huge work-rate into the game or we won't have any chance of winning.

"But all we ask of ourselves, be it in training or games is to bring work-rate to the table and then we let everything else take care of itself. You can bring work-rate yourself and that's you telling your mind you're in a game and what you need to do.

"If we do that as individuals and then collectively as a team, then I think we can put it up to Galway, but again it's their All-Ireland to lose because they really have the players, the bench and unbelievable management behind them.

"We have lost a number of players from last year and it's very hard to replace that experience, especially in a final, but all credit to the players who have come in, they have done a great job and they are flying.

"We have lost around 10 out of the panel since last year and as I said it's not easy to replace that type of player and all their big day match experience, especially at Croke Park. It's



Laura Treacy, at the Cork senior camogie team open training night for supporters at Castle Road, ahead of the All-Ireland final.

Picture: Denis Minihane



Laura Treacy with supporters Nikki Hosford and Alanah Walsh, Whitechurch at the open training night. Picture: Denis Minihane

going to be very surreal for the new members of the team and squad, as it was for me last year.

"You don't even realise you are there when you are playing and it's going to be a massive day for them, but I have no fear for them and they

have stepped up numerous times to get us back to the final.

"Everyone shows leadership on the field, not just the older players and we will need that to have any chance on Sunday.

"I have been involved in the squad

“We have to start well and bring huge work-rate into the game or we won't have any chance of winning”

now for four years, and was called up when I was 16, just about to turn 17, and even though we lost that day to Wexford the fact I was involved helped me in my first start in the final last year.

"I knew what was going on, going

up on the train the day before, the guard of honour as you go onto the pitch and I was very comfortable with it and it helped me to settle my nerves.

"To be honest I have been more nervous for club games than I was last year. Even though I was the youngest on the field I knew I had all the girls behind me, they had my back, management believed in me they all believed in me so all I had to do was go out and perform and look after myself.

Once everyone looks after themselves then you get the performance "We didn't really perform in the first-half of the final last year, a bit like the league final this year. But again I go back to work-rate and we didn't bring that in the first-half against Kilkenny, they did and deserved to be in front at half-time.

"We went in at half-time and, again like the league final, we just said we can't go out here and not perform and everyone of us upped our game by at least 20% and I will never forget the feeling when the final whistle went.

"It's impossible to put into words the feeling when you know that you have won the All-Ireland final and hopefully we can repeat that feeling on Sunday," concluded Laura.



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

Cork coach was rescued from sea

SPORT is a way of life for thousands of people worldwide.

For many it is their whole being, a major part of who they are and what they represent.

Dr Wesley O'Brien, alongside Sean Cremin, is hurling coach to the Cork senior camogie team. Just short of two weeks ago, he was in a life-threatening situation.

What occurred will take time to get over, but Wesley briefly opens up to what occurred on Saturday August 29.

"Unfortunately, I was involved in an accident," he says, "where our fishing boat overturned in Wexford and we had to endure five and a half hours in the sea.

"We miraculously survived, thanks to the unbelievable efforts of the RNLI and local volunteers."

Since taking up this position, Wesley acknowledges that he is inspired to work with such an elite group of female athletes from Cork, whose response to training has been what he terms "incredible", their application to drills, their willingness to listen and most importantly, their desire to achieve.

"Of course, you're going to have unexpected thoughts when you're in a crisis situation but you also reflect on the positive aspects in your life and for me working with the girls this year has been one of the most enjoyable experiences in my sporting career to date.

"I'm taking this coaching opportunity very seriously and for me it's a priority in life. I've dedicated eight years of my education towards the acquisition of scientific knowledge relating to sport, exercise and coaching.

"For me... am I allowed to say that sports and exercise are everything?"

"It's everything I know and it's everything I want to know.

"And when you're in the heat of the moment in crisis, tragedy or times of sadness it remains a consistent, positive factor for many."

O'Brien is just 28 years of age. He completed his PhD in exercise and physical activity promotion in 2013. A qualified PE teacher, in 2014 he was offered a full-time post in UCC, lecturing in exercise physiology, coaching science and physical education. So what does his job exactly entail?

"My third level teaching focuses on human movement, physical activity promotion, exercise prescription and the 'art' of coaching science. I provide physical education students with the knowledge on how the body responds to exercise and how we put the science into coaching and further practice.

"In the Physical Education programme at UCC we have students interested in many coaching pursuits, such as GAA, athletics, swimming, strength and conditioning, etc."

Of course, GAA is Wesley's first love and as captain of the Carrigaline intermediate hurlers this year, alongside coaching the UCC fresher hurling team, it has been a particularly busy 2015. What he brings to the Cork camogie team is something new.

"For me going into an elite set-up like Cork senior camogie was a new challenge, particularly dealing with a successful and professional inter-county set up.

"I feel that I have contributed to certain elements of performance with a 'critical eye'; skills such as effective picking, striking improvements, aerial handling and breaking a tackle etc... I hope that I have brought a positive awareness for ef-



At the Cork senior camogie team open training night for supporters at Castle Road ahead of the All-Ireland final were two of the players Orla Cotter (left) and Orla Cronin (right) with Noreen Daly (second left) and Mary McSweeney (second from right) of Cork Camogie Board and Sarah Louise McSweeney, Costcutter, county team sponsors. Picture: Denis Minihane.



Dr Wesley O'Brien says that sports and exercise is his life.

fective human movement and on-field performance.

"I work very well with Sean, we consistently sing off the same hymn sheet towards physical performance. We collectively work well together: players and management.

"The statistics that Niall Collins provides are absolutely integral to the team's progress and development.

"It has heightened my tactical awareness and revolutionised my professional thinking as a coach."

Wesley and management have in-

vested many hours into the Cork team both on and off the field. Croke Park on Sunday and winning back to back titles with the girls would be a tremendous achievement both professionally and personally.

"I'm really looking forward to the opportunity and preparing the girls for this final performance of the year.

"Who knows what I'll do in my future career but many of us may never experience Croke Park again. There's an opportunity here to win back-to-back titles at senior level and

“Who knows what I’ll do in my future career but many of us may never experience Croke Park again”

we will bring a performance mentality with us on Sunday.

"We are a new management for 2015 and of course, we have done things slightly differently but we are fully committed to the enormity of the task ahead."

■ HISTORY will be made on Sunday, when the fastest striker of the sliotar in camogie will be revealed.

HawkEye technology will be used for the first time by the Camogie Association having approved a motion to use the system at its Annual Congress in March.

However, HawkEye will also be used to record the fastest strike of the sliotar during the junior, intermediate and senior showdowns in Croke Park.

Using exclusive ball speed data available to the Association's sponsors, Liberty Insurance, the information of the fastest struck sliotar will be revealed on the big screen at half-time and full-time during each final.

The technology was first introduced last year for All-Ireland Hurling Championship games in Croke, with the fastest recorded speed to date measuring 181.1kmph, registered by Kilkenny hurler TJ Reid.

The speed of the sliotar is measured using the eight cameras used by Hawk-Eye to track the flight of the ball in real-time, and will be based on shot attempts above the crossbar and within four metres of the uprights.

Speaking on the use of the technology, president of the Camogie Association Catherine Neary said: "Not only will it measure the speed of the ball, it will identify the dominant areas of play on the field through identifying where the ball is mostly hit from, so the data collected will also prove valuable from a coaching and games development point of view."

Many are tipping Cork defender Gemma Crowley to register the fastest strike in the senior final against Galway given her physical strength as a corporal in the Irish Army.

Galway's key pair all set for big tussle with Cork

Kilkenny and McGrath will have crucial roles in final

DARREN KELLY

IF Galway are going to be crowned All-Ireland senior camogie champions on Sunday, many pundits and supporters feel that the influence of the two Niamhs will be crucial. The captain Niamh Kilkenny from Pearse's has set the tone for this side in 2015 driving them onto Croke Park again, while the centre forward Niamh McGrath from Sarsfields has evolved into the leader of the attack.

"We're delighted," said Kilkenny as she looks forward to her fifth final. "Obviously this is what you play camogie for. This is your aim at the start of the year. I know you would have small aims to get to different stages. But this is the ultimate one and we're looking forward to the All-Ireland final."

"Winning has become a habit

this year and we're just trying to get more consistency in our performances. And I think that's something we have been doing this year. I know we really have been put to the pin of our collar for a few games. Against Offaly, we struggled. Against Cork even the first round of the championship and the last day, Wexford really put it up to us and I suppose we were lucky to come out with a point win. But all those games will stand to us."

After all the controversy regarding the objection to their semi-final victory over Wexford, the four-time All-Star is happy to move on and focus on Sunday's opponents. "It was a tough game (the semi-final)," added the Galway captain.

"It was very physical and Wexford really threw everything at us in the second half. They played the sweeper role in the first half and then they went back to 15-on-15 and that suited



Looking ahead to Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park are the rival captains, Ashling Thompson of Cork and Niamh Kilkenny of Galway, who are pictured with the O'Duffy Cup.

them better. That's when they came back at us. But it was a tough game and we'd a few battles scars Monday morning but you take that with the game.

This bunch of girls have been around so long and we've built up great confidence with the league

"We're under no illusion that it's going to be a very tough game. Cork, they're very ath-

letic; they'll run at you. Down through the years, we've always had great rivalry with them. So hopefully, we'll come out on top and it's important, this is the day to beat them."

Equally as impressive as Kilkenny, Cork's captain Ashling Thompson will be in a similar role aiming to drive the Munster county to a record equalling 26th title. It's a midfield duel Kilkenny is looking forward to.

"It's actually my first time this year to mark her (Ashling Thompson), but everyone is tough, every opposition especially in midfield now. They're seems to be a lot of runners and a lot of teams running from deep and Cork are no different. Yes, it's a challenge but one I'm look-

ing forward to.

"There are so experienced and all the players they've had," said attacker McGrath when asked about Cork. "They've won I don't know how many All-Irelands, All-Stars, everything. But that won't faze us either. This bunch of girls have been around so long and we've built up great confidence with the league."

The 22-year-old provided the matchwinner in the last victory as she slotted over the final point against Wexford in the sixth minute of added time, but pressure wasn't a mitigating factor.

"I suppose it was but it wasn't really either at the same time," added McGrath. "Because it would have been different if we were losing by a point. I would

have felt a lot more pressure.

"We felt ourselves we were the better team over the 60 minutes, but for whatever reason, the last 10 minutes we sort of panicked a bit when they came back. But I thought we deserved it overall but we slacked off when we got on top in the last 10 minutes beforehand."

With 0-23 in this year's championship, McGrath is confident and hopes Galway can finish the job. "We're all set. And training's going mighty and the mentality in the camp is brilliant. So hopefully we can push on."

And if the two Niamhs can stamp their authority on proceedings, then another trophy can head west on Monday!

Dervan and Ryan in upbeat mood ahead of final clash with Cork

DARREN KELLY

FOLLOWING a disappointing 2014, Galway's senior camogie team stand one win away from an unbeaten season when they take on reigning champions Cork in the All-Ireland Final. While their year has been impressive, the focus is very much on Sunday's opponents.

"Cork are going to be a completely different outfit come All-Ireland final day," said vice-captain Sarah Dervan. "I suppose that's the day they really shine. And it's completely up to us to show up on the day and us to take the game to them."

Galway's 1-14 to 2-10 victory over Wexford in the semi-final showed their determination again, but the Mullagh full back knows more will be required



Galway camogie players Anne Marie Starr and Sarah Dervan ready to take on Cork.

against the Rebellettes.

"I suppose we let teams back into it when we should be driving on. Against Wexford, we were six points up and fair play to Wex-

ford, they wired into us for the second half, for 15 minutes. And we just came out of there by the skin of our teeth. And we can't do that against Cork! We have to

come out and we have to play for 60 minutes."

It's also being a season of transition with many new names coming into the squad and Dervan has

been impressed with the younger players.

"Fair play to the likes of Shauna (Healy), Scones (Siobhan Coen) and all them. They're really standing up to it. They really are being counted this year. We're 15 girls to 20 to 32. And we're all kind of one unit. We can't look at anybody else to do it because we all have to do our own bit on the day. And we all have to stand up and we all have to be counted for."

"At the start of the year when you looked at all the retirements that gave so much to Galway camogie, a lot of young people had to step up straight away," added 2013 captain Lorraine Ryan. "And you look at the likes of Siobhan Coen coming in there, Catherine Finnerty, Finola Keeley there at wing-forward. They're all doing absolutely excellent and stepping up to it every single

time."

After standing triumphant in the Hogan Stand two years ago, memories from an historic day for Galway camogie are bound to resurface.

"Even talking to the girls around training," added Ryan. "You're starting to reminisce a little bit. But it's the feeling we had after it we're thinking about more so than what happened on that day."

"That year, there was a small bit of hype around getting to the All-Ireland. There was the 17 years and all that thing going on in the background. But we didn't let it get to us but it was still there. This time, there's nothing like that going on. We're just focused on the game, focused on ourselves more than Cork. And if we perform, we know that we'll come away with a win."

Galway aim to end their final agony against champs Cork

■ Unbeaten Tribeswomen in positive mood ahead of showdown with Rebels

DARREN KELLY

AFTER the hurlers' disappointment last Sunday, another Galway senior side head to Croke Park (Sunday, 4pm) attempting to dislodge reigning title holders when Tony Ward's charges face Cork in the All-Ireland camogie final.

On paper, Galway's task looks mammoth! Cork have been champions five times since 2005, are seeking to equal Dublin's record of 26 victories, and have beaten the Tribeswomen in six previous deciders. But these stats only scrape the surface.

The last of those finals in 2008, the Rebellettes emerged 2-10 to 1-8 winners having previously discarded Galway's challenge in 1939, 1940, 1993, 1997 and 1998. But that was an emerging maroon and white outfit in headquarters for the first time in 10 years and Galway players that day including Susan Earner, Therese Manton and Niamh Kilkenny will see their fifth final this weekend.

Ward also oversaw the 1997 and 1998 reversals and two of Galway's poorest displays in this reign (2012 semi-final, 2014 group game) have also come against Cork. But of course, Ward did get the better of the Munster side in Galway's maiden victory in 1996. And they were also All-Ireland champions in 2013.

"Isn't it great to be playing camogie in the month of September," said Ward during the week. "It's a sure sign when you are that you are in the final and it's a great place to be for us."

"They're a bunch of girls that just don't want to be beaten and they've proved that all year. I think we're going into our 12th game and we haven't been beaten. (Just) one draw. It's a great place to be but this is the game not to be beaten. So we're making sure everything is in

order for Sunday."

Injuries have stopped Ann Marie Starr (broken arm), Orlaith McGrath and Emma Kilkelly (both cruciate), but this new look outfit possess 24 players who were involved in the 2013 senior and intermediate wins.

Of course, Therese Maher departed after that historic win and other All-Stars like Aislinn Connolly, Regina Glynn, Ann Marie Hayes, Brenda Hanney and Orla Kilkenny have left since, but Galway's mix of youth and experience will bring a steely presence.

Earner will take her place in goal; the full-back trio of Manton, Sarah Dervan and Heather Cooney have been formidable since the 2013 decider; and outside them, Siobhan Coen, Shauna Healy and Lorraine Ryan are developing into a solid line while captain Niamh Kilkenny will operate in midfield.

"Susan (Earner) is back training this week and she's in good form," mentioned Ward after her knee injury in the semi-final. "Emma (Kilkelly) is a big blow to us all year, Starry (Ann Marie Starr) was a big blow in the O'faly game (and) Orlaith McGrath in the league final."

It's hard to describe the spirit that's in the camp at the minute. You wouldn't even think they were in an All-Ireland final

Clodagh McGrath did well in midfield the last day and will be fancied to retain her role. Her sister Niamh (McGrath) will lead the attack and will have Aoife Donohue on the right wing. With Kilkelly out, Finola Keeley, Jessica Gill, Aoife Callanan and Rebecca Hennelly will fight for the other spot.



Galway's Shauna Healy getting the better of Cork's Orla Cronin during the teams' group meeting earlier in the championship at O'Connor Park, Tullamore.

Up front, county minor Catherine Finnerty from Mountbellew/Moylough has had an amazing impact breaking into the senior squad this summer while Molly Dunne and Ailish O'Reilly are capable of unlocking any defence.

While McGrath is Galway's top scorer with 0-23, Dunne (4-1) and O'Reilly (2-10) have been a devastating duo. The Tribeswomen began their championship with a second win over Cork following the 2-15 to 2-12 league final success and added the scalps of Offaly, Wexford and Limerick. They left it late in their semi-final with Wexford's objection casting doubt, but Galway are now unbeaten in 13 months.

"I don't even think 2013 has been mentioned in any of our preparations this year," added the two-time All-Ireland winning

manager. "I haven't heard any of the girls say 'Go back to 2013'. It's all go forward, push forward and that's what they've been doing. It's hard to describe the spirit that's in the camp at the minute. You wouldn't even think they were in an All-Ireland final and that's the way to have it."

But to finish with the ultimate prize, Galway must dethrone Paudie Murray's team. Much has been made of the retirements of Joanne O'Callaghan, Anna Geary and their two 2014 All-Ireland final goal scorers Jennifer O'Leary and Angela Walsh, but Cork still possess strong characters capable of causing problems.

Paudie's sister Aoife (Murray) lined out in that 2008 meeting, Rena Buckley and Gemma O'Connor are experienced campaigners as is Julia White, Orla

Cotter and Brieghe Corkery in attack. The Mackey twins (Pamela and Katrina) have emerged as talented stars; Laura Treacy has settled well at full back; Ashling Thompson is one of the country's top players in midfield; while Amy O'Connor is a dangerous full-forward.

"The nucleus of their team has all been in Croke Park before at some stage or another," added Ward. "(They've) a young team (but) I'd say we've the youngest team in the country this year going forward. Catherine (Finnerty) is 17 at corner forward. We've a fierce young team. I think both teams are going to be very even with a blend of experience and youth. I'd say if you went through it, I'd say it's probably even enough on both sides."

Some stats give Galway cause for concern. In 2008, 2010 and

2011, Galway lost All-Ireland finals to teams they'd previously defeated. Also, no team has come through the championship unbeaten since Cork in 2009.

Galway are much more experienced than the rookie squad that faced Cork in 2008. They haven't produced the quality camogie that clinched the league, but they squeezed out close meetings that will stand to them.

Thirteen of Galway's likely starters are seeking history, aiming to become the county's first players with multiple All-Ireland senior medals. If they can find their spring sparkle and bring the champagne camogie to Croke Park for 60 minutes, then it will be enjoyed all the way to Ballymacward on Monday evening.

Jackman's commute epitomises dedication of female stars – Connors

CAMOGIE

Cliona Foley

WATERFORD corner-back Noel Connors knows lots about Trish Jackman and not just because they are both county stars who are also currently psychology PhD students at Waterford IT.

"I know Trish really well because I grew up playing club hurling against her as a kid," he explains. "She used to play with the lads in Ballygunner up to about U-14 level and, to be honest, was sometimes the best player on the pitch."

"Since then she's had great success with the county and won five Ashbourne Cup medals with the college which, in itself, is a remarkable achievement," he notes.

Jackman, who leads Waterford against Kildare in the

intermediate decider in Sunday's triple-header of Liberty Insurance All-Ireland camogie finals, is widely regarded as one of the finest female strikers of a ball.

She won a seventh Poc Fada title this summer and led the Déise to an All-Ireland premier junior title in 2011 and Connors (above) has seen, first-hand, her dedication on and off the pitch.

Like him, she was part of a group of elite GAA players doing a special leadership course this year organised by the players' unions so they often shared lifts to Dublin together.

What makes Jackman even more exceptional is that she has been based abroad for the past year.

Her research has taken her to



the University of Lincoln and now, just to get home, she has to drive for three-and-a-half hours before even boarding a plane.

"Trish travels over from England all the time for camogie, that just epitomises her and shows the sort of commitment she has," Connors stresses.

The women's Gaelic Players' Association (WGPA) has just teamed up with their male counterpart (GPA) to launch a new social media campaign - #onherside - to get inter-county male players to support their female colleagues.

Connors, like Cork's Eoin Cadogan and Wexford's Lee Chin, is among the high-profile hurlers who have put their weight behind the initiative.

"We'd see the quality of hurling

among the camogie players in WIT like (Waterford's) Jenny Simpson and Vikki Falconer and Cork's Laura Treacy," he says.

"You'd see the skill they have, the work they put in and their dedication but they probably still don't get the same resources or recognition as us."

Cadogan feels the same as he watches the Rebellettes - including 14-time dual winners Brieghe Corkery and Rena Buckley - start their latest double bid against Galway.

"To be honest, if it was a men's team that was going for 10 All-Irelands (in football) there'd be a statue put up to them," Cadogan says. "I can't understand why there isn't!"

Connors reckons that Cork's incredible record (five senior camogie and nine football titles since 2002) has considerably helped to raise appreciation of

the level of women's skill and commitment.

"Waterford's rise is very much down to their underage structures and the academy work done here. They have a very young team now. Trish would be regarded as one of the veterans compared to Beth Carton who is still in secondary school."

He says the Waterford men's board's decision to bring forward the last round of the local senior hurling championship's group stages to Saturday is a significant shift in attitude.

"Traditionally there's been lots of big men's club games clashing with the camogie finals before which didn't help. That is a really positive step and should clear the way for more male players to go and support the women."

■ For more on the #onherside campaign, including videos, see: www.wgpa.ie and www.gpa.ie

The Preview

All-Ireland Premier Junior Camogie Final

SQUAD PROFILES



Mairéad Burke

Club: Camross
Occupation: Shop Assistant
Position: Defender
Sport Achievements: Leinster B Division 3 2014, 3 Senior Club Championships



Margaret Hogan

Club: St Brigid's
Occupation: Special Needs Assistant
Position: Defender



Michelle Holmes

Club: Camross
Occupation: Student
Position: Forward
Sport Achievements: All Ireland Minor Shield 2015, 3 County Club Championships



Niamh Coss

Club: St Brigid's
Occupation: Student
Position: Defender
Sport Achievements: U16c Leinster '13 All Ireland C '14, All Ireland B Shield '15, 3 U 16 Medals, 2 Leinster Football Finals



Niamh Dollard

Club: Camross
Occupation: Social Care Worker
Position: Forward
Sport Achievements: Leinster Junior Title 2014, National League Division 3 2013, 2 Soaring Stars, 3 County Club Championships, Rctlc Award 2013, Laois Camogie Player Of The Year Award 2013



Olga Parkinson

Club: Camross
Occupation: Tacheal Activator
Position: Midfield
Sport Achievements: Leinster Junior Title 2014, National League Division 3 2013, 3 County Club Championships



Rebecca Treacy

Club: St Brigid's
Occupation: Student
Position: Defender
Sport Achievements: Leinster B, Minor Leinster, All Ireland College



Rosemary Bermingham

Club: O'Moore's
Occupation: Teacher
Position: Defender
Sport Achievements: 2 Div 3 Finals, 1 Leinster Junior, 4 County Championships, 2 Leinster Senior Football



Sarah Ann Fitzgerald

Club: Camross
Occupation: Student
Position: Midfield
Sport Achievements: Leinster Junior title 2014, National League Division 3 2013, 4 Soaring Star, Leinster Gael Linn Snr Winners 2014, 3 County Snr Championship, 4 Ashbourne Medals 2 Ashbourne All Stars



Sarah Creagh

Club: St Brigid's
Occupation: Student
Position: Forward
Sport Achievements: U16c Leinster '13 All Ireland C '14, All Ireland B Shield '15



Sharon Moylan

Club: St Brigid's
Occupation: Teacher
Position: Forward
Sport Achievements: Leinster Junior Title 2014, National League Division 3 2013, 2 County Club, 1 Ashbourne, 1 College Div 2 Rugby League



Sile Burke

Club: Camross
Occupation: Care Assistant
Position: Midfielder
Sport Achievements: Leinster Junior Title 2014, National League Division 3 2013, 3 County Champ



Louise Mahony in action against Westmeath

Photo: INPHO/Ken Sutton

The Preview

All-Ireland Premier Junior Camogie Final

SQUAD PROFILES



Aisling O'Dea

Club: St Brigid's
Occupation: Student
Position: Forward
Sport Achievements: Minor Shield All Ireland 2015 B



Aisling Burke

Club: Camross
Occupation: Shop Assistant
Position: Corner Back
Sport Achievements: 1 Leinster 2014, 1 National League Div 3 2013, 1 Minor Leinster title, 1 All-Ireland Minor title,



Aishling Dunphy

Club: O'Moore's
Occupation: Student
Position: Defender
Sport Achievements: Leinster B, Division 3 Final, Laois Senior Football 2013, 2011, 2008. Leinster Club Football 2013, 2008. Soaring Star 2013



Amy Loughman

Club: O'Moore's
Occupation: Student
Position: Forward
Sport Achievements: 3 Minor County Medals, 2 Football County Medals



Aoife Burke

Club: Camross
Occupation: Student
Position: Forward
Sport Achievements: Leinster Minor Final 2014, All Ireland Minor shield 2015, 2 County Championships



Catriona Downey

Club: O'Moore's
Occupation: Physiotherapist
Position: Defender
Sport Achievements: Leinster Junior Title 2014, 2 National League Titles 2013, 2011, Nancy Murray Cup 2009



Ciara Cuddy

Club: Naomh Éamann
Occupation: Student
Position: Defender
Sport Achievements: U16c Leinster '13 All Ireland C '14, All Ireland B Shield '15, U/16 County



Claire Walsh

Club: The Harps
Occupation: Teacher
Position: Defender
Sport Achievements: Leinster Junior Title, National League Div 3, 3 County Junior Titles, 2 County Inter Titles, 3 Leinster Junior Club, 2 Leinster Inter Club, 2 All Ireland Junior Club Titles, Schools All Ireland C 2011



Dawn Mortimer

Club: Camross
Occupation: Benefit Cosmetics
Position: Forward
Sport Achievements: Leinster Junior Title 2014, National League Division 3 2013, 4 County Club Championships



Eimear Delaney

Club: St Brigid's
Occupation: Teacher
Position: Defender
Sport Achievements: Leinster Junior Title 2014, National League Div 3 2013, County Junior Champions 2004, Senior And Junior All Ireland Colleges



Elaine Mahony

Club: The Harps
Occupation: Teacher
Position: Defender
Sport Achievements: 2 Leinster Junior titles, National League Division 3 2013, 3 All-Ireland Junior Club, 4 Leinster Junior Club, 2 Leinster Intermediate Club, 6 Laois Club Championships



Elizabeth Ryan

Club: Camross
Occupation: Student
Position: Defender
Sport Achievements: All Ireland Minor Shield 2015, 2 County Snr Champ, School Camogie Awards



Laura Dunne

Club: St Brigid's
Occupation: Special Needs Assistant
Position: Goalkeeper
Sporting Achievements: Leinster Junior title 2014, National League Div 3 2013, Soaring Star 2013 and '14, Leinster Gael Linn team



Laura Marie Maher

Club: O'Moore's
Occupation: Student
Position: Forward
Sport Achievements: Minor Leinster, Div 3 Final, Leinster Jnr Final, 2 Snr Football County, 2 Snr Leinster Club



Louise Mahony

Club: The Harps
Occupation: Farmer
Position: Forward
Sport Achievements: Leinster Junior Title 2014, National League Division 3 2013, 3 All-Ireland Jnr Club, 4 Leinster Jnr Club, 2 Leinster Intermediate Club, 6 Laois Club Champ



GALWAYMEN HELPING ROSSIES ON THE ROAD TO CROKE PARK

Roscommon girls reaping the benefit of Noel Finn's and Noel Murphy's input ahead of junior final

THIS Sunday, Cappataggle's Noel Finn will return to Croke Park for All-Ireland camogie final but not as manager of his native Galway, which he guided to three national titles between intermediate and junior, but as manager of a Roscommon side seeking its first ever All-Ireland Premier Junior crown.

Anyone involved in Galway GAA over the years will testify to the zest Finn has for hurling and camogie, although it has been the latter that has commanded a great deal of his attention as he led the Tribeswomen to the All-Ireland junior title in 2003 and to intermediate crowns in 2004 and '09.

Despite also coming close to also winning an All-Ireland senior title with Galway as team boss on a number of occasions, that particular piece of silverware has continued to evade him. That said, there would not have been a happier man when Galway finally claimed the O'Duffy Cup two years ago.

He would equally be as pleased to see them lift it again this Sunday. "I was talking to Darren Kelly (Galway Bay FM) the other day and he was saying it was great to have two teams from Connacht going to Croke Park. And it is.

"The main thing is - and the important thing is - that the two teams win the All-Ireland. That there are two teams coming back to Connacht with cups. Having said that, from my point of view, we have to concentrate on our girls first at 12 o'clock and once our game is over we will be roaring on Galway."

In that Premier Junior decider (12 noon), Roscommon face Laois, who, remarkably, are playing in their third consecutive final having lost the previous two outings to neighbours Kildare (2-11 to 1-5) and Down (1-12 to 1-8) in 2013 and '14 respectively.

For Roscommon's part, they have never won the Kay Mills Cup - formerly the New Ireland Cup - and it has been almost 20 years since they appeared in their last final. On that occasion, Cork defeated them at Croke Park 4-8 to 2-7, Mary Kennefick scoring a hat-trick for the Leesiders.

It was utter heartbreak for the Rossies as a year earlier they had lost out to Limerick on a scoreline of 6-5 to 2-7 - again, coming undone by a hat-trick tallied by Kay Burke. Since then, they have failed to reach another Premier decider, having dropped back a grade to Junior 'A' for a number of years in the interim.

During this time, they lost to Meath in the 2008 final of that competition - 0-10 to 1-6 - but did make amends a year later when accounting for Armagh by 1-7 to 0-7 after a replay to claim the Nancy Murray Cup. Six years on, many of the players are still involved, like



CROKE PARK BOUND: Former Galway camogie boss Noel Finn (left), Galway based Garda Ciara Moran and Tommy Larkins' Noel Murphy, who make up the Roscommon junior camogie management team.

Annette McGeeney and Kelly Hopkins.

Finn's involvement, on the other hand, has just been since May, when he got a call to see if he would be interested in the job after the previous manager parted ways with the set-up following a poor National League campaign. Along with Tommy Larkins' Noel Murphy, he met the officials in Ballinasloe.

"We passed the test anyway and got it," laughs Noel. "So, May 15 was when we started. Roscommon had finished their league campaign at that stage. Carlow had beaten them and they are a division below them in the league. Things weren't going too well in fairness."

It was not a scenario Finn was unfamiliar with. In '09, when intermediate manager Gerry Flannery stood down mid-season, it was Finn who the Board turned to in the hope of resurrecting their campaign at this level. He duly arrived in May. Galway were All-Ireland champions by September.

In fairness to Padraig Pearses' man Flannery, he would have had some work done with the Galway intermediates before his departure where on this occasion, Finn found that he "had to start from scratch".

"There was no training done with them from once the league finished. The girls, in fairness, were training with their clubs but their county championship is not on until later this month. If it was an earlier championship, they might have a bit more camogie done but we had to start from scratch."

In any event, whatever Finn and Murphy did with them certainly had an instant impact as they drew with Limerick, 3-6 to 2-9, in their opening game before going on to defeat Armagh (5-11 to 2-9) and Westmeath (2-11 to 2-9)

in the group stages.

However, heavy defeats to Dublin (2-18 to 2-8) and Laois (2-17 to 2-4) suggested that reaching the knockout stages would be an achievement in itself, particularly given they had lost to their semi-final opponents Dublin by 10 points in their group meeting.

Again, though, Roscommon surprised all with a tour de force performance to turn the tables on the favourites - Hopkins and Niamh Farrell tallying 0-7 (0-5 frees) and 1-1 respectively in the semi-final. The Rossies won by 1-9 to 1-5, a 14-point turnaround from their previous meeting.

The question is, after a 13-point beating to Laois in the group, can they achieve a similar feat in the final? "Laois did beat us 13 points, but, and I have said this before, everyone can beat one another in this. There is no team above anyone else. If everyone is up to speed, there wouldn't be a whole lot in it.

"Also, in an All-Ireland final, anything can happen. I always maintain that if you beat a team once, it is very hard to beat them twice. Our girls have responded well to training and they deserve great credit. They have knuckled down, have worked hard, and bought in to what we have been doing."

Laois' experience of Croke Park the last two years will stand to them but Finn notes the Midlanders have lost the last two finals and that, in itself, could leave them vulnerable psychologically. "You know, Croke Park is a hard place to get a result. If things don't run for you - and I know that myself from my time with Galway - it can be a very difficult day.

"The one thing from our own point of view, our girls will be prepared, they will be fit, they will be focused and they will know what is re-

quired. And with a little bit of luck, they could win it. Having said that, Laois are the team to beat. They have set the bar the last couple of years."

That said, Finn sees little difference between the Galway girls he managed and Roscommon. "When we went in, all they wanted was a professional approach. So, they have been trained the same way as we did with Galway. No difference.

"I suppose, it stood to me that I was with the Galway girls. So, we brought in new things the Roscommon girls probably weren't used to but they bought into it. At the end of the day, they are giving their time to inter-county camogie so we need to be professional in our approach. They expect that off us."

Along with Finn and Murphy, the management team also consists of Ciara Moran, who lined out with Roscommon in the Nancy Murray Cup win of 2009 and is a Garda based in Galway. "To be quite honest, when we went to Roscommon, we knew nobody. We didn't even know where to get pitches.

"So, it was Ciara's job - and she did a famous job - to organise the training sessions and everything else. I have worked with a lot of people but she is one of the most efficient people I have ever worked with. You never have to ring Ciara twice to see if something is done. There is no issue."

He also pays tribute to the Board officials - Geraldine Beatty, Niamh Kilmartin and Marion Conway - along with physio Niamh Mulhern and medic Paula Daly. "You need everyone singing from the one hymn sheet because without everyone rowing in together, you are going nowhere."

Under Finn, Roscommon camogie would definitely seem to be going somewhere again. The signpost points to Croke Park.

At the end of the day, they are giving their time to inter-county camogie so we need to be professional in our approach

Dormer ready for Waterford challenge

By Cólín Duffy

KILDARE camogie manager Stephen Dormer has welcomed the introduction of Hawk-Eye, as his side gear up for the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie final against Waterford at Croke Park on Sunday.

The Junior final between Laois and Roscommon will see the score detection technology used for the first time, before the Lilywhites and the Deise face off at 2pm.

"HawkEye in Camogie is great to see and it's fair," he said.

"If it's a point, it's a point and there is no argument afterwards. There is no controversy."

"Being a Kilkennyman I was happy enough last year with HawkEye in the All-Ireland Final.

"It's great to have it, and we'll take anything that makes the game fairer and more even."

Dormer will be aiming for third time lucky against Waterford this year, having lost the Division 2 league semi-final by 1-15 to 1-7 in April, and more recently a 4-11 to 1-10 defeat at the hands of the Deise in a final round group tie.

The 2007 Manager of the Year is keen to look to the positives though, including an opening round win over last year's beaten finalists Kilkenny.

The Lilywhites overcame the Cats by 3-7 to 1-6 in the opening round, to set their stall up nicely for the Summer.

"When we saw the group, with Kilkenny, Waterford, Antrim and ourselves, we knew that it was going to be tough," Kilkenny native said.

"It was a massive game for us to go down to Kilkenny and come away with a win. We knew ourselves that if we got over Kilkenny it would put us right in the driving seat in the group."

"Luckily enough we came away with a seven-point win and it was great."

Dormer says he can take positives from the loss to Waterford also, and use them to spur on his troops this Sunday at GAA Headquarters.



Kildare camogie players Roisin O'Connell, Louise Keatley and Siobhan Hurley with supporters Ellen Mongey-Walsh, Dearbhail O'Regan and Zoe Carew. Photo: Piotr Kwasnik

"The pressure is really on Waterford after beating us twice already, in both the league semi-final and the Championship," he said.

"We know ourselves that they are a hurling county, and they know that in Kildare this bunch of girls have put Camogie on the map."

"I suppose the pressure is really on Waterford to keep the winning going. They would be very, very dis-

appointed after beating us twice already this year, to come out and lose in an All-Ireland Final.

"The motivation factor is going out, one hour, play the Camogie of our lives and we are All-Ireland Camogie champions - they know that they are good enough."

Both Kildare and Waterford have been at Croke Park before to take honours in recent years.

Waterford claimed their only All-Ireland Junior title in 2011, while Kildare's success came just two years ago.

"We lost an All-Ireland semi-final to Kilkenny last year, we worked hard on getting the likes of Noelle Earley back in from football and making sure we got her on board, and also the likes of Angela Lyons, back from travels with the Army.

"Then you had Louise Keatley back into the country and Orla had a baby, and we made sure we had her back on board.

"We strengthened the panel as much as we could, and everyone who can possibly play Camogie for Kildare is around and playing, and playing really, really well.

"It's going in the right direction anyway."

CAMOGIE: ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE FINAL PREVIEW

Kildare ladies take centre stage in September

By Cólín Duffy

KILDARE Camogie captain Susie O'Carroll is hoping to kick start a positive September for Ladies Sports in the county, as Kildare chase an Intermediate Camogie-Ladies Football double at Croke Park, starting with the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Final against Waterford this Sunday.

Waterford have already beaten Kildare twice this year, but O'Carroll says there's a very positive vibe in the squad at present.

"Everybody wants to be training, it's

not a chore at this stage of the year, after the semi-final you are mad to get back training, so it's great to be playing at this stage of the year," she said.

"For the last few years we have had players on the football squad also, but the demands now and fixture clashes it's hard to do both.

"Both panels are training down in Hawkfield with both teams still playing and hopefully the footballers can do the business as well.

"Obviously it's every Camogie player's dream to be in Croke Park in September, so it is a great feeling to be there. We had the experience two years ago at Junior level, but it's great

to make the step up and be in the intermediate final," she said.

"Waterford won the Junior title a few years before us, and we have probably had a similar progression up.

"They have won the Division 2 league this year and have made the step up to Division 1. Both counties are certainly striving to keep progressing."

O'Carroll is delighted to reach this Sunday's All-Ireland final, after a testing enough Championship so far.

"From the start of the year our focus was on our first game against Kilkenny. We always knew that was going to make or break our season.

"They had beaten us in the semi-final last year, so we were really geared up for that game, to get our first win under our belts."

"We moved onto Antrim then and it was a tough game again. Then we had the comfort going into the Waterford game that we knew we had made the semi-finals.

"Obviously we would have liked to top the group, but it's settled now and we are delighted to have made the final anyway."

O'Carroll says despite losing to Waterford twice already this year, it will matter little in the white-heat of Croke Park.

"They have beaten us twice already, but you can look on that in two ways," she said.

"We have a lot to improve on and we can learn from those defeats and hopefully it will help us going into the final.

"When you are coming off the back of a defeat there are a lot of things you can learn from and improve on.

"We were in a similar situation two years ago. We had lost to Laois in the Round Robin of the Championship and went on to beat them in the final. Probably having that experience and being able to learn from a defeat might help."



Pictured at the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Finals Captains' Day held in Croke Park last Thursday were Niamh Dollard (Laois) and Siobhán Coyle (Roscommon). The final takes place in Croke Park on Sunday next at 12pm. Full preview on Pages 63-66

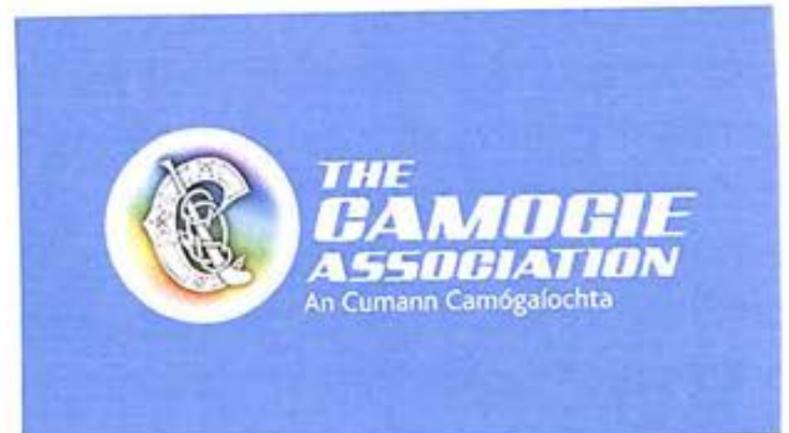
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**THE BEST OF LUCK
TO THE
CORK CAMOGIE TEAM
IN SUNDAY'S
2015 ALL IRELAND FINAL**

U14 All Ireland Championship Blitz 2015

By Camogie Results
Posted 12/09/2015



U14 All Ireland Championship Blitz

Division 1

Cork 1-05 Clare 0-3

Division 2

Antrim 1-09 Kilkenny 2-05

Division 3

Laois 2-04 Galway 0-04

Division 4

Cavan 4-09 Donegal 0-00

Division 5

Kildare 3-01 Tyrone 0-00

'We're all kind of collectively stubborn'

CLIONA
FOLEY

HOPPER'S daughters. It is an understandable label given that three McGrath sisters play camogie for Sarsfields and Galway, a club and a county where their dad Michael is such a local hurling legend. But it only tells half the story and not just because three younger ones — Siobhán (15), Ciara (9) and Laoise (8) — have still to come through the ranks.

For a start it doesn't acknowledge their mother's equally powerful sporting genes. Geraldine Kilkelly (from Kinvara) was a talented runner and an Irish hockey international. She is now the county camogie chairperson and her sister Emma plays for Galway too, alongside her three nieces.

And it doesn't remotely capture the breadth of the McGraths' talents — sporting and academic — and what a hoot they are collectively, finishing each others' sentences and constantly dissolving into peals of laughter.

Niamh (22), the eldest, needs least introduction as she is Galway's centre-forward and free-taker, the top-scorer when they won their first senior All-Ireland in 17 years in 2013.

Deep into injury-time in this summer's potboiler of a semi-final with Wexford, a replay looked inevitable. Yet while everyone else was peeping through their fingertips she coolly strolled up and slotted the winning '45, less than 24 hours after the death of their grandfather.

Two years ago, a fortnight after the semi-final, Niamh moved to a French university for her Erasmus year. She got back a week before the final but had to return to Aix-en-Provence just two days after the victory, missing much of the hoopla after Galway's famous double victory.

A graduate in Law/French from NUIG and a fluent French speaker, she has been studying all summer for the FE-1s to get into Blackhall Place and sits the first set of those exams in a few weeks.

Next comes Orlaith (20), a talented runner until camogie took over in her mid-teens. She completed a remarkable feat in 2013, playing in and winning two All-Ireland finals in one afternoon. She starred for the intermediates and then came off the bench late in the senior decider.

She's a third-year PE/Irish student in UL but this has been a tough year. A broken finger kept her out of the Ashbourne Cup weekend and then, just two games back, she ruptured her cruciate in the National League final and is now in post-surgery rehab, forced to sit out today.

Then there's Clodagh (19), also at UL

where she's studying journalism. She was an unused sub with the seniors in 2013 and was hit badly with injury herself last season. She was just back fit when her own Erasmus studies brought her to Sweden — "not a hurling stronghold!" — in January, yet five feet of snow could not derail her.

"If I hadn't been injured the year before I don't know if I'd have been so self-motivated but I found an indoor ball-alley kind of thing underground and that was what I used for most of January. Then there was like a hill where I used to train on my own."

Like many of their club team-mates they can all play a musical instrument too (violin or viola) after training with Maura McLoughlin's renowned 'Music Matters' group in New Inn.

"We played for a good 10 years," explains Niamh, insisting they had nothing of the natural talent of their grandfather who was "unreal at the melodion".

"We were probably her worst students ever," Orlaith says candidly and, while they're being honest, Clodagh confesses to telling a little porkie to get home from Sweden in time for the league semi-finals.

"I wouldn't have been back until the middle of June otherwise so I doubled up on modules in the last month. I told them there was, eh, 'a family emergency!'" she grins sheepishly. Missing training in their house probably counts as a family emergency.

Orlaith (a corner-forward): "Since we were walking we had a hurl in our hand. I remember Sunday mornings going to watch mam play when we were very young. We hated going to the hockey. We used to bring our huris to her matches and she'd be trying to switch them."

Niamh: "She tried to get us to play hockey for years but we wouldn't and daddy'd be like 'you're holding the hurl wrong!'"

Clodagh (a midfielder): "There was no option with camogie. You had to go outside and practise. He'd be like, 'You can't come in until you've learned how to solo' and I'd be like (sulky face), 'Fine!'"

Orlaith: "And if you lost a sliotar you'd be out there until it was dark!"

Has the 'Hopper's daughters' tag been a burden?

Niamh: "No. I think it's just such an advantage because daddy's so enthusiastic for training teams and making the best out of you. Hurling and camogie are his life like!"

Orlaith: "When you'd get home from a match he'd always have five or six pointers for you. You wouldn't improve without that."

Clodagh: "It's always like 'in the 13th minute, when you side-stepped left, you actually should have gone right!' The post-match analysis is not even funny. But people who have been there and done that



Hopper's daughters: Galway's Orlaith, Clodagh and Niamh McGrath. Photo: Cathal Noonan. For more see camogie.ie and Twitter #ourgameyourgame

are actually more grounded. Some people might think their children are better than they are. We'd never think that."

Orlaith: "He's probably our biggest critic but he'd always praise you if praise

is due."

Clodagh: "And if you got praise you'd be going around smiling for a week!"

They reckon Siobhán is the most skilful of all while the youngest two are already

"like terriers in matches," with Laoise "a dinger at cross-country" too.

Hopper may be the only man in the house — "God help him," they laugh — but has always treated them as equals.

CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND FINAL PREVIEWS

■ Senior final — Cork v Galway, 4.0:

Cork began the defence of their All-Ireland crown without a host of seasoned players, including Jenny O'Leary, Anna Geary and Joanne O'Callaghan and still reached the final. Lacklustre in their round-robin games, they showed their real mettle in their defeat of Kilkenny in the semi-final. When the pressure comes on, Paudie Murray's charges are able to respond. Much will depend on Ashling Thompson in midfield, Orla Cotter at wing-forward and the performance of Amy O'Connor and Katriona Mackey up front. Galway have defeated Cork twice this season but their tendency to fade in the latter stages of games, may be their Achilles heel. Niamh McGrath at centre-forward, Shauna Healy at centre-back and midfield dynamo Niamh Kilkenny, who also captains the side, are crucial for Tony Ward's charges. Victory for Cork will bring them level with Dublin in the roll of honour with 25 titles.

■ Intermediate final — Waterford v Kildare, 2.0:

Waterford have been knocking on the door for a number of years. Trish Jackman is one of the country's premier players, be it at centre-back or midfield, while Beth Carton shows huge promise, despite not sitting her Leaving Cert until next June. There is a nice blend of experience and youth that has flourished under Sean Fleming. Kildare's road has been longer, as they began 2010 in the junior 'A' championship. Now, in only their second intermediate campaign, they are an hour away from senior camogie. They lost to Waterford in the group stages, as they did in the Division 2 league semi-final but were magnificent against Cork in the semi-final with the defence in particular, in which Carol Nolan is a powerful presence, completely on top. Emer Reilly contributed handsomely from play while Susie O'Carroll is also a constant threat.

■ Junior final — Roscommon v Laois, 12.0:

Laois have been operating in the fashion of a team on a mission this year, having fallen at the final hurdle in this championship the last two seasons to Kildare (2013) and Down (2014). Sarah Ann Fitzgerald remains an inspiring figure for David Cuddy's crew while Louise Mahony's finesse from placed balls is crucial. Niamh Dollard, Laura Marie Maher and Eimear Delaney are other key performers. Roscommon are pursuing the county's first title at this level and the manner in which they ground out a four-point victory over Dublin in the semi-final was impressive. The defensive unit confined Dublin to just 1-5 while Athleague sharpshooter Kelley Hopkins kept the scoreboard ticking over with seven points. A goal from her club-mate, Niamh Farrell gave the Rossies vital breathing space. They face a tough task against a team determined to make up for All-Ireland heartbreak. Laois to shade it.

He enlists them to bring home the turf every year ("Ah God nooooo! Don't mention the bog," they plead in mock-horror) but understand "he did that stuff because he wouldn't treat us differently. It's like, 'You're a girl but why wouldn't you be able to do that?'"

"We're all kind of collectively stubborn," Orlaith explains. "Like, in school, we were those girls, with the lads, (saying) 'If you can do that I can do that better!' We're ridiculously competitive — academic and sports-wise."

Niamh: "That comes from daddy, he's very bad, so competitive! We'd be very sore losers."

Really? Who's the worst?

Clodagh and Orlaith: "Niamh!"

Niamh: "Thanks!"

Orlaith: "Sure you'd admit it yourself!"

Niamh: "Clodagh's probably the most stubborn. Like, you'd never give up, whereas I'd be just pure thick if we lost."

The eldest is also the family chocolate fiend.

Clodagh: "Ha ha! That's the best question you've asked. The rest of her diet is disgustingly perfect bar chocolate."

"Clodagh plays depressing music all the time!" Niamh retorts. "I've never heard of any of the people she's playing, it's mental like." And Orlaith? She eats a full pizza on her own!

Orlaith: "I do. It probably doesn't help that I work in Supermac's, they're mighty."

Beating Cork today to win a second senior All-Ireland in three years would be especially precious after losing to Kilkenny in last year's semi-finals.

"I dunno were we still relishing the 2013 double?" Clodagh muses. "There was such a famine in Galway camogie for so long but it was like there wasn't the same hunger last year."

Ever since Sarsfields beat Milford to win a Division 1 Féile title in 2007, days like this have been their destiny.

Orlaith may be injured but still goes to every training session, sustained by a bond that extends far beyond their own family.

Clodagh: "Our team is like a sisterhood. I know that sounds cringey but when I was out (injured) last year I realised the social element you take from it, it's like a support system."

Orlaith: "You make your best friends on the county panel without realising it. You have such a natural connection with them."

Niamh: "There's no drama with this team, no divas or anything. Every one of us is the same."

The same maybe but few GAA households provide such an injection of talent as Hopper and Geraldine's.

Mighty athletes, mighty hurlers and mighty crack . . . until you try beating them at anything.

Rebel leader Thompson steps up



Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie final

Cork v Galway

Tomorrow: Croke Park, 4pm

Referee: R Kelly (Kildare)

Bet: Cork 10/11, Galway 11/10, Draw 15/2

Daragh Ó Conchúir



Ashling Thompson is a symbol of a new Cork dressing room, a fresh face and voice of a team in renewal. But she is a symbol of much more than that. To many, she symbolises hope.

Ever since opening up on the RTÉ TV show *Thank GAA* It's Friday last year about her battle with depression, Thompson has become a public figure.

It says a lot for the road she has travelled that the 25-year-old is comfortable in the spotlight now, emboldened by the reaction of people nationwide.

Speaking about how camogie helped her step back from the precipice is a cathartic process but it is the messages of thanks from other strugglers that strengthen her resolve.

This year, as captain of the Cork camogie team, there have been many more revealing newspaper and radio interviews. A recent cover shoot for a lifestyle supplement of a Sunday newspaper brought her to another audience again.

She is a modern woman. Vulnerability almost consumed her but she is strong now — mentally and physically. Athletic, tattooed, opinionated. A self-employed

sports therapist. Beauty adds to the marketer's dream.

There is not a trace of bullshit though. If you were Ashling Thompson's PR handler, you could be tearing your hair out at times because she doesn't wrap her views in a nice red bow. She has come too far to be bothered with political correctness or marketing speak. You ask a question, you'll get an answer.

It frustrates her at times that she cannot find the words to articulate what she is thinking. She jokes how, when in full flow in the Cork dressing room, she might provide a new word for the men and women of Oxford to consider for their dictionary.

With the Milford woman, who captains Cork in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie final against Galway tomorrow, everything is direct. On and off the field.

Asked about the 'coin toss' controversy that dogged camogie this year, she doesn't blink. "To be fair, the rules are set in the first place. It was written down black and white so you can't really blame anyone for that. It should have been faced head-on when that rule was made. Clearly it was a rule that was ridiculous.

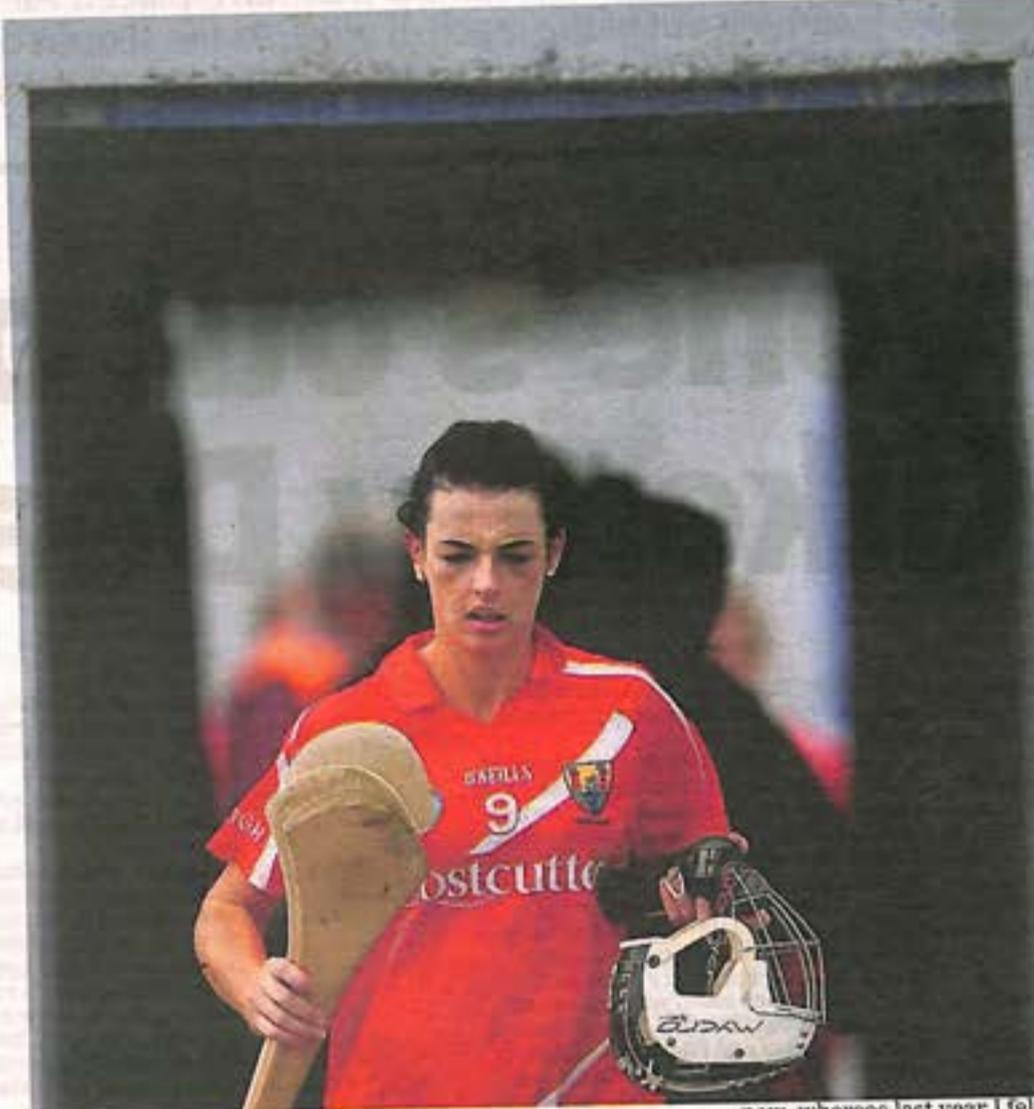
"I can't see how they didn't think that would ever happen. Clearly, there's a high risk of it happening, where two teams will draw even on the same points. "I know rules are rules but at the same time you don't

want to be making a laughing stock of anyone. I think it was great for the Camogie Association to turn around and let the two teams play."

As for Wexford's appeal of their semi-final defeat by Galway, sympathy but short shrift.

"I suppose with the Wexford appeal, throwing it out was the right thing to do. I

feel sorry for Wexford. But I'd never think to appeal it be-



ON A MISSION: 'There's nights I have gone sleepless, engulfed in that kind of emotion of standing in the Hogan Stand, lifting the cup on behalf of my county and all the girls,' says Cork's Ashling Thompson.

Picture: Inpho

game if you go down."

She has seen the inexperienced players grow and flourish, people like Laura Treacy, Méabh Cahalane, Amy O'Connor and Orla Cronin. The squad has a club feel to it that she relishes.

The growth will be tested in Croke Park tomorrow but Thompson has no doubts about where the game will be won and lost.

"Upstairs. We have done what we can to prepare, Galway have done what they can to prepare and I think it comes down to who's mentally weaker. If one of us goes down in the game, who will throw in the towel first? That's where hunger and desire comes in. But it's 100% mental, I think."

Most All-Ireland final captains will tell you that they dare not think beyond the game. No speeches prepared, no visions of receiving the trophy from the president. You must not let your mind get ahead of itself.

Thompson doesn't believe in telling lies, in feeding a message, in presenting a front. Why spin a line? She's human. She has dreamed.

"I have probably thought about it since the start of the year. There are nights I have gone sleepless, just totally engulfed in that kind of emotion of standing in the Hogan Stand lifting the cup on behalf of my county and on behalf of all the girls.

"I think we have worked so hard this year. We have fought through every battle we could possibly fight through so I think if we do win it, we deserve it. Besides what happened in the past with Galway, they beat us twice but so what? It was a learning curve.

"But yeah, I've dreamed of it a few times and to see that it could be a reality is a massive motivator for me."

One of many.

GAMEZone

Cork v Galway

A Murray	1	S Earner
P Mackey	2	T Maston
L Treacy	3	S Deegan
L O'Sullivan	4	H Cooney
R Buckley	5	S Coen
G O'Connor	6	S Healy
M Cahalane	7	L Ryan
J White	8	N Kavanagh (c)
A Thompson (c)	9	C McGrath
O Cotter	10	A Donohue
O Cronin	11	N McGrath
H Looney	12	F Kealey
B Corkery	13	C Finerty
A O'Connor	14	H Donna
K Mackey	15	A O'Kailly

■ = Cork ■ = Galway

cause you could literally appeal every game in the country then. It does make camogie look bad in a way, but then again there's two sides to every story."

Mistakes happen, she allows, and the important thing is for everyone to learn. It's all about evolution.

They know all about evolution in Cork. After Thompson's Milford clubmate Anna Geary lifted the O'Duffy Cup last year, Paudie Murray lost a huge chunk of his squad. Jenny O'Leary, Angela Walsh, Geary, Joanne O'Callaghan and Sara Hayes are just some of the multiple All-Ireland winners unavailable this year.

Thompson could never have given it up. It was her time away from camogie after a car crash that drove her to

consider suicide. And it is camogie that made her realise that she had plenty to live for.

So, she became the leader of New Cork, a team still possessing experienced operators in Gemma O'Connor, Aoife Murray, Briege Corkery, Rena Buckley and Orla Cotter, but now infused with the energy of raw, hungry youngsters.

"I love it. It kind of lets me voice my opinion a lot more, I have a good old voice! I love being a leader, I love guiding them and I love when people look to me for guidance because I know I can give them proper guidance.

"Sometimes, you might lose the plot or say the wrong things, but they always know it's from the heart and I mean well.

"I feel like I'm a veteran

now, whereas last year I felt like I was a little sheep, you know? I looked up to a lot of them whereas I'm the leader now, not just as a captain but the younger players look up to me for experience."

Cork have lost to Galway twice this season, in the league final by three points, having trailed by 11 at half-time, and by 0-2 in the opening round of the group stages.

"We've learned a lot from our defeats. We had a really bad defeat in the league final, played terribly. We didn't even show up against Wexford (in the championship), may as well have stayed at home. But it's important to have those losses, to learn from those mistakes.

"You need bad beatings to knock you down a bit to know how to pick yourself up in a

O'Leary prepares for watching brief at Croke

Mary White

A lot has changed in 12 months for Jennifer O'Leary.

In January, she was one of many high-profile Cork camogie players to retire, with four All-Ireland medals, six league titles and eight All-Stars to her name.

From Lislevane in West Cork, O'Leary settled with her husband in Armagh and spent last season commuting 240 miles to training. It was a struggle at times, but things would only get tougher.

In May, O'Leary's mother,

Kathleen, died, and five months later — just three weeks before the All-Ireland final against Kilkenny — her sister, Paula, unexpectedly passed away also.

She recalls: "It was a blur, but camogie was my saving grace. It was a distraction because I knew how much it meant to everyone else, so I felt it would be totally wrong if I didn't play in the final.

"Afterwards, when everything settled down, it hits you again but, when you're in that moment, you just try and make the most of what you're

dealt with. That's the way I looked at it.

"It was an awful time, but I used it too as a determination and an inspiration to just give it everything because I knew it was going to be my last year.

"I knew too that Paula and my mum would be looking down and would be driving me on, so I just had to go out and play," explained the 31-year-old teacher.

She wasn't the only one with a cross to bear, and on the morning of the 2014 All-Ireland final, that was ad-



Jennifer O'Leary: Her second-half goal ignited Cork's comeback win last season.

dressed by selector Maurice Twomey from Douglas.

After breakfast, he produced a wristband for each member of the panel, upon which 'Strength through

Struggle' was written.

They were in this together, and when they trailed by five points at half-time later that afternoon, Twomey reminded them in the dressing room of the words on the wristband. "Maurice had explained the motto and how everyone had their own struggle to be there that day, and how we each had our own story. At half-time, it reminded us that we were in it together, because those words were true for so many people in that room. It was very powerful."

In the second half, Cork

proceeded to score 1-5 without reply, with O'Leary's goal igniting the comeback which would see them win 2-12 to 1-9.

Tomorrow, O'Leary will be in Croke Park again, but this time she'll be sitting in the stands. "I'd be lying if I said I didn't miss it, especially the build-up. But, I'm looking forward to going in as a spectator. I enjoyed my time playing with Cork, but there comes a time when you're relieved not to have to deal with the hype and pressure any more."

Emma rallies to cause

Camogie preview

Eoghan Cormican



Emma Kilkelly collapsed on the Nowlan Park turf, her camogie season over in an instant.

Two minutes from half-time in last month's All-Ireland semi-final, Kilkelly gathered possession in front of the Old Stand. Planting her right foot in the ground, the Galway half-forward sought to jink left of Wexford's Deirdre Codd, but wound up on the grass. In agony.

An MRI scan confirmed the worst. ACL tear. Season over.

A permanent fixture in the Galway half-forward line over recent years, including the 2013 All-Ireland win, Kilkelly first broke onto the senior squad in 2005 and 10-years later, she is among the most experienced members of Tony Ward's panel. The disappointment at missing tomorrow's final continues to linger.

"I tried to change the direction in my run to get out of a tackle and I felt a real sharp, severe pain in my knee," she recalls. "I knew I had done some damage, but I was still hoping for the best until I knew for sure."

"Initially, when you are told you can't play in an All-Ireland final, it is severe disappointment. On top of that, the nature of this injury is that you are away from the game for a long time which is hard to digest as well."

"Camogie is such a big part of my life and has been for such a long time. It is central to everything that you do. It is probably the worst news you can get as a player."

"Throughout my playing career, I was never faced with a serious injury, thank God. A



WAITING GAME: Galway's Emma Kilkelly goes on the attack against Cork in a previous encounter. Kilkelly will have to watch from the sidelines on Sunday as she recovers from a serious knee injury. "Whatever job I can do on match-day, however big or small it is, I'll be doing it." Picture: Inpho

whole range of emotions go through your head then when you hear the news. Disappointment is the only word, I can use." Kilkelly, who has attended every training session since, admits the lead-in to All-Ireland final Sunday moves at a far slower pace when forced to watch from the sidelines.

"It is different to 2013 and the other finals in the years before that. Going to training has been a big help, being in and around the girls. Really,

you don't want to be standing back and watching them, you want to be in the thick of it. The girls have been extremely supportive of me. I feel very much part of it. You are looking to contribute in another way. There is no room for self-pity when you are involved in a set-up like this. It is not about you."

"Everything has to be about the good of the panel. Whatever job I can do on match-day, however big or small it is, I'll be doing it."

Sitting alongside Kilkelly tomorrow in the Hogan Stand will be her niece, Orlaith McGrath, daughter of two-time All-Ireland-winning Galway hurler Michael 'Hopper' McGrath. The youngest of the three McGrath sisters on the panel, Orlaith tore her ACL in the closing stages of their league final win over Cork in early May. Carrying the family flag will be Clodagh and Niamh McGrath, the latter hitting 1-7 in the league final and 0-8 in their cham-

ampionship meeting back in June.

The pair's mother and Galway camogie chairperson, Geraldine, is an older sister of Emma's.

"You'd be telling them to get out and enjoy the occasion, make the most of it, work hard and play right through the 60 minutes. This is Clodagh's first senior All-Ireland. She was there with the intermediates in 2013. She is hard-working and I am in no doubt that she will do fine."

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie final: Cork v Galway, Croke Park (R Kelly, Kildare), 4pm.

The two counties to last hold aloft the O'Duffy Cup have undergone significant surgery since their respective wins in 2013 (Galway) and 2014. (Cork). For Galway, Therese Maher, Brendan Hanney, Ann Marie Hayes and Aislinn Connolly have handed in their notice to manager Tony Ward and while the rebuilding process gathered steam following the league final win and successful championship opener against Cork, the Tribeswomen have since lost half their forward unit to injury - Emma Kilkelly (cruciate), Orlaith McGrath (cruciate) and Ann Marie Starr (broken arm). Into the fold has come Catherine Finnerty and Clodagh McGrath, while either Fiona Keely or Rebecca Hennelly will replace Kilkelly in the half-forward line tomorrow. The full-back line of Therese Manton, Sarah Devan and Heather Cooney is unchanged from 2013 and their September experience will be vital against the likes of Briega Corkery, Katrina Mackey and final debutant Amy O'Connor. O'Connor is one of the 2015 additions made by Paudie Murray. Leanne O'Sullivan, Méabh Cahalane, Hannah Looney and Orla Cronin are also handed first-team roles this year to cater for the mass exodus of players over the winter. Julie White, overseas for much of the summer, was superb at midfield against Kilkenny last month, freeing up Orla Cotter to the half-forward line.

In terms of individual battles, significant weight can be attached to the duels of Gemma O'Connor and Galway's Niamh McGrath, as well as the midfield scrap of the two captains, Ashling Thompson and Niamh Kilkenny.

Galway were the form team of spring and early summer, momentum would appear to have since shifted Leaside.

And while imperfections have been highlighted in an inexperienced Cork full-back line, the firepower displayed in the 4-10 to 1-10 semi-final win over Kilkenny suggests back-to-back titles is on the cards.

Verdict: Cork
Liberty Insurance All-Ireland intermediate camogie final: Kildare v Waterford, Croke Park (J Byrne, Dublin), 2pm.
Verdict: Waterford
Eoghan Cormican



Aisling O'Dea loses her hurl in this collision with Roscommon's Aisling Byrne

Patricia Jackman takes August WLR FM/Granville Hotel award

Patricia Jackman is the August winner of the WLR FM/Granville Hotel GAA awards. The Galtir player had a busy month which saw her retain her All Ireland Poc Fada title and help Waterford's Camogie side reach their first ever All Ireland Intermediate final. Patricia was back in the Cooley mountains at the start of the month and claimed a record seventh All Ireland title in the Women's long puc finals. She was also pivotal in helping Waterford get past Meath in the All Ireland semi-final as the team came from eight points down to edge out the Royals in a dramatic one point win. Patricia who lined out at centre back scored five points in one of the most satisfying wins of her career as it ensured a first victory at the fourth attempt at the semi-final stage and sent Waterford on their way towards All-Ireland glory in Croke Park last weekend.



Patricia Jackman, winner of the WLR/Granville Monthly GAA Award for August is pictured receiving her award from Jacki Cusack, Granville Hotel and Neil Gough, WLR FM. Also included are her parents, Laurence and Jenny Jackman and grandmother, Una Jackman. Photo: Noel Brown.



Gemma O'Connor, Cork

#BehindThePlayer

Paths to the 2015 Final

Galway

20/06/2015	Galway	1-11	Cork	0-12
04/07/2015	Galway	1-11	Offaly	1-8
11/07/2015	Galway	1-11	Wexford	0-6
18/07/2015	Galway	4-16	Limerick	0-12

Semi-Final

15/08/2015	Galway	1-14	Wexford	2-10
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Cork

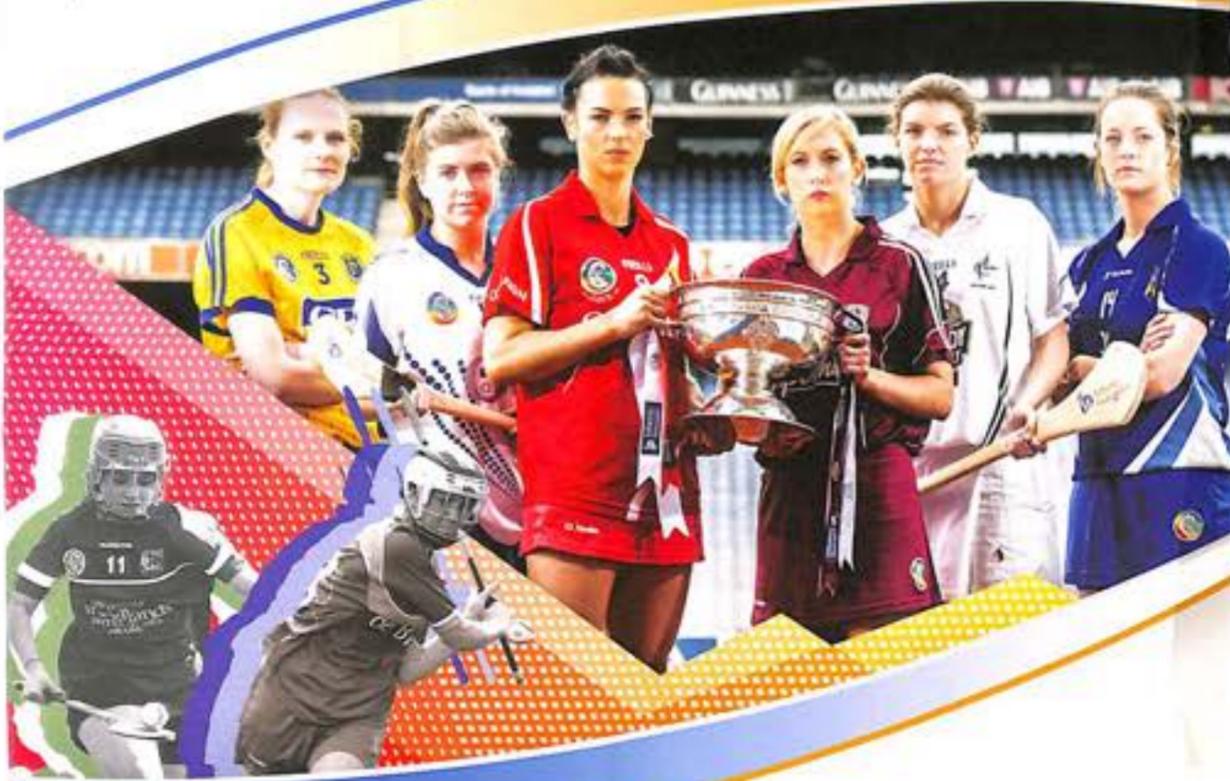
20/06/2015	Cork	0-12	Galway	1-11
27/06/2015	Cork	1-14	Limerick	1-10
11/07/2015	Cork	0-13	Offaly	0-6
18/07/2015	Cork	0-10	Wexford	0-13

Quarter-Finals

01/08/2015	Cork	2-17	Tipperary	0-10
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Semi-Finals

16/08/2015	Cork	4-10	Kilkenny	1-10
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#ourgameyourgame

2015 Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championship Finals

Croke Park, Sunday 13th of September, 2015.

Laois v Roscommon
12.00pm
Premier Junior Camogie Final

Kildare v Waterford
2.00pm
Intermediate Camogie Final

Cork v Galway
4.00pm
Senior Camogie Final

Joan O'Flynn, Ard Stiúrthoir



Clár an Lae

- 12 noon:** Liberty Insurance Premier Junior Championship Final
LAOIS v ROSCOMMON
- 12.32pm:** Mini Games
- 2.00pm:** Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship Final
KILDARE v WATERFORD
- 2.32pm:** Under-14 County Development Squads Parade
- 3.52pm:** Senior Teams Parade
- 3.58pm:** Amhrán na bhFiann
- 4.00pm:** Liberty Insurance Senior Championship Final
CORK v GALWAY
- 4.32pm:** Entertainment Act – *The Hit Machine*

*In the event of a draw, the replay date for all games
is Sunday, 4th October*

Musical entertainment: The Artane Band

CORK v GALWAY

An intriguing battle is assured

AS THE list of multiple All-Ireland winners not returning to the fold leaked into the public domain earlier this year, the number of people from outside the camp backing Cork's two-in-a-

row bid in 2015 would have been very small indeed.

Jenny O'Leary, Anna Geary, Joanne O'Callaghan, Sara Hayes, Joanne Casey and Angela Walsh were all

unavailable but nonetheless, the Leesiders were impressive in reaching the league final, with the likes of Leanne O'Sullivan, Méabh Cahalane, Orla Cronin and Amy O'Connor establishing



A tussle between Finola Keeley (Galway) and Deirdre Codd (Wexford) during the semi-final at Nowlan Park. (Photo: INPHO/Donall Farmer)



Cork's Briege Corkery is pursued by Stacey Quirke (Kilkenny) during the semi-final at Walsh Park, Waterford. (Photo: INPHO/Ryan Byrne)

themselves in the starting line-up.

They endured a horror opening half at Semple Stadium and went in at half time trailing Galway by 11 points. However, they kept the westerners to just five points in the second half as they whittled the deficit down to three in the end.

The round-robin campaign was difficult. They played well when losing by a point to Galway once more but the reverse to Wexford gave the impression that they were not firing on all cylinders.

A comfortable quarter-final defeat of Tipperary, who had pushed them hard in the Munster final, was the first indication that they might

finally have found a way of realising their attacking potential. The manner in which they turned a seven-point deficit into a nine-point victory against the previously all-conquering Kilkenny provided further evidence of that, with Katrina Mackey and the ultra-reliable Orla Cotter chief beneficiaries.

Galway followed up their excellent league by topping the most competitive group in the championship. They were made to work incredibly hard by Wexford in the semi-final, with their tendency to drift out of games having established a healthy advantage rearing its head once again.

What is notable though is that they keep doing enough

to prevail. The only time they failed to get their noses in front, they still managed a draw with Limerick in the League.

Sarah Dervan and Shauna Healy form a solid defensive spine, while Niamh Kilkenny is a huge driving force from midfield and her battle with Cork captain, Ashling Thompson could be decisive. Niamh McGrath is so often the match winner with her scores from play while Molly Dunne and Ailish O'Reilly have been terrorising full-back lines all year.

Orlaith McGrath, her aunt, Emma Kilkelly and Ann Marie Starr have been lost to injuries so both squads have had their depth tested. The ultimate examination awaits.

Niamh KILKENNY

GALWAY CAPTAIN

Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

My parents Martin and Mary and the late Michael Kennedy always showed great support and encouragement towards me. No pitch in the country is ever too far for Mam and Dad! Growing up I can remember watching my sister Orla and players like Sharon Glynn achieve success at club and county level, this inspired me to train harder in an attempt to emulate their success.

What has been your sporting moment of 2015?

Captaining Galway to a National League title earlier this year.

Who is the toughest opponent that you've faced?

My sister Aoife, I had to be quick or else I'd be killed!

What are your pre-match rituals?

I don't have many pre-match rituals but always seem to find myself sitting beside Ryano (Lorraine Ryan) on the team bus . . . she's a great woman for a few tunes!!

Three words to describe yourself as a player?

Passionate, Dedicated and Committed.

What does it mean to wear the County Jersey?

It's a huge honour. To take the playing field in a Galway jersey was always a dream of mine as a young camogie player.

What is your favourite warm-up music?

The Script – Hall of Fame.

What is your personal motto?

There are only two options regarding commitment. You're either IN or you're OUT. There is no such thing as life in-between.



Ashling THOMPSON

CORK CAPTAIN

Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

Frank Flannery and Milford camogie

What has been your sporting moment of 2015?

Defeating Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final

Who is the toughest opponent that you've faced?

Whoever I've marked in training

What are your pre-match rituals?

Porridge, prayer and Nicki Minaj

Three words to describe yourself as a player?

Athletic, relentless, authentic

What does it mean to wear the County Jersey?

It's everything you wish for. It's an absolute honour, I simply cherish every moment.

What is your favourite warm-up music?

Really?!... The Spice Girls

What is your personal motto?

Start unknown, finish unforgettable



Gaillimh

SENIOR



Back row (l.-r.): Jessica Gill, Sarah Keehan, Emma Helebert, Niamh McGrath, Siobhán Coen, Heather Cooney, Emma Kilkelly, Lorraine Ryan, Therese Manton, Sarah Dervan, Susan Earner, Finola Keeley, Laura Mitchell, Sinéad Cahalan, Niamh Hanniffy, Aoife Callanan.
 Front row (l.-r.): Siobhán Gardiner, Shauna Burke, Catherine Finnerty, Molly Dunne, Aoife Donohue, Niamh Kilkenny (Capt.), Clodagh McGrath, Shauna Healy, Ailish O'Reilly, Rebecca Hennelly, Tara Kenny, Dervla Higgins, Clara Murphy, Maria Cooney.
 Missing from photo: Orlaith McGrath, Annmarie Starr.

	1st LEIN	2nd LEIN	3rd LEIN
COR			
CORIN			
TEACHA			
CLG			
CLG			
CLG			

Gaillimh

Dathanna: Marún agus Bán

SENIOR



(2) T. Ní Mhantáin
THERESE MANTON
Mullagh

(5) S. Ní Chadhain
SIOBHÁN COEN
Ballinderreen

(8) N. Ní Giolla Chainnigh (Capt.)
NIAMH KILKENNY
Pearses

(10) A. Ní Dhonnchú
AOIFE DONOHUE
Mullagh

(13) C. Ní Fhionnagáin
CATHERINE FINNERTY
Mountbellow/Moylough

(3) S. Ní Dhoirbheáin
SARAH DERVAN
Mullagh

(6) S. Ní hÉili
SHAUNA HEALY
Ardrahan

(9) C. Ní Craith
CLODAGH McGRATH
Sarsfields

(11) N. Ní Craith
NIAMH McGRATH
Sarsfields

(14) M. Ní Dhoinn
MOLLY DUNNE
Eyrecourt

(4) H. Ní Chuana
HEATHER COONEY
St. Thomas

(7) L. Ní Riain
LORRAINE RYAN
Kiltullagh/Killimordaly

(12) E. Ní Giolla Cheallaigh
EMMA KILKELLY
Kinvara

(15) A. Ní Raghallaigh
AILISH O'REILLY
Oranmore/Maree

- (16) S. de Búrca
Shauna Burke
Croughwell
- (17) S. Ní Chathaláin
Sinéad Cahalan
Mullagh
- (18) T. Ní Cionnaoith
Tara Kenny
Sarsfields
- (19) M. Ní Chuana
Maria Cooney
Sarsfields
- (20) A. Ní Chalanáin
Aoife Callanan
Ardrahan
- (21) S. Ní an Ghaill
Jessica Gill
Athenry
- (22) F. Ní Chaollai
Finola Keeley
St. Thomas
- (23) S. Gairnéir
Siobhán Gardiner
Ardrahan
- (24) L. Mistéil
Laura Mitchell
Kiltullagh/Killimordaly
- (25) Á. Starr
Annmarie Starr
Killimor
- (26) E. Hoileabard
Emma Helebert
Ballinderreen
- (27) C. Ní Mhurchú
Clara Murphy
Clarinbridge
- (28) N. Ní hAinbhith
Niamh Hanniffy
Oranmore/Maree
- (29) O. Ní Craith
Orlaith McGrath
Sarsfields
- (30) R. Ní hIonnsaile
Rebecca Hennelly
Ardrahan

Manager: Tony Ward Selectors: Liam Hodgins, Orla Watson
 Physio: Sharon Morris Doctor: Ian O'Connor Stats: Joan Poland, Peter Fahy
 Backroom: John Noone, Frank Duane, Mickey Grealish

Corcaigh



SENIOR



Back row (l.-r.): Linda Collins, Sarah Fahy, Rebecca Walsh, Amy O'Connor, Pamela Mackey, Méabh Cahalane, Hannah Looney, Leanne O'Sullivan, Sarah Buckley, Jennifer Hosford, Ashling Thompson (Capt.), Katelyn Hickey, Eimear O'Sullivan, Orla Cotter, Amy Lee, Aoife Murray.
Front row (l.-r.): Lauren Callanan, Finola Neville, Leah Weste, Katriona Mackey, Gemma O'Connor, Niamh O'Keefe, Rena Buckley, Julia White, Briega Corkery, Orla Cronin, Laura Treacy.



- (16) A. Ní Laoi
Amy Lee
Na Piarasigh
- (17) M. Bhreatnach
Maria Walsh
Milford
- (18) E. Ní Shúilleabháin
Eimear O'Sullivan
Ballinhassig
- (19) L. Weste
Leah Weste
Ballincollig
- (20) N. Ní Chaoimh
Niamh O'Keefe
Killeagh
- (21) S. Ní Bhuachalla
Sarah Buckley
Ballincollig
- (22) S. Hosford
Jennifer Hosford
Glen Rovers
- (23) R. Bhreatnach
Rebecca Walsh
Fr. O'Neill's
- (24) L. Ní Chealláin
Lauren Callanan
Glen Rovers
- (25) F. Ní Nía
Finola Neville
St. Catherine's
- (26) C. Ní hÍcí
Katelynn Hickey
Blackrock
- (27) S. Ní Fhathaigh
Sarah Fahy
Douglas
- (28) L. Ní Loingsigh
Lisa Lynch
Valley Rovers
- (29) L. Ní Cholláin
Linda Collins
Courcey Rovers

Corcaigh

Dathanna: Dearg agus Bán

SENIOR

	TIME	DOWN	PUNTS	GOALS
COLL				
COLLIN				
COCKIN				
COE				
COO				
COO				
COO				



(1) A. Ní Mhuirl
AOIFE MURRAY
Cloughduv



(2) P. Ní Mhaca
PAMELA MACKEY
Douglas



(3) L. Ní Threasaigh
LAURA TREACY
Killeagh



(4) L. Ní Shúilleabháin
LEANNE O'SULLIVAN
Glen Rovers



(5) R. Ní Bhuachalla
RENA BUCKLEY
Inniscarra



(6) G. Ní Chonchúir
GEMMA O'CONNOR
St. Finbarr's



(7) M. Ní Chatháin
MÉABH CAHALANE
St. Finbarr's



(8) S. Ní Bhanáin
JULIA WHITE
Douglas



(9) A. Ní Thomáis (Capt.)
ASHLING THOMPSON
Milford



(10) O. Ní Oitir
ORLA COTTER
St. Catherine's



(11) O. Ní Chróinín
ORLA CRONIN
Enniskeane



(12) S. Ní Luanaigh
HANNAH LOONEY
Killeagh



(13) B. Ní Chorca
BRIEGA CORKERY
Cloughduv



(14) A. Ní Chonchúir
AMY O'CONNOR
St. Vincent's



(15) C. Ní Mhaca
KATRIONA MACKEY
Douglas

Manager: Paudie Murray Selectors: George Fitzgibbon, Dr. Wesley O'Brien, Sean Cremin, Kevin Mulcahy, Niall Collins, Damien Murray, Teddy O'Donovan (Goal Keeping Coach), Michael Carroll.
Physio: Aoife McMahon Maor Foinne: Michael Carroll

GALWAY Player Profiles



NIAMH KILKENNY (Capt.)
Peasacs
All-Ireland Senior title, Nat League title, All-Ireland Minor title, 4 All-Star awards, Gael Linn title, All-Ireland Junior Football title.



SARAH DERVAN
Mullagh
All-Ireland Senior title, All-Ireland Intermediate title, Nat League title, 2 All-Star awards, Gael Linn title, Senior County title, 2 County League titles, Ashbourne Cup with University of Limerick, Galway Bay FM Sports Personality of the Year.



SUSAN EARNER
Eyecourt
All-Ireland Senior title, All-Ireland Intermediate title, 2 Nat League titles, All-Ireland Junior & Minor titles, 2 County Intermediate League titles, Junior & Minor county titles, 2 All-Star awards, numerous underage titles.



THERESE MANTON
Mullagh
All-Ireland Senior title, Nat League title, Gael Linn title, County Senior title, 3 County League titles, numerous underage titles.



HEATHER COONEY
St. Thomas
All-Ireland Senior title, All-Ireland Intermediate title, Nat League title, Gael Linn title, County Intermediate title.



SIOBHÁN COEN
Ballindereen
All-Ireland Senior title, All-Ireland Intermediate title, Nat League title, All-Ireland Minor title, Connacht Junior title, County Junior title.



SHAUNA HEALY
Ardrahan
All-Ireland Intermediate title, Nat League title, All-Ireland Minor title, All-Ireland U16 title, County Senior title, County Intermediate title, County Intermediate League, County Féile naGael title.



LORRAINE RYAN
Kiltulla/Killimordaly
All-Ireland Senior title, Nat League title, All-Ireland Minor title, Gael Linn title, County League title, Connacht Intermediate title, 2 All-Star awards, Ashbourne League title, numerous underage titles.



CLODAGH McGRATH
Sarsfields
All-Ireland Senior title, 2 All-Ireland Minor titles, Ashbourne Cup, numerous underage titles for County & Club.



AOIFE DONOHUE
Mullagh
All-Ireland Senior title, All-Ireland Intermediate title, Nat League title, 2 Connacht Intermediate titles, All-Ireland Minor title, County Senior title, 3 County League & 2 County Minor titles.



NIAMH McGRATH
Sarsfields
All-Ireland Senior title, All-Ireland Minor title, All-Ireland U16 title, County Intermediate title, 2 All-Star awards, numerous underage titles.



EMMA KILKELLY
Kinvara
All-Ireland Senior title, 2 Nat Leagues titles, All-Ireland Intermediate title, All-Ireland Junior title, All-Ireland Minor title.



CATHERINE FINNERTY
Mountbellew/Moylough
Connacht Senior & Junior titles, County Intermediate League title, 2 County U16B title.



MOLLY DUNNE
Eyecourt
All-Ireland Senior title, Nat League title, Gael Linn title, County Junior & Minor titles, North American Senior title, Purcell Cup.



AILISH O'REILLY
Oranmore/Maree
All-Ireland Senior title, Nat League title, 2 All-Ireland Minor titles, All-Ireland U16 title, County Intermediate title, County Junior A title, County U16 title, All-Star award.



SHAUNA BURKE
Craughwell
Nat League title, County Junior A C'ship & League, Connacht Junior A title.



SINÉAD CAHALAN
Mullagh
All-Ireland Senior title, All-Ireland Intermediate title, All-Ireland Junior title, County Senior title, 2 All-Stars awards.



TARA KENNY
Sarsfields
All-Ireland Senior title, All-Ireland Intermediate title, Nat League title, All-Ireland Minor title, County Intermediate title, Connacht Intermediate title, numerous underage titles.



MARIA COONEY
Sarsfields
All-Ireland Senior title, All-Ireland Intermediate title, 2 All-Ireland Minor titles, 2 All-Ireland U16 titles.



AOIFE CALLANAN
Ardrahan
All-Ireland Intermediate title, Nat League title, All-Ireland Minor title, County Senior title, County Intermediate title, County Intermediate League, numerous underage titles.



JESSICA GILL
Athenry
Nat League title, All-Ireland Minor title, 4 County Senior titles, 2 Kilmacud 75, numerous underage titles.



FINOLA KEELEY
St. Thomas
All-Ireland Intermediate title, Nat League title, All-Ireland Minor title, 3 Connacht Intermediate titles, County Intermediate title, 2 Ashbourne Cups, numerous underage titles.



SIOBHÁN GARDINER
Ardrahan
Nat League title, All-Ireland Minor title, All-Ireland U16 title, County Senior title, Connacht Intermediate Club title, County Minor title, numerous underage titles.



LAURA MITCHELL
Kiltulla/Killimordaly
2 All-Ireland Intermediate titles, Nat League title, All-Ireland Minor title, All-Ireland U16 title, Junior Gael Linn title, Connacht Intermediate title, County Intermediate title, Connacht Intermediate Club title, 2 County Minor titles.



EMMA HELEBERT
Ballindereen
Nat League title, Connacht Intermediate title, numerous underage titles.



CIARA MURPHY
Clarinbridge
Connacht Intermediate title, County Junior A title, numerous underage titles.



NIAMH HANNIFFY
Oranmore/Maree
Nat League title, All-Ireland Minor title, County Intermediate title, County Junior A title, Connacht Junior A Club title, 2 All-Ireland Football titles, numerous underage titles.



REBECCA HENNELLY
Ardrahan
All-Ireland Senior title, 2 All-Ireland Intermediate titles, All-Ireland Minor title, Junior Gael Linn title, County Senior title, County Intermediate C'ship & League title, Soaring Star award, numerous underage titles.



ORLAITH McGRATH
Sarsfields
All-Ireland Senior title, All-Ireland Intermediate title, Nat League title, 2 All-Ireland Minor titles, County Intermediate title, Connacht Intermediate title, numerous underage titles.



ANNMARIE STARR
Kilmar
All-Ireland Senior title, Nat League title, All-Ireland Senior Club title, 3 County Senior titles.



ASHLING THOMPSON (Capt.)
Milford
All-Ireland Senior title, Nat League title, 3 Munster Senior titles, Munster Intermediate & Junior titles, 2 All-Ireland Senior Club titles, County Senior League titles, numerous underage titles in Camogie & Ladies football, Pan Celtic title.



AOIFE MURRAY
Cloughduv
6 All-Ireland Senior titles, All-Ireland Junior & Intermediate titles, 5 Nat League, 5 All-Star awards, 7 Munster titles, 3 Senior County titles, numerous underage titles.



PAMELA MACKEY
Douglas
2 All-Ireland Senior titles, 6 Munster titles, 2 County Senior titles, All-Star award, numerous underage titles.



LAURA TRACEY
Killeagh
All-Ireland Senior title, Nat League Div 2 title, 2 Munster titles, Ashbourne title with WIT, numerous underage titles.



LEANNE O'SULLIVAN
Glen Rovers
All-Ireland Senior title, Nat League Div 1 & Div 2, 3 Munster titles, Munster Intermediate & Junior title, Senior County C'ship & League titles, numerous underage titles, Purcell Cup & All-Star award with UCC.



EIMEAR O'SULLIVAN
Ballinhassig
3 All-Ireland Senior titles, All-Ireland Intermediate title, All-Star award, Nat League Div 1 & Div 2, Munster Senior, Junior & U18 titles, County Senior & Junior titles, Ashbourne Shield with CIT.



GEMMA O'CONNOR
St. Finbarr's
6 All-Ireland Senior titles, Nat League title, 2 All-Ireland Minor titles, 8 All-Stars awards, National Player of the year 2005, Munster Senior, Junior & Minor titles, Senior County title.



MEABH CAHALANE
St. Finbarr's
Munster Senior & Intermediate titles, County Minor title, All-Ireland Ladies Football titles.



RENA BUCKLEY
Inniscarra
5 All-Ireland Senior titles, All-Ireland Minor title, Nat League title, All-Star award, Munster C'ship titles, County Senior title, Munster Senior Club title, 9 All-Ireland Football titles.



ORLA COTTER
St Catherine's
4 All-Ireland Senior titles, 4 Nat League titles, 7 Munster Senior titles, 2 All-Star awards, County Senior & Junior titles, All-Ireland & Provincial Club Ladies Football titles.



ORLA CRONIN
Enniskeane
All-Ireland Senior title, Munster Senior title, Junior County C'ship & League titles.



HANNAH LOONEY
Killeagh
All-Ireland senior title, Munster Senior title, Munster Intermediate title, 2 Munster U18 titles, U18 County League title, numerous underage titles.



BRIEGHE CORKERY
Cloughduv
5 All-Ireland Senior titles, All-Ireland Intermediate title, Nat League titles, 3 County Senior C'ship titles, 9 All-Ireland Ladies Football titles, County Football title.



AMY O'CONNOR
St. Vincent's
All-Ireland Senior title, Munster Minor title, County Junior League titles, Irish Soccer International pla.



KATRIONA MACKEY
Douglas
2 All-Ireland Senior title, 2 Nat League titles, 5 Munster Senior titles, 2 All-Star awards, 2 County Senior C'ships, 3 County Senior League titles, numerous underage titles.



AMY LEE
Na Piarasigh
Munster Senior & Intermediate titles, County Junior C'ship title, County Junior League title, Ladies Football titles.



MARIA WALSH
Milford
All-Ireland Senior title, Nat League title, 5 Munster Senior titles, 2 All-Ireland Senior Club titles, 3 Munster Senior titles, 3 County Senior titles, Ashbourne All-Star, numerous underage school titles.



LAUREN CALLANAN
Glen Rovers
Senior B County C'ship, numerous underage county titles.



LEAH WESTE
Ballincollig
Nat Div 1 League title, Nat League Div 2 title, 2 Munster Senior titles, Munster Intermediate & Junior titles, 2 County Senior titles, County Junior C'ship & League title, numerous underage titles.



NIAMH O'KEEFE
Killeagh
Nat League Div 2 title, 2 Munster Senior titles, Munster Intermediate title, County Senior title, Fr Meachair Cup with Mary Immaculate College, numerous All-Ireland Football titles.



SARAH BUCKLEY
Ballincollig
All-Ireland Senior title, Nat League Div 2 title, Munster Intermediate title, Munster Minor title, County Senior B & Junior titles, County Senior Summer League.



SARAH FAHY
Douglas
Munster Senior title, Munster Intermediate title, Munster Minor title, numerous underage Camogie/Football titles with County & Club, All-Ireland Basketball title.



REBECCA WALSH
Fr O'Neill's
Munster Intermediate & Junior titles, County Senior titles, numerous underage titles.



JULIA WALSH
Douglas
3 All-Ireland Senior titles, 2 Nat League titles, 4 Munster Senior titles, 2 County Senior titles, Ashbourne Cup with University of Limerick, 2 O'Connor Cup Ladies Football with UL.



FINOLA NEVILLE
St. Catherine's
All-Ireland Senior title, Munster Senior title, Munster Intermediate title, County Senior title.



KATELYN HICKEY
Blackrock
Munster Senior title, Munster Intermediate title, Nat League Div 2 title, County Junior & Minor titles, numerous underage titles.



JENNIFER HOSFORD
Glen Rovers
Nat League title, Munster Intermediate title, County Senior C'ship & League titles, 2 County Minor titles, County U16 title, Cork Youth Sports Award.



LISA LYNCH
Valley Rovers
Munster Intermediate, Junior, Minor & U16 titles, Munster Senior Club League numerous underage titles.



LINDA COLLINS
Courcy Rovers
Munster Intermediate title, Munster Minor title, County Féile title, numerous Ladies Football titles with club.

Cork's new generation show those old winning habits

Corkery's 54th-minute goal settles decider against Galway

Defensive effort gives Paudie Murray's side 26th All-Ireland title



Malachy Clerkin at Croke Park

Cork 1-13
Galway 0-9

It was over before it finished, the conclusion obvious well ahead of the end. Cork carved a 26th notch onto the bedpost without ever really having to sharpen their knives.

If the outcome was in any doubt, it was only because they took their time about going for the kill and left themselves needlessly vulnerable to something freakish taking them down. It didn't happen - but if it had, they'd only have had themselves to blame.

The key score came 17 minutes from the end, when Brieghe Corkery scuttled through on goal down by Hill 16 and finished the contest with a shot that beat Galway goalkeeper Susan Earner low to her right. But in a game where Cork had dominated for long spells, it was a goal that felt more worthy of a phew of relief than a roar of joy. It put them five ahead for the first time on an afternoon where they had long since been at least that much the better team.

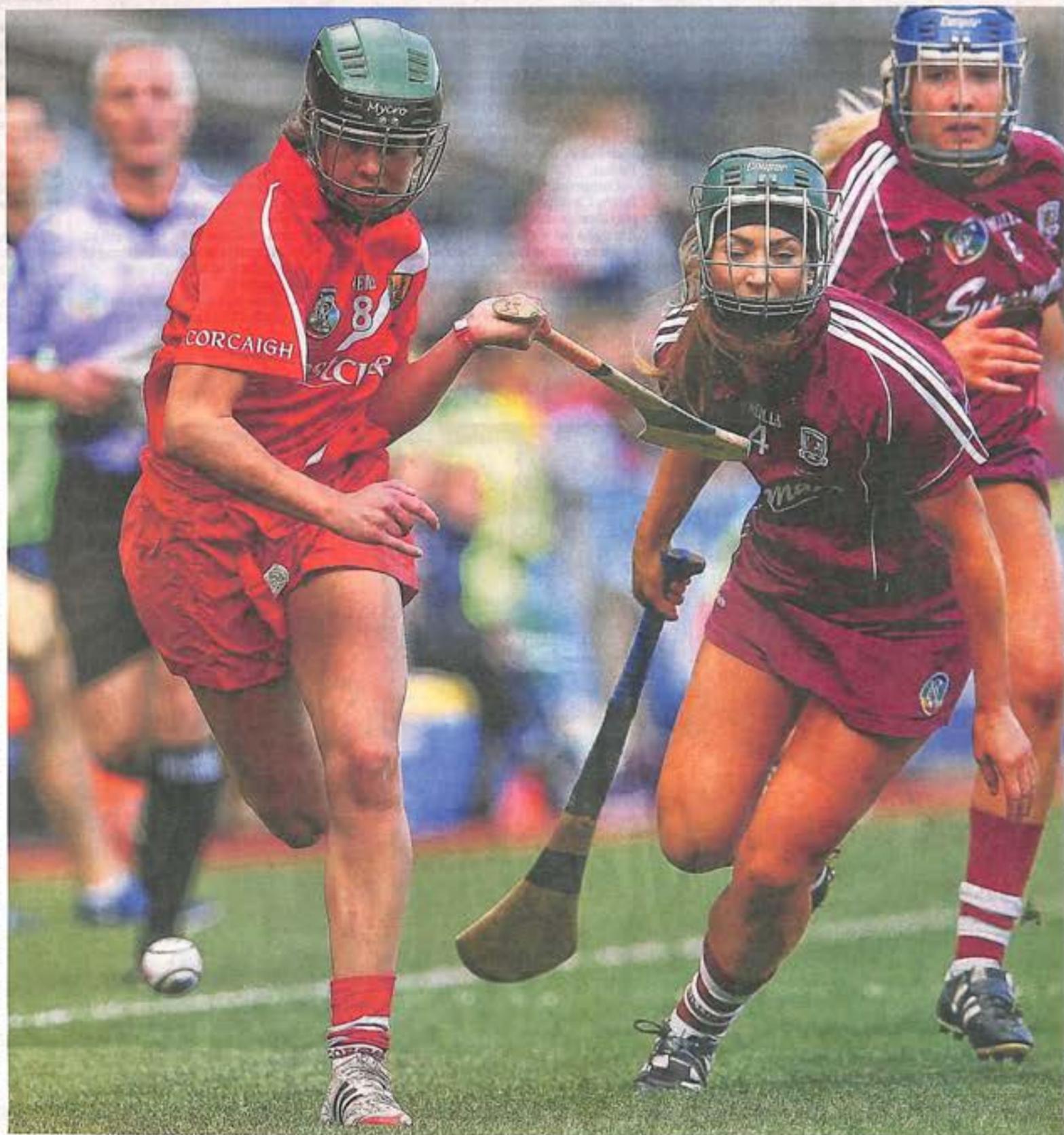
Paudie Murray has set his Cork side up not to concede and that is how they won another All-Ireland. For the fourth game out of seven, they didn't let in a goal. Galway scored nine points, all but two from placed balls. By packing the Cork defence and keeping Galway as far from his goal as possible, Murray plonked his opposition into a maze from which they were going to have to be very skilled or very lucky to escape.

Curiously flat
Though it achieved its aim, there were times in this often curiously flat All-Ireland final

15

Yesterday gave goalscorer Corkery her 15th senior All-Ireland medal, her sixth in camogie

that you wondered was it really necessary. Cork were the more skilled side here and generally the fitter one as well. They had more scorers, more leaders and more experience in the bank. They came in here on the back of 6-27 scored in the quarter-final and semi-final against Tipp and Kilkenny - if they'd just



come out and hurled Galway, you got the sense that they'd have wrapped this up by half-time.

Even though they owned the first half, they played it as though they were scrimping and saving just to make the mortgage on it. Only two Galway players made any impression at all: the surging runs of Niamh Kilkenny and the glorious striking of Niamh McGrath all they had to offer. But apart from one early whipped point from McGrath, everything Galway tried crashed against the rocks of the Cork half-back line. The steel curtain Cork drew across their own 45 was impenetrable.

The flipside was that Cork never had enough players in attack to threaten the goal that would have put clear water between the sides.

They landed some terrific points from distance through that first half - Orla Cotter, Aisling Thompson and Orla Cronin all threw into the pot, as did Corkery - but though they had plenty of possession, they often ran out of bodies before they could get close to goal and so had to content themselves with points.

Waterford and Laois claim titles

Waterford completed a memorable double by adding the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland intermediate camogie title to the Division Two league crown they won earlier in the year.

A 2-9 to 1-5 victory over Kildare means that Stephen Fleming's crew will be operating at the top table in both competitions next year and with five minors starting this game, it is evident that they are a force for the future. Earlier Laois had finally

It all washed out into a 0-8 to 0-4 half-time lead. With Gemma O'Connor, Julia White and Thompson all putting in afternoons of absolute athletic certainty around the middle, it was hard to see where Galway were going to get any traction. The only route to goal for them seemed to be McGrath's frees.

Whittling
Still, the problem with a four-point lead is that it doesn't take a huge amount of whittling, even against a team with only one whittler. For 10 minutes after the break, the Cork tackling that was winning the ball in the first half started to draw referee Ray Kelly's ire. McGrath stepped into three of them and cleared the bar each time, the third one from 62 metres. All of a sudden, Cork 0-8 Galway 0-7.

brought their Croke Park torment to an end by overcoming a determined but profligate Roscommon 2-12 to 1-6 in the junior decider.

The O'Moore County girls had lost the previous two finals and the weight of that history appeared to affect them at times as they sought to shake off their gritty opponents.

Indeed, you could hardly say they were dominant in the first half and the final margin was in many ways very hard on Roscommon.

"I was disappointed with the frees, to be honest," said Murray. "We spoke about that at half-time: we gave away a couple of frees, and a couple were very harsh, to be honest. One point from play from Galway in the first half - we were saying don't give away frees and we'll win the game. I was disappointed with that part of it."

Defensive
Now all Galway needed was a break. When one high ball rained down on the edge of the champions' square to cause hassle for Aoife Murray between the sticks, the fragility of the Cork lead was obvious. Had a sniping Galway forward been on hand, it could have been a different game.

"I thought for ten minutes in the second half we had them on the rails but our time didn't last long enough," said Galway manager Tony Ward.

"When the goal came it put paid to our chances really. We weren't getting a spread of scores. Cork were very defensive and closed us out all day

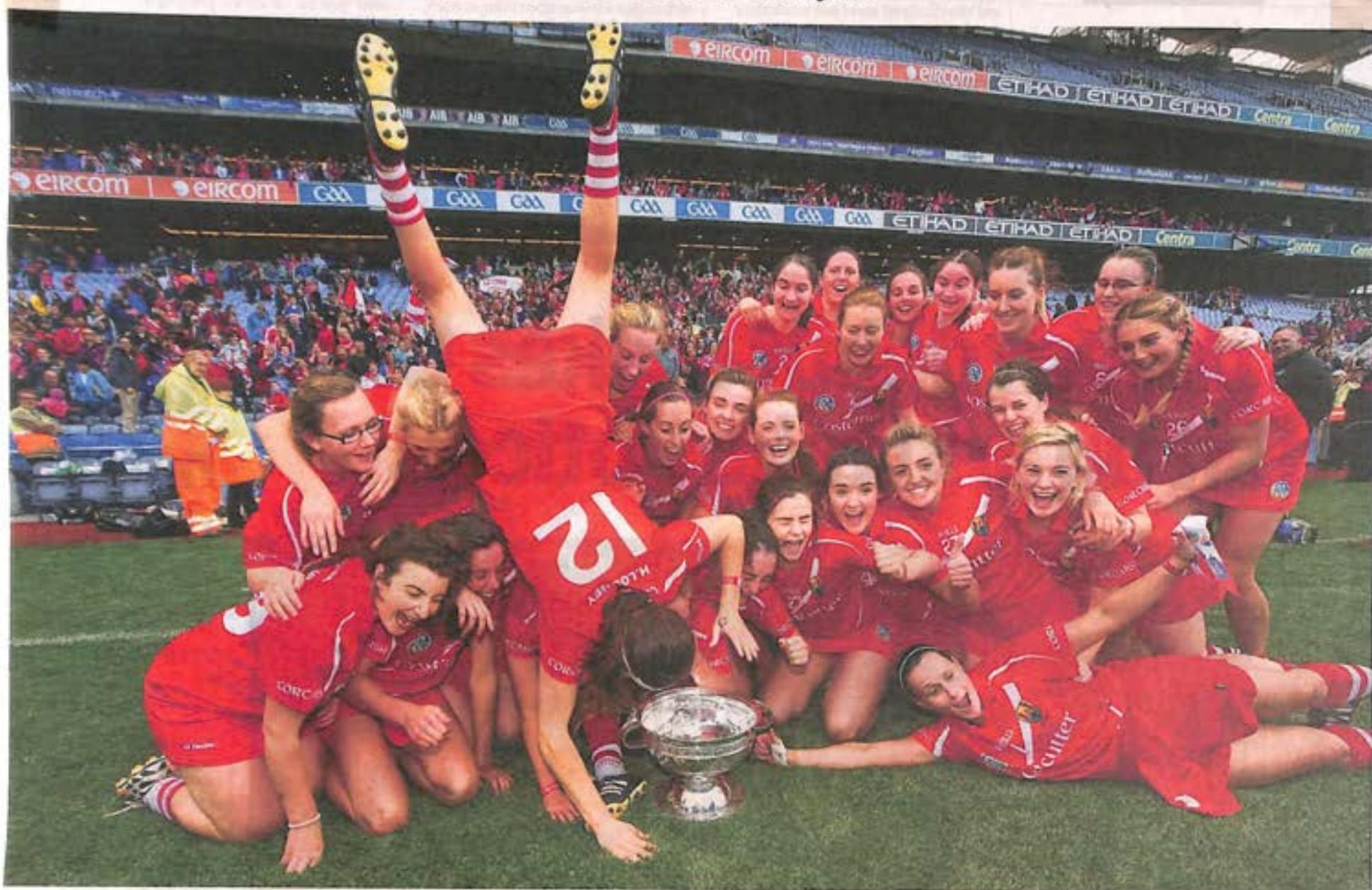
long. Look, it just wasn't our day, we didn't open it up like we have been doing all year and that can happen."

As it was, a one-point margin was as close as it got. Cork saw out the last 15 minutes by outscoring Galway 1-5 to 0-2. Corkery's goal was the killshot but Thompson, Cotter or Amy O'Connor all had their say as well. Champions, no ifs or buts about it.

"We've been coming all year," said Murray. "We knew where we were going, and I'd have been disappointed if we didn't win today. We'd been performing very well in training, we were very focused, and this is a very strong team mentally."

CORK: A Murray, P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan, R Buckley, G O'Connor, M Cahalane, D Cotter (0-7, five frees), A Thompson (0-2), J White, O Cronin (0-1), K Mackey (0-1), H Looney, B Corkery (1-1), A O'Connor (0-1) **Subs:** E O'Sullivan for Looney (35 mins), M Walsh for O'Sullivan (60-2 mins), **GALWAY:** S Earner, T Manton, S Dervan, H Cooney, S Coen, S Healy, L Ryan, N Kilkenny, C McGrath, A Donohue (0-1), N McGrath (0-8, seven frees), F Keeley, C Finerty, M Durrie, A O'Reilly **Subs:** J Gill for Finerty (30), Sinead S Cahalan for Healy (58 mins), R Hennehy for C McGrath (58+ mins) **Referee:** R Kelly (Kildare)

Camogie All-Ireland Senior Championship final - Cork 1-13 Galway 0-9



Joy for Cork as battling Galway come up short

Late goal seals victory for Munster team in one-sided final at Croke Park

Corkery and Buckley will now look for 16th All-Ireland medal with county footballers



Malachy Clerkin at Croke Park

Everyone stands their own post. We all fight out of our own muddy trench. The main story out of Croke Park is that Cork won their 26th All-Ireland camogie title, swatting Galway away to the tune of 1-13 to 0-9 in front of a 16,610 crowd. But any good cook will tell you that to get the real flavour, you have to reduce it down, way down.

So although Cork's All-Ireland was a triumph of the inex-

haustible collective, this was a day knitted out of the small unique corners of each other's lives. Here's Gemma O'Connor - most people's idea of player of the match - steering the afternoon to her own liking from the centre of Cork's defence but barely able to talk afterwards as she dedicated the win to her mother who is fighting cancer.

Decorated

Here's Briega Corkery and Rena Buckley, both of them picking up their 15th All-Ireland medals between football and camogie, drawing level in the process with Kathleen Mills as the most decorated players in the history of Gaelic games.

They'll be back here in a fortnight with the Cork footballers looking to make it 16. Neither of them are yet 29.

Floating somewhere above them all, here's Aisling Thompson, the Cork captain.

For much of the summer, Thompson was the best known camogie player in Ireland because of her openness in talking about her own depression and the suicide of her best friend and partner.

In a life of indefinable struggle, camogie has been something concrete right the way along, the difference between the dark and the light.

As she walked up the steps of the Hogan Stand to collect the cup, she could barely feel her feet underneath her. When she went to put words on it afterwards, she found poetry that had reporters who write for a living staring at their shoes in envy.

"Yeah, I was just kind of... it felt a bit like there was no one around me, you know that kind of way? I felt just so isolated, in a good way. I felt like this is my stepping stone, this is my path to glory, my path to heaven. It was like I was taking the steps to heaven on my own. It was most certainly not that way because I took those steps with 30 players and our management and I

just can't thank them enough.

"It's a dream, it's a dream come true. It puts the icing on my career and I'm still just so speechless. It's everything I've worked for. For everything that I've been through in my own life, that kind of tops it for me. It makes everything so much more worth it."

It was a one-sided final, a few post-half-time skirmishes aside. Cork should really have taken care of business well before half-time but their game plan was conservative and their use of a sweeper robbed them of the extra forward that might have pushed the game out of Galway's reach.

Steel fence

Thompson and O'Connor were a steel fence around the middle and with Orla Cotter icing her frees at will, they had access to a gear Galway couldn't find. All the same, Galway were able to stay in touch through the flawless striking of Niamh McGrath and the half-time scoreline of

0-8 to 0-4 meant this was more of a contest than it deserved to be.

And when McGrath came out to pot three more exquisite frees after the restart, it looked for a while like Cork might come to regret not having cut loose when they were in top.

Going into the last quarter, Galway were only two points down and in a game of scratchy

26

The number of titles Cork have now won, with seven of those victories coming in the last 14 years

goalkeeping, there was always a chance that one high ball into the Cork square could catch them out.

"We knew their purple patch would come and we knew it would be in those first 10 minutes," said Thompson.

"But I suppose that's the difference between Cork camogie and everyone else - when the going gets tough, who's going to

Head over heels: Cork celebrate with the O'Duffy Cup following their seven-point win over Galway at Croke Park yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH BY RYAN BYRNE/INPHO

throw in the towel first? It certainly wasn't us."

Enter Corkery. The dual hero had been quiet all afternoon but on 53 minutes, she decided enough was enough. After robbing Shauna Healy 35 metres out, she bore down on Galway goalkeeper Susan Earnner like a bowling ball circling in on a lone skittle. Though her finish wasn't overly crisp, it was past Earnner before she could move. Game done, game dusted.

"We made a few mistakes," shrugged Thompson. "But I mentioned in an article during the week that it's how we recover from mistakes that's going to be the big thing. If you can move on from your mistakes straight away, put them behind you, that's what's going to win the game for you. Just put it behind you and move on."

True for sport. True for life.

Camogie Cork's new generation show those old winning habits: page 6

HEAVEN FOR



BITTER AND SWEET: Cork celebrate winning yesterday's All-Ireland camogie final and (right) Galway players dejected and (below) Ashling Thompson

CORK		GALWAY	
Aoife MURRAY	7	Susan EARNER	7
Pamela MACKEY	7	Therese MANTON	7
Laura TREACY	8	Sarah DERVAN	7
Leanne O'SULLIVAN	7	Weather COONEY	8
Rena BUCKLEY	7	Slobhan COEN	7
Gemma O'CONNOR	9	Shauna HEALY	7
Meabh CAHALANE	7	Lorraine RYAN	7
Julia WHITE	8	Niamh KILKENNY	8
Ashling THOMPSON (0-2)	8	Ciodagh McGRATH	7
Orla COTTER (0-7; 0-5f)	8	Aoife DONOHUE (0-1)	7
Orla CRONIN (0-1)	7	Niamh McGRATH (0-8; 0-7f)	8
Hannah LOONEY	7	Fiona KEELEY	6
Briega CORKERY (1-1)	7	Catherine FINNERTY	6
Amy O'CONNOR (0-1)	7	Molly DUNNE	6
Katrina MACKEY (0-1)	7	Ailish O'REILLY	6
SUBS:		SUBS:	
Linear O'Sullivan 7 for Looney (35); Maria Walsh NR for L O'Sullivan (40).		Jessica Gill 6 for Finnerty (47); Sinead Cahalan NR for Healy (37); Rebecca Kennedy NR for C McGrath; Maria Cooney NR for Dunne (50).	
VENUE: Croke Park		REFEREE: Ray Kelly (Kildare)	

Every step up those Croke Park stairs was cherished by Cork captain Thompson

ASHLING Thompson carried a lot of baggage on her way to lifting the All-Ireland title — but that's what made the journey so interesting. Here is a girl whose life was sent into a downward spiral of depression after a car crash in 2009, enduring the subsequent neck and back injuries, before her partner then took his own life in 2012. Watching her pick up the O'Duffy Cup, it was clear to the naked eye that there was a lot of emotion being released in that moment. "It's a dream, it's a dream come true," said captain Thompson, "it puts the icing on my career and I'm still just so speechless. "It's everything I've worked for and for everything that I've been through in my own life, that kind of tops it for me. It makes everything so much more worth it." After a 60-minute battle that



Shane STAPLETON REPORTS
shane.stapleton@theiris.com

Cork 1-13 Galway 0-9 ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE FINAL

the Leisiders were largely in control of, and which was made sure of by a Briega Corkery goal, could she really have been thinking so deeply when accepting the title?

Kind

"Yeah," Thompson said. "I was just kind of... it felt a bit like there was no one around me, you know that kind of way? "I felt just so isolated in a good way. I felt like this is my stepping stone, this is my path to glory, my path to heaven. "It was like I was taking the steps to heaven on my own. "It was most certainly not that

way because I took those steps with 30 players and our management and I just can't thank them enough." After all the retirements following last year's final win over Kilkenny, few expected the Rebels to once more stand atop the mountain in September. Galway had beaten them in the League final in Thurles and once more in the first round of the championship, but Cork tend to peak when it matters. "It's huge," said Thompson. "I suppose that's our answer to everyone that doubted us. "We fed off that as well, we love being the underdog, we love being doubted. "Last year it was the same until we got to



the final and we pulled it out of the bag, it was the same this year. "When people know you're down, what are you going to do — react or stay down? We most certainly reacted." **Pouncing** The first half was largely dominated by Cork and captain Thompson got them off to the perfect start after pouncing on a ball that broke behind the Galway defence to tap over. Orla Cotter quickly followed that up with a 50-yard score despite her stick being broken by two would-be challengers. Then came a lovely score from the Tribe as captain Niamh Kilkenny popped a ball to her namesake McGrath up the Hogan Stand side and the centre-forward smashed it over on the run. From that high point on six minutes, it took another 47 minutes for Galway to score from play — with McGrath's frees along keeping the Connacht side alive. Their manager Tony Ward admitted that their attack was blunted, with Cork number six Gemma O'Connor getting onto a world of aimless long balls. "Yeah we weren't getting a spread of scores," he said. "Cork were very defensive and closed us out all day long. "It just wasn't our day, we didn't open it up like we have been doing all year and that can happen." Cotter was punishing any indiscipline by Galway while Orla Cronin and Corkery added to the Cork tally by the half: 0-8 to 0-4.

BEHIND AS SHE LEADS HER SIDE TO GLORY! ///

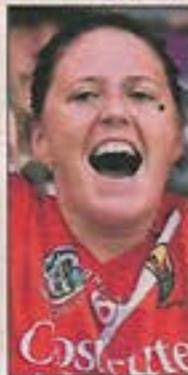


ASH

MATCH ANALYSIS

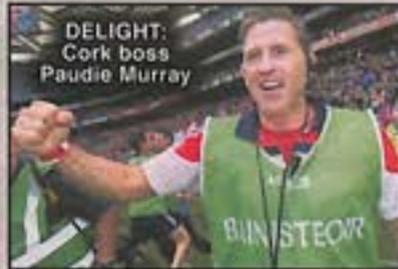
GALWAY
IRISH CRYSTAL

PLAYER of the MATCH



GEMMA O'CONNOR (CORK)
THE centre-back allowed Niamh McGrath to roam and her Cork teammates ensured that the Sarsfields woman couldn't dominate. Meanwhile, the Tribe girls launched a huge amount of aimless ball upfield for O'Connor.

POST
mobile



DELIGHT: Cork boss Paudie Murray

Paudie: We never lost our belief

Shane STAPLETON

PAUDIE Murray insists determination got Cork across the line at Croke Park yesterday.

The Rebels had to overcome a huge number of retirements from last season and few expected them to retain the O'Duffy Cup this year.

But they managed to get back to the biggest stage and were deserving winners over Galway.

Briega Corkery, who scored 1-1, picked up her sixth camogie All-Ireland to go with the nine football titles — with another final in the other code to come against Dublin on September 27.

Her experience, along with the likes of Rena Buckley, allowed Cork control the majority of proceedings at GAA HQ.

"We've a number of girls who would have played in a number of All-Irelands, so that always helps," said boss Murray.

"We knew where we were going, and I'd have been disappointed if we didn't win today.

"We'd been performing very well in training, we were very focused, and this is a very strong team mentally.

"We've had our knocks in the last few years but they're very strong mentally, and I felt it, with 10 minutes to go, we were within touching distance, I was confident from there on."

Galway got back to within a point early in the second half and that was mainly down to frees from Niamh McGrath.

"I was disappointed with the frees, to be honest," Murray said. "We spoke about that at half-time — we gave away a couple of frees, and I thought a couple of them were very harsh.

'We've players who have played in finals'

Point

"One point from play from Galway in the first half — we were saying 'don't give away frees and we'll win the game'. I was disappointed with that part of it.

"Ailish O'Reilly was their danger-woman but Pamela Mackey has been absolutely superb for us all year, we were absolutely confident of her doing a job.

"To me she was a stand-out back this year, she's really brought her game up a level, she's really become a leader of this team."

Captain Ashling Thompson took a heavy knock at the end of the game but was well enough to climb the Hogan Stand to lift the title.

"I suppose you have to take those knocks and get up and keep going," she said.

"I actually think I struck a couple of balls after that, did I?"

"I'm proud of myself. You just have to keep going no matter what is thrown at you.

"We made a few mistakes but I mentioned during the week that it's how we recover from mistakes that's going to be the big thing."

YOU CAN QUOTE ME ON THAT

"WE were a bit all over the place. We didn't panic, we probably had 10 to 13 new girls in the whole set-up, and it takes a while for all of them to bed down." — CORK MANAGER PAUDIE MURRAY

DUEL of the GAME

ASHLING THOMPSON (CORK) V NIAMH KILKENNY (GALWAY)

THE captains went head-to-head. While Thompson got an early score, Kilkenny was the main driving force for a struggling Galway in that first half.

TURNING POINT

BRIEGA Corkery's goal on 54 minutes was crucial for Cork. Galway had been making shapes in the second half — threatening to get back into it — but this pushed the margin to six points and it was game over.

SCORE of the GAME

CORK midfielder Julia White showed a propensity for elusive running with the ball in the first half and her clever bat forward to Briega Corkery ended with a fine point from 35 metres on 25 minutes.



MATCH STATS

CORK	GOALS	GALWAY
(0) 1		0 (0)
(9) 14	POINTS	9 (4)
(2) 4	WIDES	6 (3)
(8) 15	FREES	12 (9)
(1) 2	YELLOW CARDS	1 (1)
(0) 0	RED CARDS	0 (0)

NEXT UP CORK:

Feet up for the winter and come back next year ready to defend their title.

NEXT UP GALWAY:

Regroup and try to find a way to go that one step further next season.

"This is my path to glory, my path to heaven"

Year

"The league final was irrelevant, really," Murray said.

"I went down a route this year of trying to

develop a couple of the younger girls, and I have no doubt if, that day, we'd played the likes of Gemma and Aoife (Murray) we might have come out the other side," added the Cork boss.

McGrath threw over three impressive frees and suddenly the gap was down to the minimum.

But Cotter (from play and a free) pushed the teams apart once more before Corkery turned over the Galway defence for the crucial score.

She raced away from Therese Manton and Heather Cooney, then fired low past goalkeeper Susan Earner to end the contest.

"We knew their purple patch would come and we knew it would be in those first 10 minutes," explained Thompson.

"But I suppose that's the difference between Cork camogie and everyone else — when the

going gets tough, who's going to throw in the towel first?"

"It certainly wasn't us and we got the result we wanted."

Cork boss Paudie Murray said his side would have been disappointed if they hadn't gotten across the line and dismissed the two previous defeats to Galway this year.



CHAMPS: Niamh Dollard of Laois lifts the cup

Torment is over as Laois triumph

Laois 2-12
Roscommon 1-6
ALL-IRELAND JR FINAL

LAOIS finally brought their Croke Park torment to an end by overcoming Roscommon in the All-Ireland Junior Camogie final.

The O'Moore County girls had lost the previous two deciders and the weight of that history appeared to affect them at times.

That said, they led by 2-6 to 0-4 at the interval, thanks to two goals in a minute.

The final margin was hard on Roscommon, who were slightly the better side as they came to the end of the first quarter on 0-3 apiece.

Then came the key period though.

Sarah Ann Fitzgerald toe-poked to the net after her penalty was saved by Caroline Connaughton.

Finished

A minute later, Laura Marie Maher finished clinically.

Annette McGeeney struck a good point but four wides prevented Roscommon from making further inroads.

Laois finished the half with three points — including a wonderful Elaine Mahony strike — to lead by eight points.

A goal two minutes after the resumption from Niamh Farrell, followed by a pointed Kelley Hopkins free, got Roscommon back in it.

However, they could not make further inroads as Laois, and particularly Player of the Match Louise Mahony, stepped it up.

She kept the scoreboard ticking over with five further scores to bring her tally to nine.

LAOIS: L. Dunne, M. Burke 0-1, R. Birmingham, A. Burke, E. Mahony 0-1, E. Delaney, S. Creagh, O. Parkerson, SA Fitzgerald 1-0, N. Dollard 0-1, L. Mahony 0-9 (7fs), A. O'Dea, A. Burke, LM Maher 0-0, A. Loughman. Subs: D. Mortimer for O'Dea (21), C. Walsh for Creagh (60), S. Moylan Burke (60).

ROSCOMMON: C. Connaughton, G. Killeen, S. Coyle, A. Byrne, S. Spillane, E. Daly, J. Beattie, N. Coyle, R. Fitzmaurice, K. Hopkins 0-4 (3fs), 1-45, A. McGeeney 0-1, R. Brennan, C. Curley 0-1, N. Farrell 1-0, F. Connell-Jones. Subs: M. Fannon for Brennan (42), M. Brennan for Curley (57), N. McCormack for Farrell (60), C. Morris for Killeen (60).

REFEREE: G. Coulter (Down)

Thompson and Cork in 'Heaven' as titles stack up

Skipper hails Rebelettes' efforts in landing 26th All-Ireland

CORK	1-13
GALWAY	0-9

Daragh Ó Conchúir

LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

BRIEGE Corkery worked the oracle once more for Cork with a 54th-minute goal putting the exclamation mark on another typical all-action display and setting the seal on an historic victory.

The outstanding Rebelettes now join Dublin at the top of the championship roll of honour with 26 titles, while Corkery and team-mate Rena Buckley brought their individual tally of All-Ireland senior medals to 15 each, with their sixth camogie success going alongside nine ladies football wins.

With a return to Croke Park for another football decider in a fortnight marked in the diary, the dual stars will have another chance of adding to their remarkable records.

SIGNIFICANT

If Corkery's play was the key one, it was the displays of Gemma O'Connor and Orla Cotter in particular that really stood out, while full-back Laura Treacy and skipper Ashling Thompson were also significant performers.

Thompson (right) was quite emotional as she climbed the Hogan Stand steps to get her hands on the O'Duffy Cup, admitting that it had meant so much to her after her much-publicised battles with depression.

She was intent, however, on placing the emphasis on



the refusal of her team-mates to bow the knee.

"Unless you break your legs, you have to keep going," she smiled at one stage.

"This is what we came here to do. Every team gets a purple patch and we said that at half-time.

"It was nil-nil again. Some people don't even know the score. We never take any notice.

"We never threw in the towel and that's the difference between Cork camogie and anyone else. When the going gets tough, who's going to throw the towel in first and that certainly wasn't us, so we got the result we wanted today.

"That's the dream come true and it puts the icing on my career. It's everything I've worked for... for everything I've been through in my own life and it tops it for me.

"It was like I was taking the steps to heaven on my own, but it certainly isn't that way, (I was) taking the steps to heaven with 30 players. Cork camogie, our management, everyone, I just can't thank them enough."

Remarkably, Cork were down 13 players from the panel that won last year's All-Ireland and had lost twice to Galway already this year, but they seemed to learn from those reverses.

Certainly, they dictated terms completely in the first half and had they offloaded a bit quicker when creating overlaps, rather than running into contact, they would have led by more than 0-8 to 0-4 at half-time.



WE NEVER THREW IN THE TOWEL - THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CORK CAMOGIE AND ANYONE ELSE. WE WANTED THE RESULT AND WENT OUT AND GOT IT

Galway certainly seemed off the pace slightly in the first half as O'Connor hoovered up possession effortlessly, while Cotter came up with some big plays.

Thompson got the champions off the mark with an early point and Cotter notched up the first three of seven points, with Niamh McGrath landing a brilliant equaliser from the left wing for Galway.

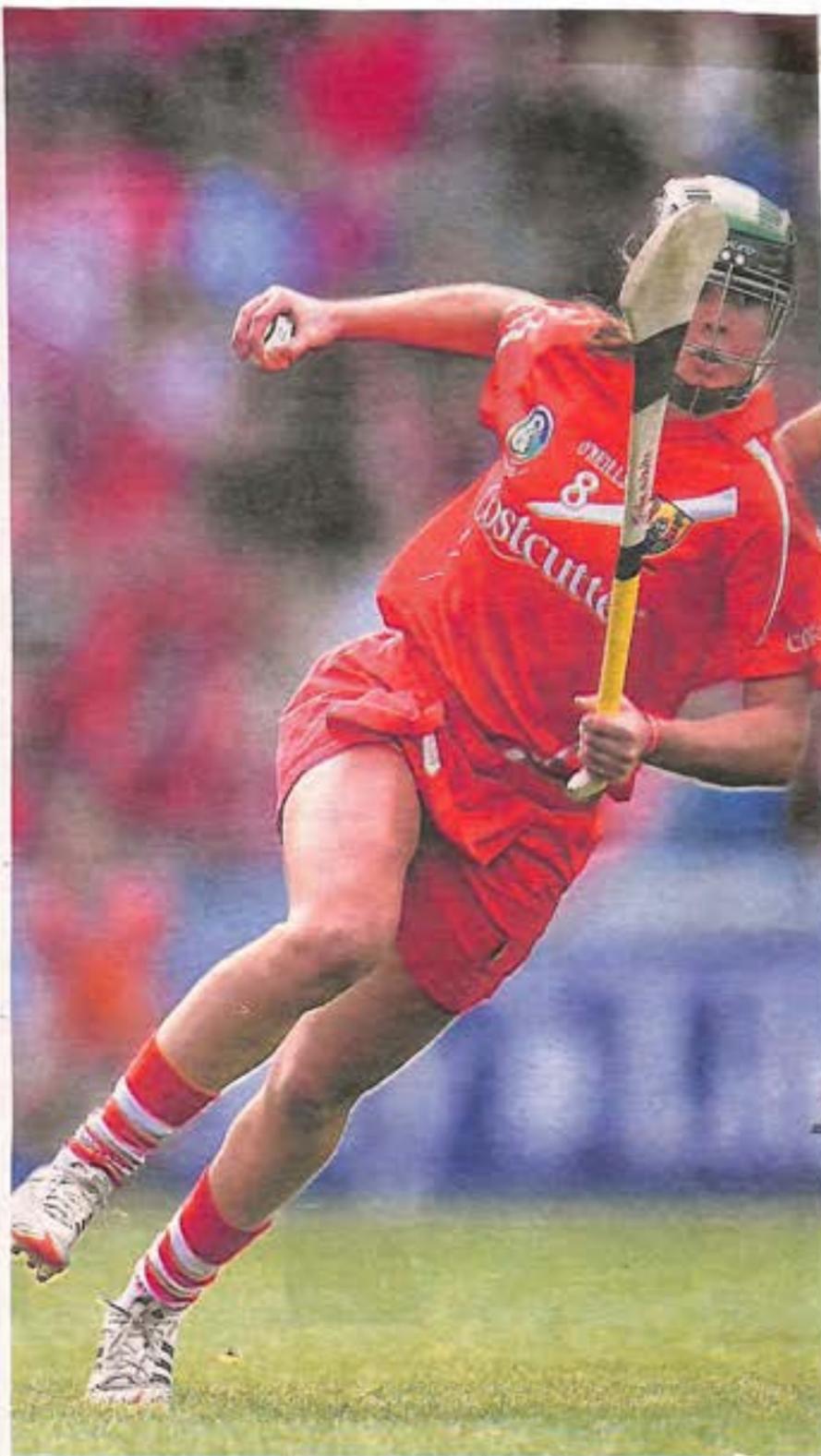
That was to be the Tribeswomen's only score from play until Aoife Donohue struck and they never carried a sufficient offensive threat.

McGrath, who scored all bar that Donohue point for Galway, kept Tony Ward's team in touch, but with Cotter and Corkery doing the business at the other end, it was double scores at the break.

Galway thundered into the fray after the resumption, though, and three pointed frees from McGrath, including one from just short of the 65-metre line, reduced the margin to one.

The challengers were in full flow now, with Lorraine Ryan in no mood to yield, while Heather Cooney made a stunning block to deny a certain goal.

Julia White also had a goal correctly ruled out for a square ball, but Cotter came up with a big point from play



to stop the rot and Cork never really looked back. Once Corkery intercepted Shauna Healy's attempted clearance and raced through to slot calmly into the Galway net, Cork opened their shoulders and Thompson landed a monstrous score late on, followed by a Katrina Mackey point to signal the start of the celebrations.

"It's huge," added Thompson. "We love being the underdog. We love being doubted. When people try to knock you down, what are you gonna

do? Stay down or react and we most certainly reacted."

SCORERS - Cork: O'Cotter 0-7 (5); B.Corkery 1-1; A.Thompson 0-2; O.Cronin, A.O'Connor, K.Mackey 0-1 each. **Galway:** N.McGrath 0-8 (7); A.Donohue 0-1. **CORK** - A.Murray 7, P.Mackey 8, L.Treacy 8, L.O'Sullivan 7, R.Buckley 7, G.O'Connor 8, M.Cahalane 7, O.Cotter 8, A.Thompson 8, J.White 7, O.Cronin 7, K.Mackey 7, H.Looney 8, B.Corkery 8, A.O'Connor 7. **Subs:** E.O'Sullivan 6 for Looney (35); M.Walsh 6 for O'Sullivan (30-2). **GALWAY** - S.Earner 7, T.Manton 7, S.Derran 7, H.Cooney 7, S.Coen 7, S.Healy 8, L.Ryan 8, N.Kilberry 7, C.McGrath 8, A.Donohue 8, N.McGrath 8, F.Kelley 8, C.Finnerty 5, M.Dunne 8, A.O'Reilly 8. **Subs:** J.Gill 6 for Finnerty (9-6); S.Cahalane 6 for Healy (58); R.Hennelly 6 for McGrath (30-1). **REF** - R.Kelly (Kildare)

Magical Mahony brings an end to Laois' finals misery

LAOIS	2-12
ROSCOMMON	1-9

LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND PREMIER JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

TWO goals in the space of 70 first-half seconds decided this encounter in favour of Laois, earning the midlanders their first All-Ireland junior title.

The final margin was very hard on a Roscommon team that contributed plenty to the game but just lacked a clinical edge in attack.

The Connacht representatives lost by 13 points when the sides met

in the group stages, but there was nothing one-sided about this affair, despite the final margin.

The teams were locked on 0-3 each when Laois - led by team captain Niamh Dollard (right) - made the definitive move at the end of the first quarter.

Sarah Ann Fitzgerald toe-poked to the net after her penalty was initially saved by Roscommon goalkeeper Caroline Connaughton, and a minute later Laura Marie Maher finished clinically after killing the sliotar brilliantly with her hurley.



That kept Laois in front even as they endured significant bouts of pressure from the westerners.

Annette McGeeney struck a good point, but four wides prevented Roscommon from making further

inroads. Instead, despite playing second fiddle for most of the second quarter, Laois finished with three points, including a wonderful Elaine Mahony strike from 60 metres, to lead at the interval by 2-6 to 0-4.

Roscommon were on top early in the latter period too, and a well-taken goal two minutes after the resumption from Niamh Farrell, followed by a pointed Kelley Hopkins free, got them back into the game.

However, they could not capitalise on the good work of midfielder Rachel Fitzmaurice and half-back Susan Spillane, and paid the price as player of the match Louise Mahony showed how it was done.

The Harps' sharpshooter raised the siege with a fine point from play. She kept the scoreboard ticking over with five further

scores to bring her tally to nine and end Laois' run of two losing final appearances in memorable fashion. **Player of the Match: Louise Mahony (Laois)**

SCORERS - Laois: L.Mahony 0-9 (7); S.Fitzgerald, L.M.Maher 1-0 each; E.Mahony, N.Dollard, A.Burke 0-1 each. **Roscommon:** K.Hopkins 0-4 (3); N.Farrell 1-0, A.McGeeney, C.Curley 0-1 each. **LAOIS** - L.Dunne, M.Burke, R.Birmingham, A.Burke, E.Mahony, E.Delaney, S.Croagh, D.Parkinson, S.Fitzgerald, N.Dollard, L.Mahony, A.O'Donoghue, A.Burke, L.Maher, A.Loughman. **Subs:** D.McBomer 6 for O'Dea (21); C.Walsh for Croagh (30); S.Maylan for Burke (30). **ROSCOMMON** - C.Connaughton, C.Wilkin, S.Coyle, A.Byrne, S.Spillane, E.Daly, J.Beattie, N.Coyle, R.Fitzmaurice, K.Hopkins, A.McGeeney, R.Brennan, C.Curley, N.Farrell, F.Connell-Jones. **Subs:** M.Fannon for Connell-Jones (22); C.Dowling for Brennan (42); M.Brennan for Curley (37); N.McCormack for Farrell (30); C.Morris for Kildare (30). **REF** - G.Coulter (Down)



Julia White of Cork tries to escape the clutches of Galway's Siobhan Coen during yesterday's senior camogie final in Croke Park. DAVID MAHER/SPORTSFILE

Bray shines for Waterford as Lilywhites' fight not enough

WATERFORD	2-9
KILDARE	1-5

Daragh O Conchuir

LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE INTERMEDIATE FINAL

WHILE the scoring rate wasn't particularly high, the heavy rain that persisted for most of this game had much to do with that.

So, too, did the defensive structures of both sides, with Kildare drawing two half-forwards deep and Niamh Rockett filling a similar role for Waterford.

It was Kildare that started best, with a third-minute goal from Noelle Earley, followed by points from Melissa Lyons and Emer Reilly.

Waterford, starting with five minor players, gradually settled into the game, though, as Lorraine Bray and Trish Jackman got on top around midfield and scored 2-4 without reply.

Beth Carton got Waterford off the mark and she followed up from a free before Bray and Jennie Simpson reduced the margin to one.

Their first goal came in the 29th minute, when Aisling Power showed good strength before rifling into the Kildare net.

The second arrived two minutes into the second half, when Beth Carton sent a powerful shot beyond the Lilywhite defenders from an angled 20m free and it was Waterford's to lose from that juncture.

Kildare tried hard, but they just couldn't get enough possession to the forwards that had looked so dangerous early on.

It took until the 52nd minute



Waterford captain Caithriona McGlone is held aloft as she lifts the cup

for the Kildare captain, Susie O'Carroll, to get her first score of the game, and though she followed up with another excellent effort three minutes later, it was Waterford that had the final say.

Fittingly, the closing credits featured midfield partners Jackman and Bray.

The former slotted a free before Bray profited from tremendous work by Carton to slot her third point from play, just as she was

announced as player of the match.

Player of the Match: Lorraine Bray (Waterford)

SCORERS - Waterford: Beth Carton 1-20 (16); L. Bray 0-3, A. Power 1-0, T. Jackman 0-1, J. Simpson, N. Morrissey, N. Rockett 0-1 each. **Kildare:** N. Earley 1-0, S. O'Carroll 0-1, M. Lyons 0-2 each, E. Reilly 0-1. **WATERFORD** - D. Brennan, K. McMahon, C. Whyte, V. Falconer, J. Simpson, C. Maher, I. Heffernan, T. Jackman, L. Bray, C. McGlone, N. Morrissey, B. Carton, D. Power, N. Rockett, A. Power. **Subs:** S. Carton for D. Power (28), V. O'Brien for N. Rockett (40), Rockett for Morrissey (48), C. Murphy for McGlone (56). **KILDARE** - R. O'Connell, C. Flanagan, C. Nolan, F. Trant, A. Lyons, B. Gorman, C. Farrell, C. Forde, O. Bamberg, L. Keadley, S. Hurley, E. Reilly, S. O'Carroll, N. Earley, M. Lyons. **Subs:** H. McDonnell for Forde (53), D. Byrne for Trant (52). **REF** - J. Byrne (Dublin).

A CLOSER LOOK WITH LIBERTY INSURANCE

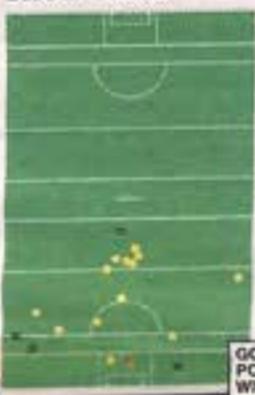
@LibertyIRL
#libertyanalysis

GAA ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP 2015 FINAL

CORK 1-13	GALWAY 0-9
1.....Goals.....	0
13.....Points.....	9
4.....Wides.....	6
61%.....Shot efficiency.....	45%
5/15.....Own puck-outs won.....	10/17
16.....Frees.....	12
0.....Red cards.....	0
2.....*Yellow cards.....	1
2.....Contested clean catches.....	3
10.....Hooks and blocks.....	9

*LAURA TRACEY, AISLING THOMPSON, SARAH DERVAN

SHOTS: CORK



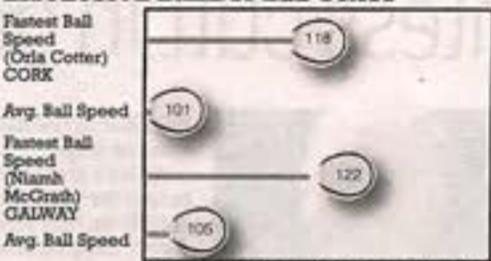
SHOTS: GALWAY



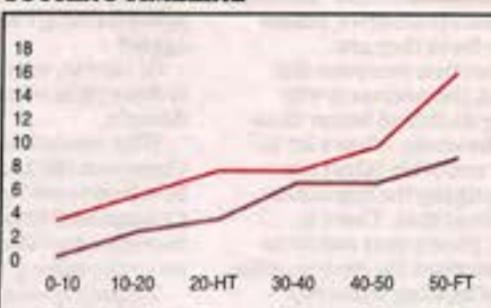
56% TIME IN POSSESSION 44%



EXCLUSIVE BALL SPEED STATS



SCORING TIMELINE



PLAYER OF THE MATCH

GEMMA O'CONNOR (CORK): She was colossal throughout at centre-back, managing to keep Niamh McGrath under wraps in general play while also sweeping and distributing effectively. A powerful force in Cork's defence.



TURNING POINT

The game was on a knife-edge until Briega Corkery pounced for a 54th minute goal to finally put some daylight between the sides.

TALKING POINT

The Cork conveyor belt of talent is clearly in full flow, as they were without 13 players from the panel that won last year's All-Ireland. It looks good for their future.

MAGIC MOMENT

A wonderful, deft touch by Ashling Thompson as she killed the sliotar from a Galway sideline to set up a point for her side.

REF WATCH

Apart from blowing for a free just as Galway were scoring a point, Ray Kelly had a good game. It was refreshing that he allowed the physical exchanges to develop.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The championship is over and Cork will be thinking of three-in-a-row next year.

ATTENDANCE

16,610

COMPILED BY:
Daragh Ó Conchúir (Editorial)
Rob Carroll (Stats)



Liberty Insurance

Yet another title for

'To lift the O'Duffy Cup is a dream come true'

WRITTEN off, not a hope of winning the All-Ireland this year, too many experienced players gone.

Just some of the words used to describe Cork after their loss to Galway in the league final earlier this year.

Even coming into the final, as defending champions, the words on most people's lips was it was Galway's to lose. In fairness you couldn't blame them as they had defeated Cork twice already and were undefeated all year - until yesterday!

Cork at Croke Park are a different prospect and once again they proved that yesterday. Even before the ball was thrown in they had the upper hand as Galway seemed nervous and maybe feeling the pressure after those wins.

As Cork captain Ashling Thompson noted, not too many of the Galway side looked her in the face when they did the customary hand-shake before the game, almost as if they had a fear of losing rather than winning.

And once the ball was thrown in Thompson set the tempo as she laid down a marker with the first score to say that her side weren't going home empty handed. For the first 10 minutes or so she was all over the pitch, helping her defence when needed and up the other end to set up attacks.

To say she played a captain's role is an understatement and Thompson ensured Cork got the start they needed as they led from start to finish. A couple of weeks ago, after they beat Tipperary, she posted a picture on Instagram of the O'Duffy Cup on her sofa at home, saying that it was staying there for another year and yesterday she kept her promise.

For Ashling, Cork's win was a dream come true to walk up those steps as captain of her county to culminate what has been a great year for her.

After the league final Cork were slated for their defence display and the feeling was the Galway forwards were way too strong and would get the better of them to ensure the cup headed their way. Well, simply put, they were wrong, as to a player they stood up and were counted as Galway only scored two points from play for the entire game. Add in the fact that outside of Niamh McGrath, the only other Galway player to score was Aoife Donohue, who got one of their two points from play - it tells its own story.

Players like Molly Dunne and Ailish O'Reilly who were expected to run the defence ragged were virtually non-existent and hardly got a sniff of a scoring chance all through.

Thompson was full of praise for her defence afterwards and said that even after the loss in the league final she never doubted them.

"To walk up those steps and lift the O'Duffy Cup is an absolute dream come true for me and it's a feeling that is virtually impossible to put into words. The girls that stepped onto that field gave it everything and never threw in the towel, you know that's the difference, when the going



Captain Ashling Thompson with supporters after defeating Galway. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Match analysis

Rory Noonan

gets tough you have to be up for it and they all were today.

"No matter how bad the situation might get, if you don't throw in the towel and keep going, keep fighting, keep battling you will get the result and that's what they did. And they got it tough, especially in the forward line, they got flattened at times and they picked themselves back up and kept going and that's the difference really.

"To get the opening score was an achievement for me and to score two points on this stage is something I will treasure forever.

"But defensively I thought we were outstanding, when you look at the likes of Leanne O'Sullivan and Meabh Cahalane who never played in Croke Park before and to play like that was unbelievable and add in Laura Treacy who is only 20 and it's a huge credit to them to put in a performance like that.

"Gemma O'Connor, an absolute icon of the game, who was outstanding from start to finish, as was Rena Buckley beside her.

"Pamela Mackey is one of the toughest defenders ever to have marking you and like the rest she was brilliant and they proved the doubters wrong with their display.

"And behind them you have the experience of Aoife Murray guiding them through the game and to keep a side like Galway to just two points from play shows just how well they played.

"When you need leaders to step up Brieger Corkery did it again as she got our goal when Galway were threatening to come back at us. That's just Brieger for you, she mightn't seem to be on the ball a lot in a game but she works so hard and when you need it she will come up with crucial scores."

Having received a hard knock in the second-half Ashling admitted she was a bit unsteady on her feet afterwards, but there was no way she was coming off the pitch.

"I got a bit of a bang and my head was ringing a bit, but there was no way I was leaving, although when I was being presented with the cup I could hardly hold the mike as I was feeling it then.

"But that doesn't matter now, the cup is coming home and thankfully I have managed to keep my Instagram promise," concluded Ashling.

That she did and with this side growing in maturity don't rule them out from making it three-in-a-row, but that's for another day. For now let the celebrations continue!



PURE JOY: Laura Treacy is elated after defeating Galway in the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park yesterday. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Rena Buckley and Brieger Corkery celebrate. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Three reasons Cork won

1. Galway's game plan: Galway played into Cork's hands. Their tactic of trying to pull out Cork's defence and run at them clearly was madness. This wasn't going to be a repeat of the league final.

Even Niamh Kilkenny's few bursts in the first half from midfield were snuffed out.

2. Cork's midfield: Cork won midfield hands down. Ashling Thompson and Orla Cotter were excellent. It was always important to minimise Niamh Kilkenny's influence.

Thompson set the tone from the outset. The unerring Orla Cotter was once again instrumental for Cork from frees and play.

3. Cork's strong finish: As expected, when the game was close the closing minutes belonged to Cork.

From Corkery's 53rd minute goal the floodgates opened with points from Amy O'Connor, Katrina Mackey and Ashling Thompson.

All-Ireland: Story of the Game

Turning Point: With just two points separating the sides on 53 minutes the persistent Brieger Corkery got a stick to Shauna Healy's clearance, gathered, bore down on goal and clinically finished. Game over.

Player of the Match: While Orla Cotter is a strong contender, the Player of the Match award goes to Gemma O'Connor. Her comfortable control of her defence, her protection of them like a mother protecting her young, physicality, inspirational and intelligent play makes her a worthy winner.

Ref Watch: Ray Kelly did OK. He let some clean heavy hits go which was positive but on the flip side blew for a few soft ones on both sides.

Entertainment: This may not go down as one of the best camogie finals in Croke Park with both defences on their game. There were just seven points from play up to the fifty third minute but Cork's final nine minutes (including additional), scoring 1-3 certainly spiced things up. We'll take the title whichever way it plays out. 7/10

relentless Rebels



The Cork team celebrates after defeating Galway in the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork	1-13
Galway	0-9

CORK drew level with Dublin on 26 titles after claiming back-to-back All-Irelands in Croke Park yesterday.

It was never in doubt as Ashling Thompson tore out of the blocks for Cork, on the ball no fewer than four times within the opening two minutes as Cork set the tone.

Even though only four points separated the teams at the break and Galway brought it back to one, Galway were struggling and relying on frees to keep them in the game.

Cork's defence were as disciplined as one would find in Kilworth's army barracks led by Corporal Gemma O'Connor, who controlled her troops from the centre.

Cork's ability to close Galway down, work the ball calmly out of defence and find a free player running through the centre were key features of their game in the opening half.

Galway were finding the going tough, relying too much on a couple of Niamh Kilkenny runs and Niamh McGrath at centre-forward. Molly Dunne and Laura Treacy were having



At Croke Park

Linda Mellerick

a right battle, Treacy receiving a yellow early on but some yellow cards are positive and this was one of those.

Keeping Dunne scoreless was a magnificent feat.

Galway just couldn't find a way through, they hit a brick wall. Cork held their positions, refused to get dragged around and picked up whom-ever came their way.

Galway didn't seem to have a game plan. This is how Cork play yet they didn't know how to deal with it. It's common knowledge that Cork will hold their defence so trying to pull them out and run at them when outnumbered wasn't going to work.

Of all people to leave unmarked for much of the game - Gemma O'Connor - one wonders what Galway were thinking. Creating space outside and picking off scores from distance or playing 15 on 15 were their options.

Under fierce pressure, Galway's final delivery was poor and Aoife Mur-

ray was only too happy to gather comfortably.

The champions could have been further ahead at the break; 0-8 to 0-4. Just four points had come from play - the excellent Orla Cotter striking four frees - but Cork looked very threatening. Galway's defence couldn't do more than what they were doing.

Siobhan Coen and Lorraine Ryan were doing their best under intense pressure and even though scores weren't plentiful for Cork's inside six, their work-rate was exceptional.

Julia White time and again drew defenders, taking the ball into contact. Her team-mates were running into open spaces. Two points from Orla Cronin and Briege Corkery on either side of an Orla Cotter free epitomised the space Cork were creating.

Even as Galway pulled the game back to a point within six minutes of the resumption, it wasn't a hugely worrying factor. Yet anything can happen so when Cotter pointed on 44 minutes, Cork's first score in 20, it was a crucial one.

Despite Cork seeming dominant, only two points separated the sides with seven minutes remaining but, as expected, Cork would finish strong. When Shauna Healy's attempted clearance was blocked by Briege Corkery and she gathered to strike to the net it

was game over. A flurry of points from Amy O'Connor, Thompson and Katrina Mackey displayed their flair.

This was one of Cork's sweetest titles. Their final debutants were excellent, the blend of experience and youth now making this team a formidable force. An incredible achievement by Paudie Murray and his team.

For those watching the big screen, Ashling's Thompson's hand and squeeze on the shoulder of each of her team-mates as they greeted the President spoke volumes. Cork weren't going to lose this one. In front of a crowd of 16,610 this was a mighty achievement and one which will be widely celebrated in Cork as the team bring the O'Duffy Cup back to Leeside.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-7 (0-5 f), B Corkery 1-1, A Thompson 0-2, O Cronin, K Mackey, A O'Connor 0-1 each.

Galway: N McGrath 0-8 (0-7 f), A Donohue 0-1.

CORK: A Murray, P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan, R Buckley, G O'Connor, M Cahalane; J White, A Thompson; O Cotter, O Cronin, H Looney; B Corkery, A O'Connor, K Mackey.

Subs: E O'Sullivan for H Looney (34), M Walsh for L O'Sullivan (61).

GALWAY: S Eamer, T Manton, S Dervan, H Cooney; S Coen, S Healy, L Ryan; N Kilkenny, C McGrath; A Donohue, N McGrath, F Keeley, C Finnerty, M Dunne, A O'Reilly.

Subs: J Gill for C Finnerty (1/1), S Cahalan for S Healy (56), R Henneley for C McGrath (60), M Cooney for M Dunne (62).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).

Buckley enjoyed latest win just as much as her first

DESPITE the huge success that has come her way Cork defender Rena Buckley enjoyed every minute of yesterday's victory in Croke Park and relished it as much as her first.

"Every final is special and I really don't think about it. I suppose to play in Croke Park is a great experience and no matter how many times you play there, it is wonderful," she said.

At the start of the year Cork were a team in transition following a lot of retirements, something that took them a while to get to grips with.

"Yes, I suppose after last year's final we lost a lot of top quality players at one stage as the year

REACTION

■ Mary Newman

unfolded you would be afraid to switch on the phone in case someone else had decided to call it a day. The younger girls that came into the squad were fantastic, they worked really hard and integrated well into the panel and in no time at all it was all systems go," she said.

Rena felt having lost twice to Galway during the year was a great incentive for Cork to drive on and retain the title.

"I suppose we lost to Galway in the league final and we were disappointed to have done so, but the focus was always on retaining the All-Ireland. That was our goal all year," she added.

Speaking about the players who made their Croke Park debut Rena had huge praise for them all.

"Up front, Amy O'Connor, Hannah Looney and Orla Cronin were superb and played with huge confidence. In defence I had Leanne O'Sullivan and Meabh Cahalane around me and they were amazing.

"They all played with huge maturity and it is great to see them all win their first All-Ireland medals on the field of play turning in great displays."

Corkery: My



Paudie Murray celebrates victory at Croke Park. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Murray hails new recruits who stepped up to the mark in Croker

Calm and collected as ever, you would be forgiven for thinking that what his side had just achieved had gone a bit over his head.

Yet when Cork manager Paudie Murray spoke, there was no doubting the huge pride he was feeling in the achievement of making it back-to-back titles successes.

"I am absolutely thrilled for the girls. They deserve huge credit. They were determined not to relinquish this title and the way they played showed just how much it meant to them."

Murray paid tribute to his players, in particular to new ones who came in to the side. "We had to re build our panel following a lot of retirements after last year's win and we brought in a lot of young girls and they settled in to the squad and really worked hard to nail down places on the team."

"With every game they got better and better and continued to improve and their confidence grew and the more experienced players were superb as they helped the young ones settle in and made them part of it."

Murray was full of praise for his backroom team. "We also had to build a new backroom team and the lads who came in deserve huge credit, they worked so hard. It is not easy to come in to a set-up and maybe have someone say, 'oh we did it different to that last year'."

"They stuck to their task and got the very, very best out of the squad and I am so thankful to them all, I had great faith in every one of them and they didn't let us down."

"No words can thank them enough and it is important that they are all acknowledged."

Reflecting on the game, Paudie said they were happy being just four points ahead at the interval, despite having dictated matters for most of the first half.

"At half time we sat down and went over it and we felt that if we could stop giving away frees we would win it. Galway had just one point from play in the first half and we knew our defence would

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

continue to stand up to anything that was thrown at them in the second half."

The game's only goal was scored by one of Cork most decorated and experienced players, and Paudie said he knew there was something in Brieghe Corkery.

"I suppose I know Brieghe for 20 years or more and I knew once she gathered possession she would go for it. To be fair, she wasn't having one of her better days but Brieghe is Brieghe and you write her off at your peril."

"I knew all through there was something in her and she never lets us down. She worked hard to get in to the game and her workrate was the thing that saw her dispossess the Galway defender and she showed huge experience and maturity to side step her and go for goal."

"That was it. I knew we wouldn't be bested then, the goal was a huge score for us."

Paudie also praised his captain Aisling Thompson. The Milford midfielder opener the scoring with a terrific point, adding another in the finale, and worked herself into the ground in between.

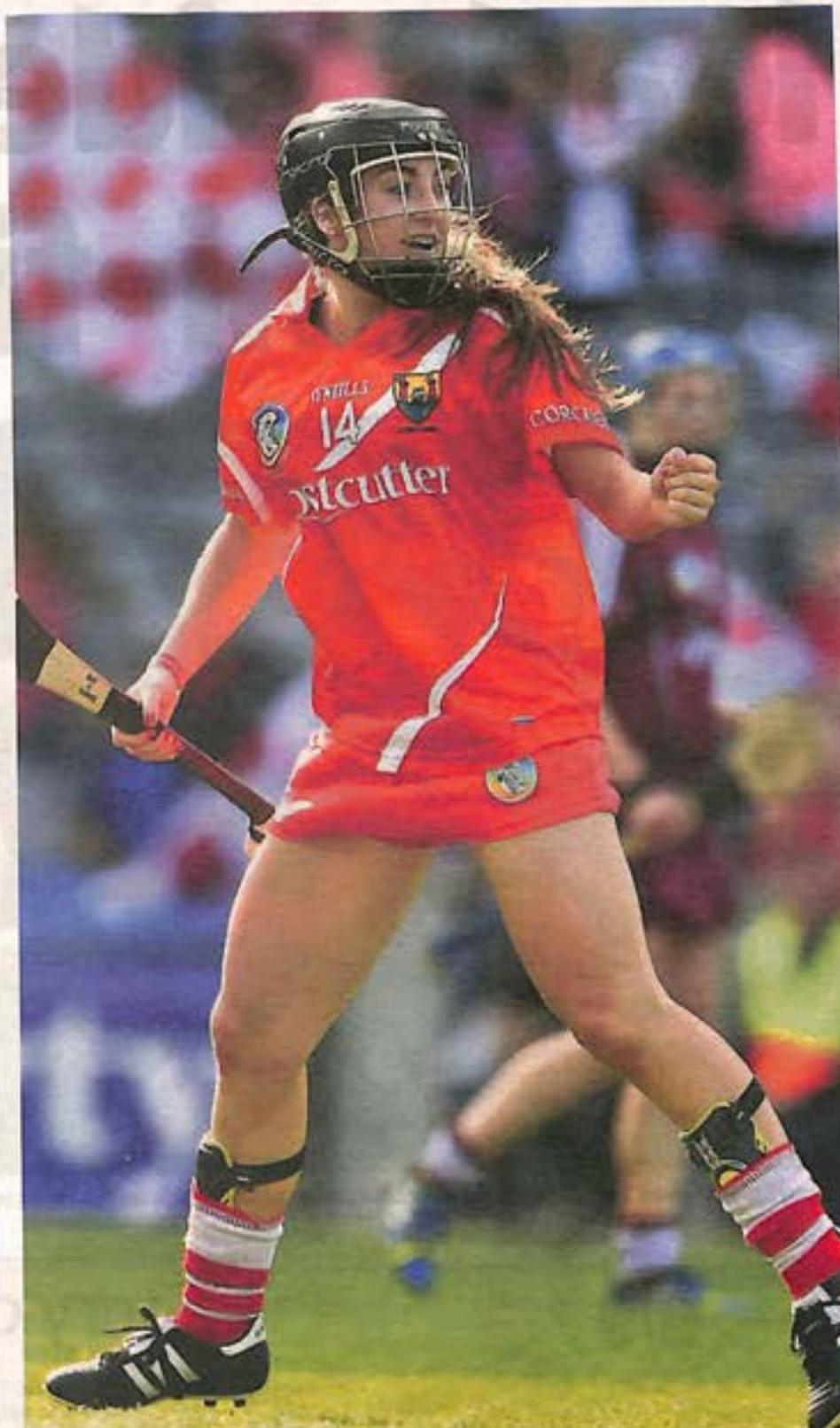
"She really wanted to win this one."

"She spoke this morning and really got the show on the road, leading by example with the first score of the game. She drove the team on and kept at it all through and I'm delighted for her."

Through the entire season Paudie Murray has had his critics, being told his side was in transition, there were too many retirements, and the young players weren't good enough.

Yesterday he showed once again what a good manager he is, a shrewd operator and a great Cork man.

Let's hope the powers that be credit that this year when the end-of-year plaudits are being handed out, having been overlooked in favour of Limerick's intermediate victory last year, he surely is now the manager of the camogie year.



Amy O'Connor celebrates her goal, (which was disallowed) against Galway during the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park yesterday. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Camogie

Rory Noonan

WINNING an All-Ireland final is a very special feeling but for two players yesterday it was an extra special day.

They won their sixth camogie and add in nine more from ladies football each and between them Brieghe Corkery and Rena Buckley now have 30 senior All-Ireland medals between them.

And they can increase that in two weeks' time as both will be key players for the ladies football side as they bid to make it 10 titles in 11 years as they take on Dublin in the final.

If they manage it, and the Dubs will be serious foes, they'll have collected six senior camogie and 10 senior football prizes each.

But even with all those medals this one seemed extra special for both of them. Perhaps it was the fact that many had written this side off, due to the loss of a number of experienced players, but afterwards the normally unflappable Corkery seemed a bit dazed at the win.

"It's just amazing to win, it just hasn't sunk in yet. You know with so many players having left we were written off by a lot of people. But every one of the players and management stood up and we showed today what we are capable of."

"For Rena and myself it's a special day. We are lucky that we have been involved with a bunch of girls that want to win. They showed that again today."

"The two of us just love playing camogie and football and it's not really about the two of us, but the whole panel in both cases and we have been lucky enough to have been part of it."

Talking about her goal, a crucial score, she jokingly said: "Paudie Murray, team manager, put his hands in his head when he saw me with it as I'm not a goalscorer. I nearly had to blow it across the line but thankfully it did."

"We are going to enjoy this win and the homecoming and then it will be back down to training on Wednesday as we prepare for the huge task of taking on Dublin in the football final," concluded Brieghe.

Echoing her sentiments Rena said: "It's fantastic to hear people talking about it now, but to be honest it's not something I would be thinking about. But now that the game is over it's a



Julia White and twins Katrina and Pamela Mackey with jubilant Cork fans. Pic: Eddie O'Hare



Cork fans Millie, Zara and Clodagh Bowls from Castlemartyr enjoying their day at Croke. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

special goal



Brieghe Corkery blasts home her goal against Galway during the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park. **Picture: Eddie O'Hare**

great feeling to have won and every one of them is really special.

"This one means a lot as at the start of the year we weren't too sure what direction we were going with the players we lost, but the win over Kilkenny in the semi-final was massive and this one is the icing on the cake.

"We were slaughtered by a lot of people after the league final loss, and probably rightly so, but both the players and management put in a lot of work and it paid off today. We will enjoy this one for a few days before turning our attentions to Dublin in two weeks time," concluded Rena.

One of the younger players in the side, full-back Laura Treacy, picked up

her second senior medal and was thrilled to do so, especially after that league final loss.

"There is absolutely no words to describe that feeling of winning an All-Ireland final. Galway's forwards cut through us in league final, but we were prepared for that today. For the last 10 minutes of the first-half they were starting to do so again, but half-time came at the right time for us as we regrouped and thankfully, thankfully we managed to come out on top.

"It's just unbelievable to win and as I said a feeling that is impossible to put into words," concluded Laura, a newcomer last season and now a back-to-back medallist.



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Meabh Cahalane and Gemma O'Connor. **Picture: Eddie O'Hare**

Key Rebel players delivered on the big stage as Galway have no answer

AOIFE MURRAY: One of the best, if not the best, keepers in the game at the moment and her cool head, on the rare occasion she was troubled set the tone for those outside. Caught a number of high balls played in with ease and set up a number of attacks with her accuracy from puck-outs. 8
PAMELA MACKEY: One of the toughest and meanest defenders in the game. Didn't give her opponent an inch all through and made a number of key interceptions as well. 8
LAURA TREACY: They say you can't put an old head on young shoulders, but Laura proved that wrong yesterday. To keep a talent like Molly Dunne scoreless is a huge achievement. 8
LEANNE O'SULLIVAN: She was one of the players under pressure after their league final loss to Galway. Yesterday she proved any doubters wrong. 8

RENA BUCKLEY: It's no great surprise that Rena picked up her sixth All-Ireland camogie medal yesterday. A model of consistency and one of the toughest players to get the better of and she proved that again yesterday. 8
GEMMA O'CONNOR: The player of the game, as simple as that. She dominated from centre-back and didn't put a foot wrong for the hour. A display that any player would, and should, be proud of as she led by example from start to finish. 9

MEABH CAHALANE: It's not easy playing in your first All-Ireland final, but Meabh showed a maturity way beyond her young years and is sure to be a star for many years for the Rebels. 8
JULIA WHITE: Switched to the half-forward line and played her part in Cork's win. Troubled her marker all through and though she didn't score was involved in setting up a number of scores for her side. 8
ASHLING THOMPSON: As soon as the ball was thrown in

PLAYER RATINGS

■ Rory Noonan

the Cork captain stamped her authority on this game. Got the game's opening score as she laid down a marker that they weren't going to be beaten. 9

ORLA COTTER: One of Cork's most consistent players and her accuracy from frees was also crucial to their win. A frightening sight for any defender when she starts running at you. 8

ORLA CRONIN: Was up against Shauna Healy, one of Galway's top players, and as well as curbing her influence got a great point as well. 8

HANNAH LOONEY: Worked hard until she was substituted, but would be the first to admit this was not her best game for Cork. 7

BRIEGHE CORKERY: Class will always come through and Brieghe is simply class. Wasn't having her best game ever for Cork, but kept going and came up with the crucial score as she burst through for the goal that killed off any chance of Galway comeback. 8

AMY O'CONNOR: Worked tirelessly from start to finish as she played her role over the 60 minutes. Even when she lost possession she hounded the Galway defence as they tried to clear their lines. 8
KATRIONA MACKEY: Moved out around midfield early in the game to give Cork a hold of the game and, like Amy, worked tirelessly all through for her side. One of the hardest players in the game to mark as she is constantly on the move. 8

SUBS
EIMEAR O'SULLIVAN: Had a big say in the outcome when she came on early in the second-half as she helped turn it back in Cork's favour when Galway threatened a comeback. 7
Maria Walsh came on for the last two minutes but not long enough to be rated.



Gemma O'Connor tackles Galway's Clodagh McGrath at Croke Park. **Picture: Eddie O'Hare**



Orla Cronin breaks from Galway's Clodagh McGrath during their win yesterday evening. **Picture: Eddie O'Hare**



Julia White drives past Galway's Siobhan Coen during the All-Ireland final. **Picture: Eddie O'Hare**

Revamped Cork make transition look easy



Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie final
CORK 1-13
GALWAY 0-9

Eoghan Cormican

Croke Park

Not bad going for a team supposedly in transition. Cork stalwart Rena Buckley joked underneath the Hogan Stand yesterday evening that she was afraid to open a single camogie-related text message over the winter such was the mass exodus from their All-Ireland-winning squad.

Departing the scene were multiple All-Ireland winners Jenny O'Leary, Anna Geary, Joanne O'Callaghan, Sara Hayes, Joanne Casey, and Angela Walsh. The exit of six vastly experienced players from Paudie Murray's set-up heralded a new era for Cork camogie, starting roles handed to relative newcomers Orla Cronin, Hannah Looney, Amy O'Connor, Méabh Cahalane, and Leanne O'Sullivan this spring.

Doubts remained, however, as to whether the new breed could capably fill the gaps left from last year.

By 5pm, Cork had comfortably extended the county's stay on camogie's summit, all the sweeter given their climb started from a very low base. Outplayed and out-thought in the league final against Galway, and when the Tribeswomen and Wexford inflicted defeat in the round-robin

phase of the championship in late June and mid-July, nobody could have foreseen that two months down the line the O'Duffy Cup would be on its way to Leeside for the 26th time.

Indeed, this latest success brings Cork level at the head of camogie's roll of honour with Dublin. Further history was created by Brieghe Corkery and Rena Buckley, the dual pair securing their 15th All-Ireland medal — six in camogie and nine in ladies football — bringing them level with Dubliner Kay Mills, who won 15 camogie All-Irelands across three decades from 1942-61.

And while Buckley hardly put a foot wrong at right-half-back, it was Corkery who delivered the game-defining score, making and finishing the sole major of this final on 54 minutes.

Galway full-back Sarah Dervan had thrown a loose pass to centre-back Shauna Healy and when her ground-stroke was intercepted by Corkery, the full-forward found herself in the clear 30m from goal. Head down, there was to be no stopping Corkery, Galway goalkeeper Susan Earner unable to keep out her low drive.

The green flag moved Cork 1-10 to 0-8 clear, Galway's resistance finally broken.

Their defence had been subject to relentless pressure from the Cork forward unit all afternoon long and while they coped admirably in the second half — Heather Cooney's block on Julie White's goal drive on 34 minutes a microcosm of their stubborn determination not to bend the knee — it was inevitable that

GAMEZone Galway v Cork

1. S Earner		
2. T Manton	3. S Dervan	4. H Cooney
14. A O'Connor	13. B Corkery	12. H Looney
5. S Coen	6. S Healy	7. L Ryan
15. K Mackey	11. O Cronin	8. J White
8. N Kilkenny	9. C McGrath	10. O Cotter
9. A Thompson		
10. A Donoghue	11. N McGrath	22. F Keely
7. M Cahalane	6. G O'Connor	5. R Buckley
13. C Finnerty	14. M Dunne	15. A O'Reilly
4. L O'Sullivan	3. L Treacy	2. P Mackey
1. A Murray		

Galway = Galway, Cork = Cork

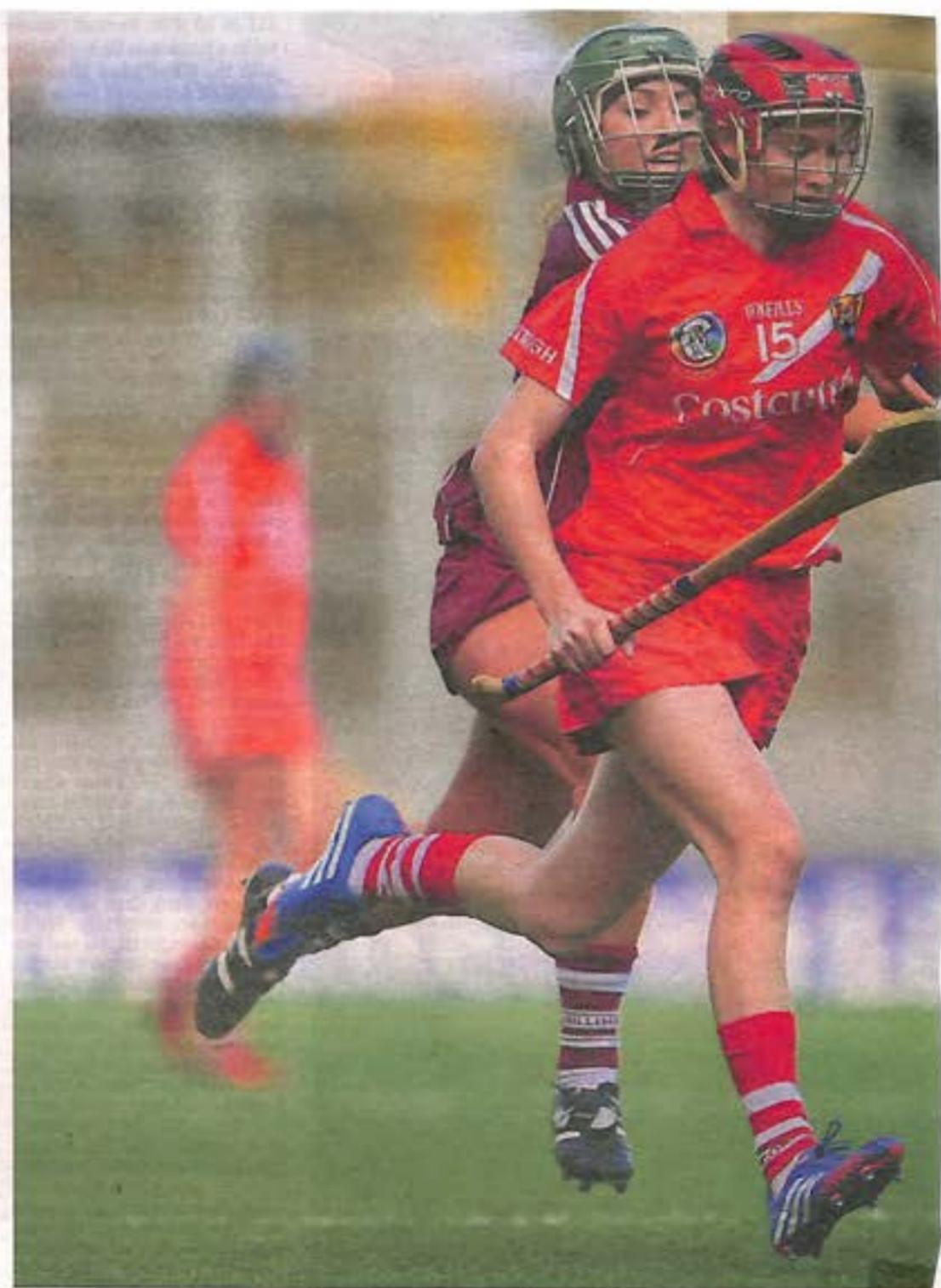
the dam would give.

Thereafter, Cork poured through. Earner had to be on guard to push away an Amy O'Connor shot on 55 minutes, the corner-forward flinging over the rebound.

Niamh McGrath, as she had done throughout, posted the Galway response. It mattered little by this juncture, though. Cork were already out the gap. Captain Ashling Thompson, who was among their most influential players in the first period, and Katriona Mackey rounded out a seven-point win.

"I felt like this is my stepping stone, this is my path to glory, my path to heaven," said Thompson of her ascent up the steps of the Hogan Stand.

Out on the field sat a devastated Galway team. Their defence, in particular Cooney, Sarah Dervan and Lorraine Ryan, never stopped fire-fight-



ing, but it was further forward where the problems lay. They finished the game with just two scorers and two points from open play, centre-forward McGrath hitting eight of nine white flags.

McGrath was excellent from the placed ball, but afforded far too much freedom to Cork centre-back Gemma O'Connor who was excellent as a defensive anchor. Behind them, Pamela Mackey carried out a superb containment job on Ailish O'Reilly.

At midfield, the winners simply steamrolled Galway.

Opting to employ a two-woman full-forward line freed up Orla Cotter as a third midfielder and the rangy St Catherine's player — finishing with 0-7 beside her name — was central to almost every score they hit.

Five from the stick of Cotter and one a piece from Orla Cronin, Ashling Thompson and Brieghe Corkery had the reigning champions 0-8 to 0-4 in front by half time. They should have been further clear having been camped in the opposition half for much of the 30 minutes.

The westerners opened the second period brightly, with McGrath hitting three frees to reduce the deficit to the minimum, 0-8 to 0-7. But they couldn't find an equaliser as Cotter landed Cork's first score in 19 minutes when hassling Niamh Kilkenny out of possession.

Cotter added her fifth free thereafter and when Corkery's goal arrived, it was game over.

New Cork, same outcome.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-7 (0-5 frees); B Corkery (1-1); A Thompson (0-

Lively Laois see off gritty Roscommon

Laois 2-12
Roscommon 1-6

All-Ireland premier junior camogie final

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Croke Park

Laois finally brought their Croke Park torment to an end by overcoming a determined but profligate Roscommon in

the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland premier junior camogie final.

The O'Moore County girls had lost the previous two deciders and the weight of that history appeared to affect them at times as they sought to shake off their gritty opponents.

Indeed you could hardly say they were dominant in the first half and yet they led by 2-6 to 0-4 at the interval thanks

to two goals in a minute from Sarah Ann Fitzgerald and Laura Marie Maher.

Niamh Farrell had a consolation goal for the losers.

Scorers for Laois: L Mahony 0-9 (7f); SA Fitzgerald, LM Maher 1-0 each; E Mahony, N Dollard, A Burke 0-1 each.

Scorers for Roscommon: K Hopkins 0-4 (3f, 1 45); N Farrell 1-0; A McGeeney, C Curley 0-1 each.

LAOIS: L Dunne, M Burke, R Bermingham, A Burke, E Mahony, E Delaney, S Creagh, O Parkinson, SA Fitzgerald, N Dollard, L Mahony, A O'Dea, A Burke,

LM Maher, A Loughman.

Subs: D Mortimer for O'Dea (21), C Walsh for Creagh (60), S Moylan Burke (60).

ROSCOMMON: C Connaughton, C Killen, S Coyle, A Byrne, S Spillane, E Daly, J Beattie, N Coyle, R Fitzmaurice, K Hopkins, A McGeeney, R Brennan, C Curley, N Farrell, F Connell-Jones.

Subs: M Fannon for Connell-Jones (22), C Dowling for Brennan (42), M Brennan for Curley (57), N McCormack for Farrell (60), C Morris for Killen (60).

Referee: G Coulter (Down)

Laois captain Niamh Dollard lifts the cup after their victory over Roscommon at Croke Park. Picture: Cathal Noonan





EYES ON THE PRIZE: Cork's Katriona Mackey tries to get away from Galway's Heather Cooney during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final at Croke Park. *Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach*

THE 60 SECOND REPORT



Game-changer

Briega Corkery's goal six minutes from time. Intercepting Shauna Healy's attempted clearance, Corkery ran through the cover and beat Susan Earner with a low drive to put Cork 1-10 to 0-8 ahead.

Talk of the town

Cork overcoming the loss of six big-name players last winter to successfully defend their All-Ireland title.

Did that just happen?

Briega Corkery delivering the game-turning score. The Cloughduv dual star isn't known for her goal-scoring capabilities, but kept a cool head when the opportunity arose

Best on show

Orla Cotter was superb both from play and placed balls. Gemma O'Connor, however, was the rock on which the Galway forward unit perished. The latter nabs the verdict.

Sideline superior

Cork's decision to play with a two-woman full-forward line with Orla Cotter working as a third midfielder saw the champions dominate the middle third.

The man in black

Far too whistle-happy. On 42 minutes, Eimear O'Sullivan was held up by three Galway shirts on the Hogan Stand side. Instead of penalising the Cork sub for over-carrying, referee Ray Kelly awarded Cork a free. One of many strange calls.

Where next?

Rena Buckley and Briega Corkery will return to Croke Park on September 27 for the ladies football decider bidding to complete a sixth double (two All-Irelands in the one season) and to secure their 16th All-Ireland medals.

Eoghan Cormican

Title surpasses last year's achievement, says Murray

Eoghan Cormican

Cork manager Paudie Murray rated yesterday's All-Ireland win as a "better achievement" than their 2014 success.

Having lost the league final to Galway and two of their four round-robin championship games, Cork weren't fancied to go the distance heading into the business end of the summer.

"We hit form just at the right time and were going very well the last few weeks," said the winning manager. "We were getting better and better as the season went on. I am delighted. This result is a better achievement than last year."

"We had to rebuild the team and rebuild the management team after the 2014 win. A lot of credit to the boys who came in on the sideline, it couldn't have been easy for them. Everything was referenced to last year and so the pressure was on them, but I think they came through with flying colours."

"We brought a lot of younger girls onto the starting team to fill the gaps left by the girls who retired at the end of last year and they have gotten better and better as the summer went along. If they stayed mentally strong, I knew they were capable of delivering here."

In the end, though, it was the performances of experienced campaigners Orla Cotter and Gemma O'Connor that saw Cork over the finish line with seven to spare.

"You don't have as many All-Irelands as they have for nothing. Gemma was incredible at centre-back, has been all year. I don't think she gets the credit that she should as a camogie player. I have

been to matches and I have seen other players getting the player of the match award, and I am left puzzled because this girl is just a different planet."

"Gemma and the rest of the defence were key in ensuring Galway never got level. We knew with 15 minutes to go that if we were within touching distance that we would win it. That is our period. We pride ourselves on second-half displays. We talked about cutting out the number of frees at half-time and we did that in the second-half."

As for Briega Corkery's game-changing contribution? "She wasn't going great, but to be fair to her, there is always a kick in Briega. I know Briega 20-odd years, there is always something in Briega."

"The ball fell to her and there was only one thing on her mind from there. I knew Briega would go for it. I said to her after the match that the wrong person had it! It was a big turning point and it put us in a comfortable position from there on."

Galway manager Tony Ward admitted his team's struggle to find the target from open play cost them. "We weren't getting a spread of scores. Cork were very defensive and closed us out all day long. Look it, it just wasn't our day. We didn't open it up like we have been doing all year and that can happen."

"I thought for ten minutes in the second half we had them on the rails but our time didn't last long enough. You never know, we could have planted the seed of doubt [had Galway drawn level], but it just didn't happen. When the goal came it put paid to our chances really."

2); K Mackey, A O'Connor, O Cronin (0-1 each).

Scorers for Galway: N McGrath (0-8, 0-7 frees); A Donoghue (0-1).

CORK: A Murray, P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan; R Buckley, G O'Connor, M Cahalane; O Cotter, A Thompson; J

White, O Cronin, K Mackey; H Looney, B Corkery, A O'Connor.

Subs: E O'Sullivan for Looney (35 mins), M Walsh for L O'Sullivan (61).

GALWAY: S Earner, T Manton, S Derivan, H Cooney; S Coen, S Healy, L Ryan; N Kilkenny, C McGrath; A Donogh-

ue, N McGrath, F Keely; C Finnerty, M Dunne, A O'Reilly.

Subs: J Gill for Finnerty (HT), S Cahalan for Healy (57), R Hennelly for C McGrath (61), M Cooney for Dunne (62).

Referee: R Kelly (Kildare).

Youthful Waterford march back to top flight



Liberty Insurance Intermediate Camogie final

WATERFORD 2-9
KILDARE 1-5

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Croke Park



Waterford have endured much heartbreak since making the step-up to the intermediate ranks in 2012 but after a deserved victory over a valiant Kildare unit, they will now be preparing for top flight camogie next year.

The Déise girls had fallen at the penultimate hurdle in each of their three previous campaigns at this level but having scored three second-half goals to edge a one-point

verdict over Meath on this occasion, they were in no mood to waste the chance.

They were hot favourites, despite fielding five minor players, as they had beaten Kildare twice already this year and won the Division 2 league title.

Nerves might have played a part though, as they endured a horror start that would have derailed teams of less character.

But midfield duo, Trish Jackman and player of the match, Lorraine Bray thundered into the fray to deny Kildare's dangerous looking attackers possession and in the end, they were full value for their win.

Stephen Fleming's charges were rocked as Kildare flew out of the traps with Noelle Earley hand-passing to the net



Waterford captain Cathriona McGlone lifts the cup after their victory over Kildare in the Intermediate final. *Picture: Cathal Noonan*

in the third minute, having been received a pass from Susie O'Carroll. Points from Melissa Lyons and Emer Reilly followed and Kildare were having fun.

Waterford never panicked and scored the next two goals and four points to establish a firm foothold in the game.

Leaving Cert student, Beth Carton got them off the mark

and she followed up from a free before Bray and Jennie Simpson reduced the margin to one.

Then came two goals either end of the break that broke Kildare. The first came in the 29th minute when Aisling Power showed good strength before rifling to the Kildare net.

Then two minutes into the second half, Beth Carton sent a powerful shot beyond the Lilywhite defenders from an angled 20m free and it was Waterford's to lose from then.

It took until the 52nd minute for the gifted O'Carroll to get her first score of the game, and though she followed up with another excellent effort from play three minutes later, Waterford were in control.

Midfielder partners Jackman and Bray had the final

say, with the former slotting a free before Bray profited from tremendous work by Carton to slot her third point from play.

Scorers for Waterford: B Carton 1-2 (1-1fs); L Bray 0-3; A Power 1-0; T Jackman (5); J Simpson, N Morrissey, N Rockett 0-1 each

Scorers for Kildare: N Earley 1-0; S O'Carroll (11); M Lyons 0-2 each; E Reilly 0-1

WATERFORD: D Brennan, K McMahon, C Whyte, V Falconer, J Simpson, C Rafter, I Heffernan, T Jackman, L Bray, C McGlone, N Morrissey, B Carton, D Power, N Rockett, A Power.

Subs: S Curran for D Power (28), V O'Brien for Rockett (46), Rockett for Morrissey (48), C Murphy for McGlone (56)

KILDARE: R O'Connell, C Flanagan, C Nolan, F Trant, A Lyons, R Gorman, C Farrell, C Forde, O Bambury, L Keatley, S Hurley, E Reilly, S O'Carroll, N Earley, M Lyons.

Subs: H McDonnell for Forde (50), D Byrne for Trant (52)

Referee: J Byrne (Dublin)

Corkery swings battle

Michael Moynihan



Brieger Corkery, who has nine All-Ireland ladies football medals and five All-Ireland camogie medals in a drawer back home, snaps up the sliotar and bears down on the Galway 'keeper with intent. There is quite a bit of work to do but with that kind of experience to draw from, Corkery holds the ball before shooting until the last possible second, and the goal is as inevitable as death and taxes. Room will have to be made in that drawer for a sixth All-Ireland camogie medal.

In truth, the game was too dour a battle to go down as a classic for either the 16,610 in attendance or those watching on television, but Cork won't mind. They had lost twice to Galway already this year, in the league final and the championship, but they brought the O'Duffy Cup back to Leaside because clearly they had learned more than their opponents from those previous encounters.

For instance, their manager Paudie Murray said afterwards that they'd identified Galway's most dangerous forward, Ailish O'Reilly, and had chosen their best marker, Pamela Mackey, to pick her up. They also had the experience of last year to help them, and, in the case of Corkery and fellow dual star Rena Buckley, the experience of many other years as well.

It was a good day in Croke Park. George Harrison did the business yesterday in Dublin 3 for the supporters. 'Here Comes The Sun' coming out of the speakers in the stadium to

Here's the scenario that you didn't want to see if you were a Galway camogie fan yesterday in Croke Park.

Your team is trailing Cork by just a couple of points but defending well, the game is there to be won with less than ten minutes left, but a stray ball has rolled kindly for an opposition forward. Not just any opposition forward, but Brieger Corkery.



Paudie Murray: 'Disappointed if we didn't win today.'



herald the parting of the clouds. Pardon the departure into meteorology like a bad novelist, but if you were in Jones's Road up to about ten to four yesterday afternoon, the heavy rain and greasy field would have monopolised your attention too. They didn't do Waterford and Kildare any favours in the intermediate game, the former adapting to the conditions to

win with something to spare, but thankfully the day cleaned itself up a bit before senior throw-in.

As reigning champions, it wasn't surprising to see Cork settle quickly. They had four points on the scoreboard to Galway's one after seven minutes, the last of those showing the benefit of experience learned at the sharp end of championships: Centre-back

Gemma O'Connor taking a free quickly and locating Orla Cotter, free in the Galway half. Cotter collected, stepped around her marker, and was fouled, rifling over the free herself.

That was a feature of Cork's play in that first half — the ability to find the free player going through the centre, often centre-forward Orla Cronin, who either scored herself

or won a free that Cotter converted. Though the wing-forward from St Catherine's has a lot of moving parts to her free-taking technique, it works well for her: she went in at the break with 0-5 to her credit.

Galway were off the pace for much of that opening 30 minutes, relying heavily on key forward Niamh McGrath, but McGrath was opposed by one



of Cork's best players — Gemma O'Connor not only organised the red defence expertly but held the centre well. Behind her, Aoife Murray illustrated Cork's general confidence by taking a difficult ball out of the sun on 24 minutes. At half time, Cork were four ahead and Galway had Sarah Dervan to thank for barring the door to goal a couple of times.

Within six minutes of the restart Galway were just one behind, however, thanks to three fine frees by McGrath and Cork badly needed Cotter's score to keep daylight between them. The westerners erred, perhaps, by moving McGrath around the middle third of the field to get her involved; that left Gemma O'Connor unmarked, and the calm number six gave an ex-

Three moments that proved crucial for Cork

Cork would fall of action. Galway this period to Galway drawn have been



ALL IN TO WIN: Hannah Looney takes a tumble as Cork celebrate with the O'Duffy Cup after they defeated Galway at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: Ryan Byrne/Inpho

hibition of classic centre-back play, fielding and distributing the ball superbly. McGrath showed plenty of promise but it would be a severe understatement to say she lacked support — only when Aoife Donoghue pointed on 52 minutes did another Galway player get on the scoresheet.

At that stage there were two points between the teams, and it looked like the proverbial case of a goal winning it. Two Galway defenders didn't claim a ball rolling between them in their own half, Corkery swooped, and a few heartbeats later that goal had won it. Though Galway came knocking late on for a goal, Cork looked more likely to raise the green flag again thanks to the space left by Galway backs pushing up.

"We've been coming all year," said Cork boss Murray afterwards. "We knew where we were going, and I'd have been disappointed if we didn't win today."

"We'd been performing very well in training, we were very focused, and this is a very strong team mentally. We've had our knocks in the last few years but they're very strong mentally, and I felt if, with ten minutes to go, we were within touching distance, I was confident from there on."

His opposite number was philosophical. Tony Ward acknowledged his Galway team had their spell of supremacy in the second half but pointed out they never led: "You can have all the game plans and everything, but if they don't work for you on the day, what can you do? It's all about that hour and it wasn't our hour."

"What had we? Maybe ten or 15 minutes in the game where we were on top and we didn't get our noses on front."

Mission accomplished, then, for the Cork camogie team. Almost inevitably at this time of year, however, thoughts will now turn to the Cork ladies football team, who face Dublin in a fortnight. Will Corkery and Buckley win a staggering 16th All-Ireland senior medal each? Would you bet against it?

of Cork's best players — Gemma O'Connor not only organised the red defence expertly but held the centre well. Behind her, Aoife Murray illustrated Cork's general confidence by taking a difficult ball out of the sun on 24 minutes. At half time, Cork were four ahead and Galway had Sarah Dervan to thank for barring the door to goal a couple of times.

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Three moments that proved crucial for Cork

Eoghan Cormican

1. Briege Corkery's goal

Ahead by 0-10 to 0-8, Cork finally managed to put significant daylight between themselves and their opponents when Corkery scored a goal on 54 minutes. Shauna Healy's groundstroke was intercepted by Corkery and the full-forward was coolness personified when sending the sliotar into the bottom-left corner of Susan Earners's goal. Although breaching the cover when cutting out Healy's attempted clearance, Corkery was still 30 metres from the Galway goal and had a fair task in front of her. As manager Paudie Murray said afterwards, no better woman.

Sarah Dervan had initially sent the ball in Healy's direction and would have been better served relieving the danger by launching the ball downfield.

2. Orla's Cotter's sixth point on 42 minutes

Having moved 0-8 to 0-3 ahead after 25 minutes,

Cork would fail to score in the ensuing 19-minute of action. Galway nailed four on the bounce during this period to cut the deficit to the minimum. Had Galway drawn level, momentum would certainly have been in their corner heading into the final quarter.

Cork though, never allowed their opponents back on level footing. On 42 minutes, after Galway had repelled three successive attacks, Niamh Kilkenny was hassled out of possession in attempting to make her way out of the Galway defence. Cotter grabbed the sliotar and split the posts to send Cork back down the road to success.

3. Laura Treacy's foul on Molly Dunne

The Cork full-back delivered a measured and confident performance and though Molly Dunne was starved of possession throughout, Treacy won the majority of ball sent in their direction.

On 12 minutes, Niamh Kilkenny cut through from midfield and played a superb ball over the head of Treacy which was taken down by Dunne. Trailing by 0-4 to 0-1, a Galway goal would have kick-started their title bid. Instead, Treacy pulled Dunne to the ground, content to concede the 20-metre free. Clever move.

26th title the sweetest for regrouping Rebels

Therese O'Callaghan

Comment



Cork will never tire of winning All-Irelands, that's for sure. This must be the sweetest of all because this is a Rebel team that lost so many quality players from last season. But here they never flinched. Not once. They led from pillar to post. They dominated, coming away with their 26th title, equalling Dublin's record at the top of the roll of honour.

A week ago, all the talk was of the Kilkenny hurlers and how they coped minus the likes of JJ Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, and Henry Shefflin. A lot of people feared this Cork camogie side would come up short, forced to regroup with so many All-Ireland-winners gone from the setup; five of the starting 15 to be precise. But the players who came in made it clear from the outset they were able deputies.

The impact of Gemma O'Connor cannot be underestimated — such a lion-hearted centre-back. Granted, Galway played into her hands, allowing her oceans of space in which she revelled. But she is an incredible player that never fails to deliver.

That Galway came up

short — only scoring two points from play — has to be down to the supremacy of the Cork backs. A defence that saw Meabh Cahalane and Leanne O'Sullivan cope magnificently in their first All-Ireland senior decider.

Cork started brilliantly and it was 0-8 to 0-4 at the break. In the second half, Galway skipper Niamh Kilkenny and Lorraine Ryan worked unbelievably hard as they got within a point, but one marvels at the manner in which Cork responded. Orla Cotter, not for the first time this year, pushed them three points clear around the three-quarter mark.

Next up was the unbelievable Briege Corkery. Breaking on to a sloppy clearance, she executed the only goal of the match when one-on-one with Susan Earners.

The game was up as Cork coasted six points clear. The dual star collected her sixth All Ireland camogie medal — add that to the nine football wins — and the mind boggles as to how she keeps coming back for more. Rena Buckley is another with nine and six — and the All-Ireland football final is yet to come!

A second title for manager Paudie Murray as well, and an incredible seventh medal for his sister Aoife who will go down as one of the finest custodians in the game. She says she has played her final hour

for the red and white and what a high it would be to go out on. Another clean sheet for the Cloughdun lady, and, like her compatriots out on the field, she got better as time went on.

Another player who excelled was full-back Laura Treacy. Making the step up from underage is not easy and filling such a vital position so calmly is a credit to her. She kept Galway danger lady Molly Dunne scoreless, which is no mean feat. In fact, none of Galway's starting full-forward line registered a flag, which is incredible.

Galway were expected to put up a serious challenge to Cork, having defeated them twice this year. I was surprised with their lack of intensity. OK, they had injuries that robbed them of key attackers but they lacked bite.

The O'Duffy Cup will be brought Leeside this evening by Ashling Thompson. There was something very touching to see the captain place her hand on each of her players' shoulders as she introduced the team to the President before throw-in. A simple gesture but delivered with such strong body language.

A great Munster double was achieved following Waterford's outstanding victory in the Intermediate decider. Twenty-one out of the panel of 26 are students, so a bright future awaits Sean Fleming's charges at senior level.



**Congratulations to our Cork Ladies
All Ireland Senior Camogie Champions 2015**

www.barrygroup.ie

Upper Quartertown, Mallow, Co. Cork 022 30 100

BARRY GROUP

Costcutter
Proud to be local

Cork captain Ashling Thompson and Laura Treacy, right, embrace after All-Ireland camogie senior final victory in Croke Park. SPORTSPILE

Rebel steps to 'heaven'

'That's the dream come true, for everything I've been through in my life,' says Cork captain Thompson

See Pages 4-5

Rebel yells



Jubilant Cork fans celebrate their team's victory over Galway at the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park yesterday. SEE: Monday Sport

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Paths to the 2015 Final

Kildare

04/07/2015	Kildare.....	3-7	Kilkenny.....	1-6
11/07/2015	Kildare.....	5-8	Antrim.....	0-6
02/08/2015	Kildare.....	1-10	Waterford.....	4-11

Semi-Finals

22/08/2015	Kildare.....	1-12	Cork.....	0-11
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Waterford

04/07/2015	Waterford.....	6-8	Antrim.....	1-3
25/07/2015	Waterford.....	3-5	Kilkenny.....	0-12
02/08/2015	Waterford.....	4-11	Kildare.....	1-10

Semi-Finals

22/08/2015	Waterford.....	3-10	Meath.....	3-9
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LEFT: Aisling Power (Waterford) moves away from the challenge of Meath's Grace Coleman during the semi-final at Nowlan Park. (Photos: INPHO/Donall Farmer)



Caroline Forde (Kildare)

Ace Orla plots era of Rebel success

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

BALLINEEN camogie star Orla Cronin admits she has an addiction – it's for All-Ireland medals.

The 19-year-old Cork forward won her second All-Ireland senior medal in two seasons last Sunday in Croke Park, and the ambitious West Cork woman is targeting an era of Rebel domination.

Cronin, from Knockaneady, scored 0-1 as Cork defeated Galway (1-13 to 0-9) to retain the O'Duffy Cup last weekend, and the talented UCC second-year student is hungry for more success, with the three-in-a-row up for grabs in 2016.

'Once you get one All-Ireland, it becomes an addiction and you want to win as many as you can,' Cronin told *The Southern Star*.

'(Cork manager) Paudie (Murray) has been great. He has brought in the younger girls and bred them in with the experienced, older, successful players, and hopefully we can thrive off them and eventually come to

where they are at now.

'We know what it feels like to win an All-Ireland. We know what it's like to perform on the big day. There will be even more competition for places next year and the team will get stronger.'

'We want to keep the great success of Cork camogie going. This team will get better. It's all about what you put into it, and if you have the right attitude and the desire to do well then any team can be as strong as they want to be.'

This is just Cronin's second year as a Cork senior, and she now has two All-Ireland winner's medals to show.

'I'm over the moon. It's been a really long year with training and matches, and to end up with an All-Ireland and to be playing for it was unbelievable,' a thrilled Cronin said.

'Last year I was a sub so I did have an All-Ireland medal, but to actually play on the pitch at Croke Park and win an All-Ireland was an even better feeling.'

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate Championship Final

KILDARE v WATERFORD

Can Waterford's first final appearance be a winning one?

BOTH THESE teams contribute handsomely to an interesting narrative in the build-up. Waterford have been knocking on the door for a number of years without reaching a final, while Kildare have made it to the decider at just the second year in the competition.

Waterford have never done things easily and won the Premier Junior All-Ireland in 2011, after losing the previous year's final to Antrim after a replay.

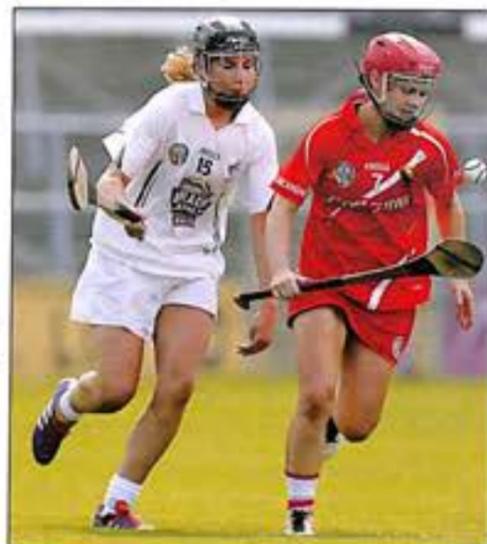
They reached the last four

in their three Intermediate campaigns and it says much for their mental fortitude that they have galvanised themselves to get over that particular hurdle at last. Typically, it was far from straightforward, as they trailed by eight points at half time to Meath but

scored three goals to edge the verdict by a point.

Trish Jackman is one of the country's premier players, be it at centre-back or midfield, while Beth Carton is an operator of huge promise, despite not sitting her Leaving Cert until next June. There is a nice blend of experience and youth that has flourished under Sean Fleming.

Kildare's road has been longer, as they began 2010 in the Junior A championship.



Kildare's Melissa Lyons about to tackle Cork's Hazel O'Regan during the semi-final at Nowlan Park.

Now, in only their second intermediate campaign, they are an hour away from senior camogie. They lost to Waterford in the group stages, as they did in the Division 2 league semi-final, with the Déise girls going on to bag the silverware in that competition.

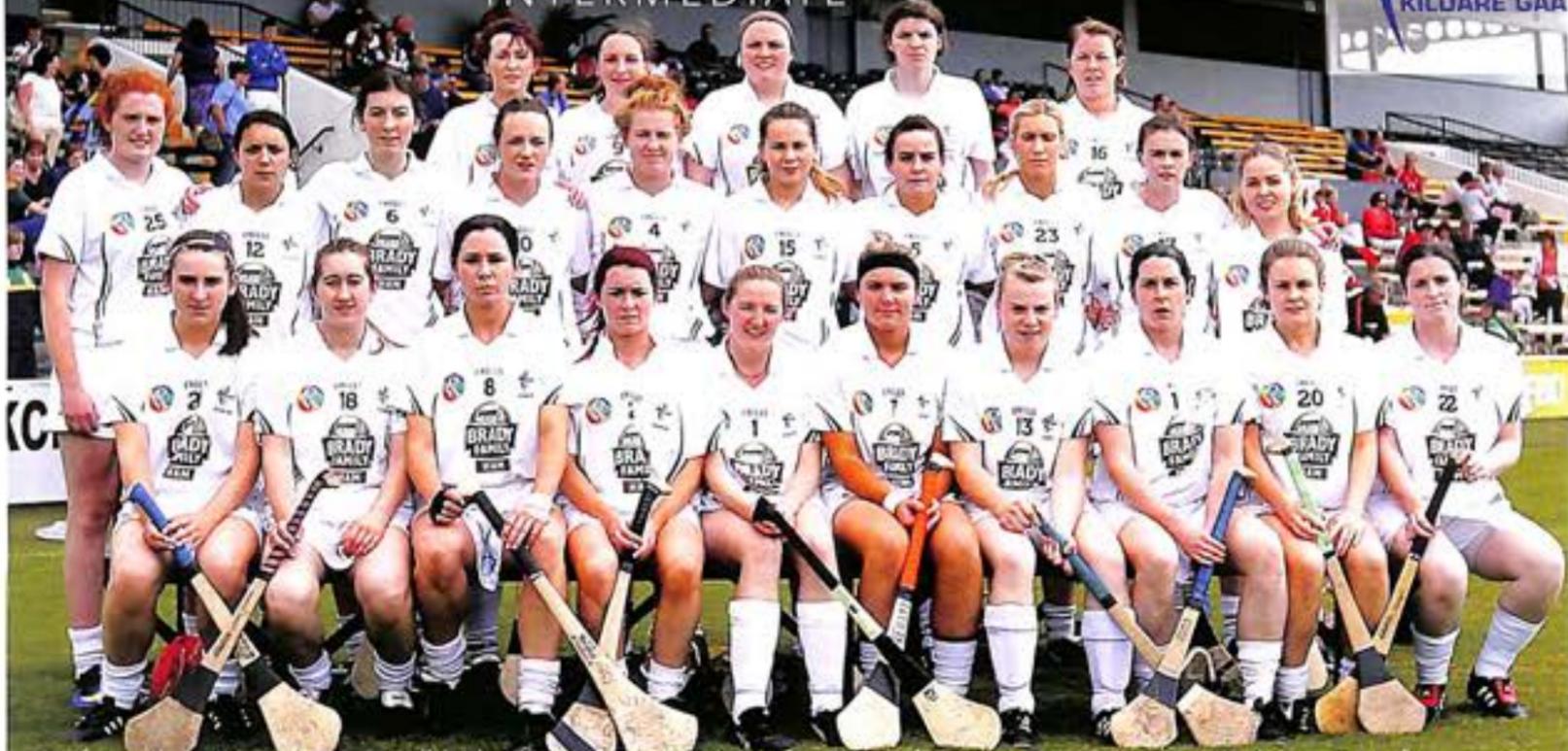
The Lilies were magnificent against Cork in the semi-final though, with the defence in particular, in which Carol Nolan is a powerful presence, completely on top. Emer Reilly contributed handsomely from play while Susie O'Carroll is a constant threat.



Niamh Rockett (Waterford) moves away from the challenge of Meath's Katie Hackett during the semi-final. (Photos: INPHO/Donall Farmer)

Cill Dara

INTERMEDIATE



Back row (l.-r.): Hannah McDonnell, Orla Bambury, Carol Nolan, Susie O'Carroll (Capt.), Tanya Johnson. Middle row (l.-r.): Áine Conway, Regina Gorman, Louise Keatley, Siobhán Hurley, Fiona Trant, Melissa Lyons, Angela Lyons, Niamh Concannon, Clodagh Farrell, Kathleen Daly. Front row (l.-r.): Niamh Hegarty, Laura Sheahan, Caroline Forde, Clodagh Flanagan, Róisín O'Connell, Emer Reilly, Deirbhile Byrne, Noelle Earley, Niamh Breen, Hazel Mulligan.



- (16) T. Nic Sheáin
Tanya Johnson
Johnstownbridge
- (17) D. Ní Bhroin
Deirbhile Byrne
St. Laurence's
- (18) L. Ní Shíocháin
Laura Sheahan
Cappagh
- (19) S. Nic Dhómhnaill
Hannah McDonnell
Celbridge
- (20) D. Ní Bhraoin
Niamh Breen
St. Laurence's
- (21) N. Ní hÉigearthaigh
Niamh Hegarty
Naas
- (22) H. Ní Mhaolagáin
Hazel Mulligan
Cappagh
- (23) N. Nic Choncheannainn
Niamh Concannon
Celbridge
- (24) C. Ní Dhálaigh
Kathleen Daly
Cappagh
- (25) Á. Nic Chonbhui
Áine Conway
Naas

Cill Dara

Dathanna: Bán

INTERMEDIATE

	Team LEADER	Team LEADER	Team LEADER
CILL			
CILLÍNÍ			
TEACHAÍ			
ISIA			
SAGH			
POCAINNA			



(1) R. Ní Chonaill
RÓISÍN O'CONNELL
Johnstownbridge



(2) C. Ní Fhlannagáin
CLODAGH FLANAGAN
Johnstownbridge



(3) C. Ní Nualláin
CAROL NOLAN
St. Laurence's



(4) F. Ní Theartáin
FIONA TRANT
Naas



(5) A. Ní Laighin
ANGELA LYONS
Celbridge



(6) R. Ní Ghormáin
REGINA GORMAN
Cappagh



(7) C. Ní Fhearaill
CLODAGH FARRELL
Leixlip



(8) C. Nic Giollarnáth
CAROLINE FORDE
Cappagh



(9) O. Bambaire
ORLA BAMBURY
Cappagh



(10) S. Ní hUirthuille
SIOBHÁN HURLEY
Johnstownbridge



(11) N. Ní Mhóchóir
NOELLE EARLEY
Clane



(12) L. Ní Gathlaóich
LOUISE KEATLEY
St. Laurence's



(13) E. Ní Raghallaigh
EMER REILLY
Celbridge



(14) S. Ní Chearúill (Capt.)
SUSIE O'CARROLL
Celbridge



(15) M. Ní Laighin
MELISSA LYONS
Clane

Manager: Stephen Dorner Selectors: Melanie Treacy, Niall Larigan
Coach: Kieran Lunn Physio: Breeda Gorman

Port Láirge

INTERMEDIATE



Front row: Niamh Rockett, Claire Whyte, Valerie O'Brien, Deirdre Brennan, Brianna O'Regan, Cathriona McGlone (Capt.), Vikki Falconer, Dawn Power, Aisling Power. Middle row: Elizabeth McGrath, Jenny McCarthy, Jennie Simpson, Charlotte Rahe, Clare Murphy, Orla Flynn, Molly Curran, Becky Kavanagh, Beth Carton, Shona Curran. Back row: Iona Heffernan, Lorraine Bray, Saoirse Bonner, Patricia Jackman, Sibeal Harney, Nicola Morrissey, Kate McMahon.

	FAIR PLAY	FAIR PLAY	SHIRAZ
COR			
COR/IN			
SEANAI			
CL			
SADR			
PICANNA			

Port Láirge

Dathanna: Bán agus Gorm

INTERMEDIATE



(16) B. Ní Riagáin
Brianna O'Regan
De La Salle

(17) B. Caomhánach
Becky Kavanagh
St. Anne's

(18) C. Ní Mhurchú
Claire Murphy
St. Anne's

(19) S. Ní Airtnéada
Sibeal Harney
St. Anne's

(20) M. Ní Choeráin
Shona Curran
Lismore

(21) V. Ní Bhriain
Valerie O'Brien
Roanmore

(22) M. Ní Chorráin
Molly Curran
Brickey Rangers

(23) S. Ní Cnáimhsí
Saoirse Bonner
St. Anne's

(24) O. Ní Fhloinn
Orla Flynn
Clonea

(25) E. Nic Craith
Elizabeth McGrath
Butlerstown

(26) S. Ní Chárthaigh
Jenny McCarthy
Cappoquin

Manager: Sean Fleming Coach/Mentor: Philip Ryan Mentor: Ita Murphy
Medics/Physio: Anthony Flanagan, David Murphy

KILDARE *Player Profiles*



SUSIE O'CARROLL (Capt.)
Celbridge
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, All-Ireland Junior A title, Leinster Intermediate title, 2 Leinster Junior titles, Nat League Div 3 & 4, 3 County C'ship titles, County Div 1 League, 2 Ashbourne Cups with UCD, 3 Soaring Star awards, Gael Linn Senior & Junior with Leinster.



RÓISÍN O'CONNELL
Johnstownbridge
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, All-Ireland Junior A title, Leinster Intermediate title, Leinster Junior title, Nat League Div 3 & 4, 3 County Div 1 League, 4 County Senior titles, Represented Ireland in International Shinty Rules, 2 Leinster Gael Linn.



ANGELA LYONS
Celbridge
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, 2 Leinster Junior titles, Nat League Div 3, All-Ireland Junior A title, County Senior title, 2 Leinster Gael Linn.



CAROL NOLAN
St Laurence's
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, All-Ireland Junior A title, 2 Leinster Junior titles, Nat League Div 3 & 4, County Senior League & C'ship titles, Leinster Gael Linn, Kildare Young Player of the Year.



CAROLINE FORDE
Cappagh
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, Leinster Intermediate title, Leinster Junior title, County U21 Division 2 title, County Intermediate League, County Intermediate C'ship.



CLODAGH FARRELL
Leixlip
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, All-Ireland Junior A title, Leinster Intermediate title, Leinster Junior title, Nat League Div 3 & 4, All-Ireland

Minor C title, numerous underage titles, 2 County Intermediate League titles, 2 Junior A titles, 2 Kildare Young Player of the Year awards, 3 County Intermediate titles.



CLODAGH FLANAGAN
Johnstownbridge
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, All-Ireland Junior A title, Leinster Intermediate title, 2 Leinster Junior titles, Nat League Div 3 & 4, 4 County Senior titles, 3 County Div 1 Leagues, Ashbourne Cup title, O'Connor Cup Football title, Senior Kildare Player of the Year.



DEIRBHÍLE BYRNE
St Laurence's
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, Leinster Intermediate title, Leinster Junior title, All-Ireland Minor C title, County Div 1 Shield, County U21 title, numerous underage titles, GAA NUIM Scholarship, Young Player of the Year.



EMER REILLY
Celbridge
 All-Ireland Minor C title, Leinster Junior title, Leinster Intermediate title, Leinster Minor B title, County Div 1 League, 2 County Minor A titles, 2 County U21 Div 1 titles, DCU Sports Scholarship, Kildare Minor Player of the Year.



FIONA TRANT
Naas
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, Leinster Intermediate title, Leinster Junior title, Nat League Div 3, County Intermediate title, County Junior A title, County Div 2 League, 2 Purcell Cup titles, DCU Sports Scholarship.



HANNAH McDONNELL
Celbridge
 Leinster Intermediate title, 2 County Senior titles, 2 Senior League titles.



HAZEL MULLIGAN
Cappagh
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, All-Ireland Junior A title, Leinster Intermediate title, 2 Leinster Junior titles, Nat League Div 3 & 4, 2 County Intermediate C'ship & League titles, County U21 Div 2 League, O'Connor Shield title, Purcell Shield title, Senior Footballer of the Year, Purcell Cup All-Star.



KATHLEEN DALY
Cappagh
 County Intermediate title, County Minor B title, County U21 Div 2 League.



LAURA SHEAHAN
Cappagh
 Leinster Intermediate title, County Intermediate title, County Minor B title, County U21 Div 2 League.



MELISSA LYONS
Clane
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, Leinster Intermediate title, Leinster Junior title, 2 County Intermediate titles.



NIAMH BREEN
St Laurence's
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, All-Ireland Junior A title, Leinster Intermediate title, 2 Leinster Junior titles, Nat League Division 3 & 4, Leinster Junior Club C'ship, 8 County C'ship & League titles, represented Ireland in International Shinty Rules.



NIAMH CONCANNON
Celbridge
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, All-Ireland Junior A title, Leinster Intermediate title, 2 Leinster Junior titles, Nat League Division 3 & 4, County Senior League & C'ships.



NIAMH HEGARTY
Naas
 All-Ireland Minor C title, Leinster Minor B title, Leinster Minor C title, County Intermediate title, County U21 Shield, County Division 2 League.



ORLA BAMBURY
Cappagh
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, Leinster Intermediate title, Leinster Junior title, Nat League Div 3, County Intermediate League.



REGINA GORMAN
Cappagh
 All-Ireland Junior A title, Leinster Intermediate title, Nat League Div 4, 2 County Intermediate titles, Soaring Star award.



LOUISE KEATLEY
St Laurence's
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, All-Ireland Junior A title, Leinster Intermediate title, 2 Leinster Junior titles, Nat League Div 3, County Senior title, 3 Leinster Intermediate Club Football titles.



NOELLE EARLEY
Clane
 Nat League Div 3, County Intermediate League, Football All-Star award, All-Ireland Leinster & County Ladies Football titles.



SIOBHÁN HURLEY
Johnstownbridge
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, All-Ireland Junior A title, Leinster Intermediate title, 2 Leinster Junior titles, Nat League Div 3 & 4, 3 County Div 1 Leagues, 4 County Senior titles, Gael Linn Senior & Junior with Leinster.



ÁINE CONWAY
Naas
 County Intermediate title, County U21 Shield, numerous underage titles.



TAYNA JOHNSON
Johnstownbridge
 All-Ireland Premier Junior title, All-Ireland Junior A title, Leinster Intermediate title, Leinster Junior title, Nat League Div 3, 2 County Senior C'ship & League titles.

WATERFORD *Player Profiles*



CAITHRIONA McGLONE (Capt.)
Lismore
Nat League Div 2, All-Ireland Intermediate Club title, 4 Munster Intermediate Club titles, 4 County Senior titles, numerous underage titles.



DEIRDRE BRENNAN
Butlerstown
Nat League Div 2, Munster Intermediate title, County Intermediate title, 2 County Intermediate League, County Junior title, County Junior League, County U21 title, County Minor title, All-Ireland Club 7s.



KATE McMAHON
Butlerstown
Nat League Div 2, All-Ireland Minor title, All-Ireland U16B title, 2 Munster U16B titles.



CLAIRE WHYTE
St. Anne's
All-Ireland Junior title, Nat League Div 2, Munster Intermediate title, Munster Intermediate Club title, 2 County Senior titles, County Senior League, County & Provincial Ladies Football titles, numerous underage titles.



VIKKI FALCONER
Butlerstown
All-Ireland Junior title, Nat League Div 2 & 3, Munster Intermediate title, County Intermediate title, County Intermediate League, 2 Asbourne Cup titles.



CHARLOTTE RAHER
St. Anne's
All-Ireland Junior title, 4 Nat League titles, Munster Intermediate title, Munster Junior title, 8 County Senior titles, Munster Intermediate Club title, Ashbourne Cup title.



JENNIE SIMPSON
St. Anne's
All-Ireland Junior title, Nat League Div 2, Nat League Div 3, Nat League Div 4, Munster Intermediate title, Munster Junior title, All-Ireland U16 title, Munster Intermediate Club title, 2 County Senior titles, County Senior League, 2 Soaring Stars awards, Ashbourne Cup & Colleges League titles.



IONA HEFFERNAN
Ferrybank
Nat League Div 2, All-Ireland Minor B title, Munster U16B title, County Junior League, numerous underage titles.



PATRICIA JACKMAN
Gailltir
All-Ireland Junior title, 2 Nat League Div 2, Nat League Div 3, All-Ireland U16 title, Munster U16B title, 2 County Senior titles, Munster Junior Club title, 7 All-Ireland Poc Fada titles, 5 Ashbourne Cup titles.



LORRAINE BRAY
Cappoquin
Nat League Div 2, All-Ireland Minor title, Munster Intermediate title, Munster Minor title, County Intermediate title, County Junior title, County Junior League, 4 County Minor titles, numerous underage titles.



NICOLA MORRISSEY
Lismore
All-Ireland Junior title, 2 Nat League Div 2, Nat League Div 3, Nat League Div 4, 2 Munster Intermediate titles, Munster Junior title, All-Ireland Intermediate Club title, 5 County Senior titles, 4 Munster Intermediate Club titles, Soaring Star award, Munster Senior A & B Club titles.



VALERIE O'BRIEN
Roanmore
Nat League Div 2, M Asbourne Cup title, Ladies Football U18 title, Intermediate title, M National & Regional Basketball titles, numerous Minor title, County J1 underage titles.



BETH CARTON
De La Salle
Nat League Div 2, All-Ireland Minor title, All-Ireland U16B title, numerous underage titles.



AISLING POWER
Cappoquin
Nat League Div 2, All-Ireland Minor title, County Intermediate title, County Junior title, County Junior League, numerous underage titles.



DAWN POWER
Dungarvan
Nat League Div 2, All-Ireland Minor title, numerous underage titles.



BRIANNA O'REGAN
De La Salle
Nat League Div 2, All-Ireland Minor title, numerous underage titles, County Poc Fada, numerous underage titles.



BECKY KAVANAGH
St. Anne's
Nat League Div 2, 2 County Senior titles, County Minor A title, All-Ireland Schools D title.



SAOIRSE BONNER
St. Anne's
Nat League Div 2, All-Ireland U16B title, County Senior League, numerous underage titles.



CLAIRE MURPHY
St. Anne's
Nat League Div 2, All-Ireland U16 title, County Minor title, County Senior & Junior Sport Star awards.



MOLLY CURRAN
Brickey Rangers
Nat League Div 2, All-Ireland Minor title, numerous underage titles.



NIAMH ROCKETT
St. Anne's
All-Ireland Junior title, 2 Nat League Div 2, Nat League Div 3, Nat League Div 4, Munster Intermediate title, 2 County Senior titles, County Senior League, numerous underage titles.



ORLA FLYNN
Clonea
Nat League Div 2, All-Ireland Minor B title, numerous underage titles in Camogie & Ladies Football.



SIBEAL HARNEY
St. Anne's
Nat League Div 2, All-Ireland Minor B title, All-Ireland U16B title, County Senior League, numerous underage titles.



ELIZABETH McGRATH
Butlerstown
All-Ireland Minor title, Munster U16B title, County Intermediate League.



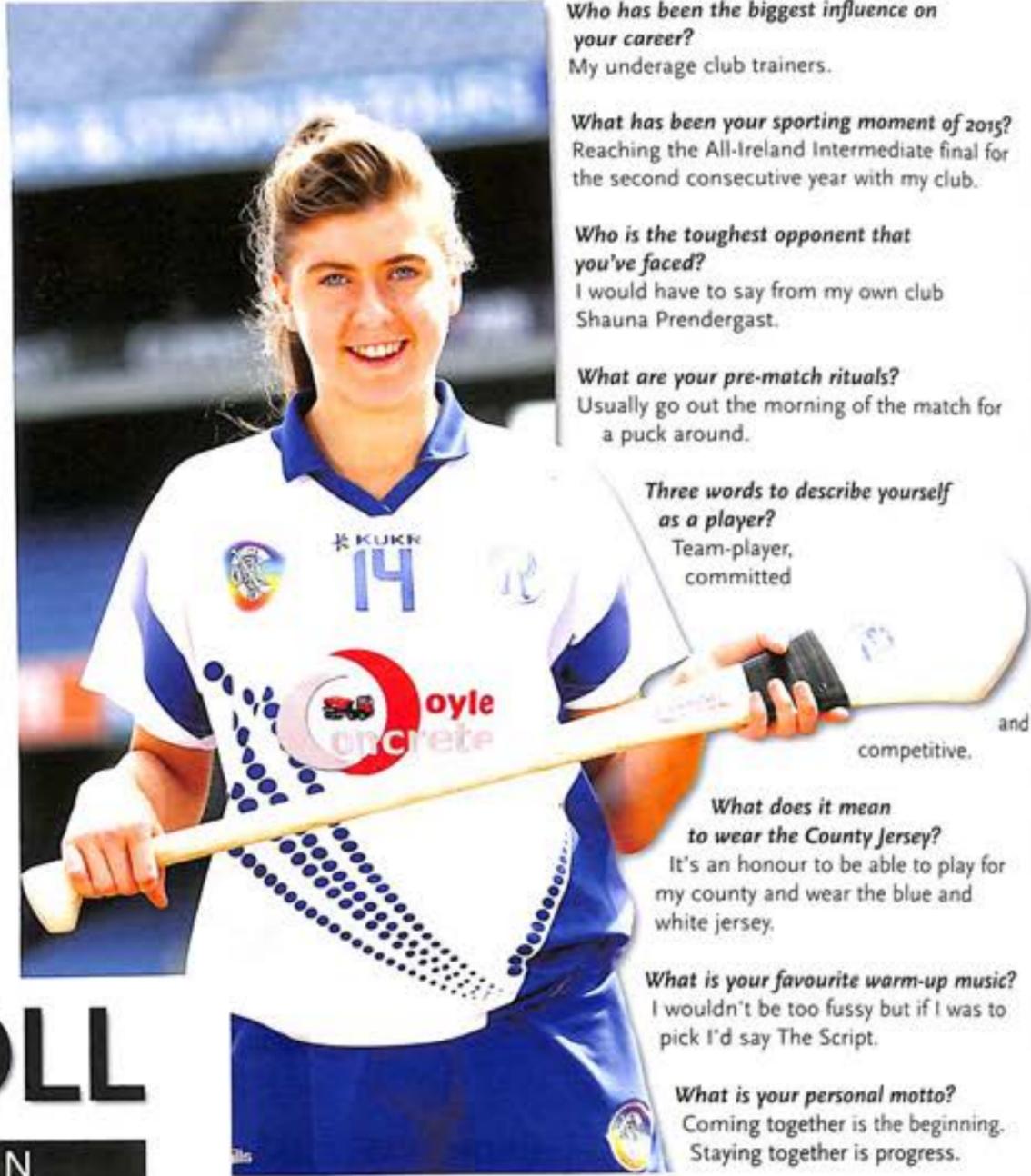
SHONA CURRAN
Lismore
2 Munster Intermediate titles, All-Ireland Intermediate Club title, 4 County Senior titles, 4 Munster Intermediate club titles, Soaring Star award, 2 Munster Intermediate Ladies Football titles.



JENNY MCCARTHY
Cappoquin
All-Ireland Junior title, Nat League Div 2, Munster Intermediate title, County Intermediate title, 2 County Intermediate League titles, County Junior title, County Junior League, 2 County Minor titles, Purcell Cup, College Div 2 League, Fr Meachair Cup, numerous underage titles.

Caithriona McGLONE

WATERFORD CAPTAIN



Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

My underage club trainers.

What has been your sporting moment of 2015?
Reaching the All-Ireland Intermediate final for the second consecutive year with my club.

Who is the toughest opponent that you've faced?

I would have to say from my own club Shauna Prendergast.

What are your pre-match rituals?

Usually go out the morning of the match for a puck around.

Three words to describe yourself as a player?

Team-player, committed

and competitive.

What does it mean to wear the County Jersey?

It's an honour to be able to play for my county and wear the blue and white jersey.

What is your favourite warm-up music?

I wouldn't be too fussy but if I was to pick I'd say The Script.

What is your personal motto?

Coming together is the beginning. Staying together is progress.

Susie O'CARROLL

KILDARE CAPTAIN

Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

My family has always been there for support, advice and someone to puck with.

What has been your sporting moment of 2015?

Winning the semi final v Cork.

Who is the toughest opponent that you've faced?

Aisling Holton.

What are your pre-match rituals?

I usually get up at the last possible moment, eat the same breakfast, wear the same gear and try to keep the same routine. It used to be to try dodge the warm up, but then I got old and it became essential!

Three words to describe yourself as a player?

Dedicated, Fast, Enthusiastic!

What does it mean to wear the County Jersey?

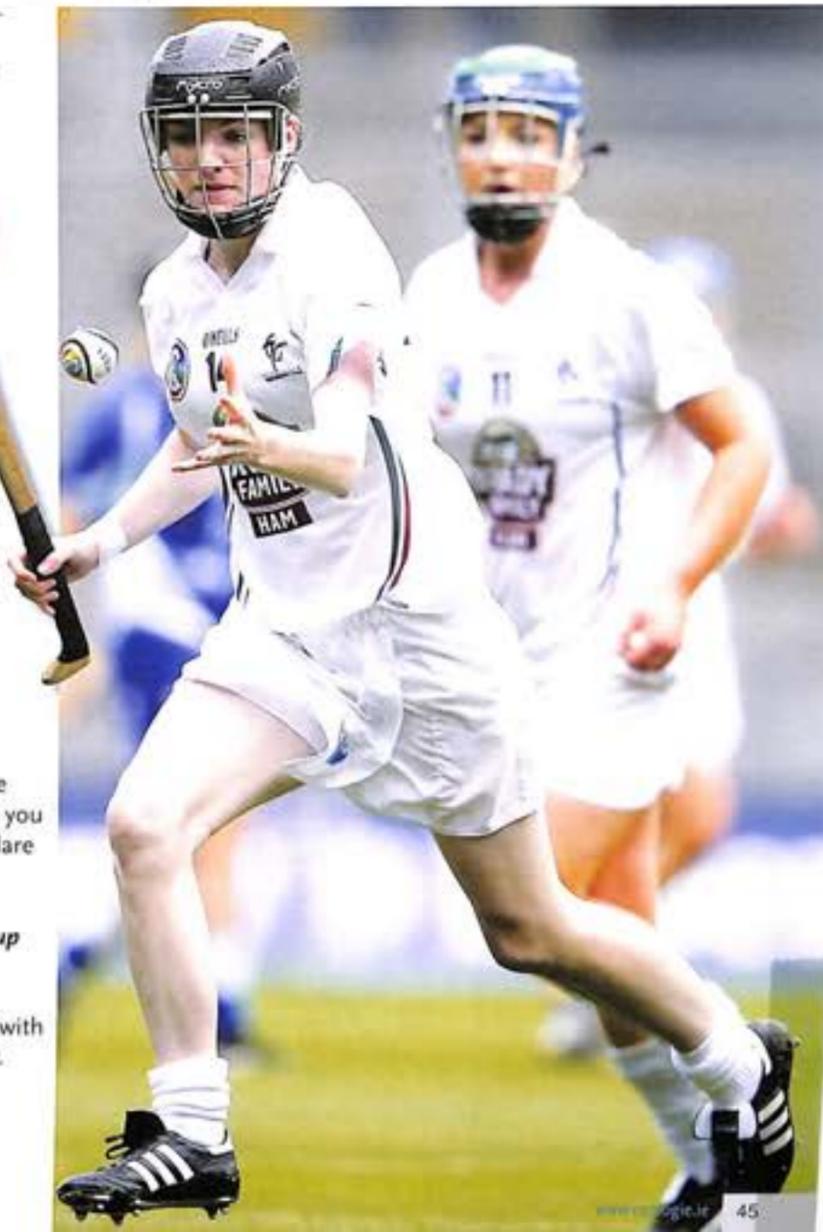
It's a great honour to wear the Kildare jersey and do the best you can while you can to help Kildare camogie progress each year.

What is your favourite warm-up music?

Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston "When you believe" with Angela Lyons as Mariah Carey.

What is your personal motto?

Goals win games.





ALL IN: Waterford players celebrate their win over Kildare in the Intermediate Camogie Championship final at Croke Park.

Picture: Inpho/Ryan Byrne

FROM DARK DAYS TO ALL-IRELAND TRIUMPH FOR ASHLING



Happy Cork players and (right) Ashling Thompson with the cup.
Picture: SPORTSFILE

Cork's glory girls!

CORK'S camogie team showed tremendous talent and spirit when they made it a convincing two-in-a-row for the Rebel County in Croke Park yesterday.

It was Cork who were on form from the off with inspiring captain Ashling Thompson scoring the first goal and laying down the marker for the side that had beaten them

twice earlier this year.

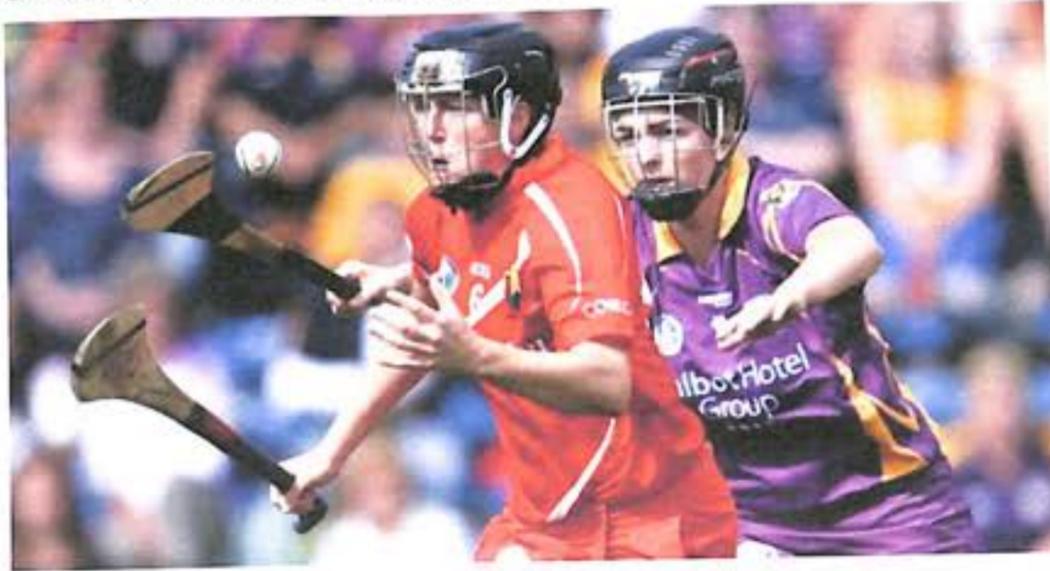
The message was loud and clear from the Rebel team - we're going to do it!

■ See page 3 and sports for more.



Cork's Camogie Corporal hoping to keep county on the march

Gemma O'Connor seeking seventh winners' medal but wants more support from GAA



Gemma O'Connor gets away from Ursula Jacob in the All-Ireland camogie semi-final between Cork and Wexford at Semple Stadium in Thurles. Photograph: Cathal Noonan/inpho

Mary Hannigan

In her 14 years playing for Cork, Gemma O'Connor has seen plenty of players come and go, but the changes since the county won last year's All-Ireland final have been particularly sizeable. It does, though, say something of the strength in depth of Cork camogie that the county began the defence of its title this year without 10 of the players who made appearances in the 2014 campaign – yet they're still through to the final where victory over Galway would see them draw level with Dublin on a record 26 titles.

Some of those absences have been down to personal commitments, travel or injury, but the retirements of Anna Geary, last year's captain, Joanne O'Callaghan and Jenny O'Leary, with 18 All-Ireland medals between them, robbed the team of a core of immeasurable experience.

"They're players who are irreplaceable, really," says O'Connor, who shares the record for the most All Star awards with O'Leary (eight). Her decision, though, to play on, alongside other trusty warriors like goalkeeper Aoife Murray and dual stars Briege Corkery and Rena Buckley, meant the team still had plenty of stalwarts to help the new blood find its feet. And after a few hiccups along the way this year – twice at the hands of Galway – they're getting there.

"There's no doubt that we lost some vital players and there's been lots of talk about us being a team in transition, but the new people who came in, like Amy O'Connor [also a soccer international] who is a fabulous forward, have brought different things to the team. And that gives you a sense of hope that when the likes of Aoife and myself step down these are the people who are going to carry the torch."

Dreaded R word

It's the plight of most sports competitors that once they hit the 30 mark they start getting asked about the dreaded R word too, but despite 10 All-Ireland final appearances, six winners medals, eight All Stars, a player of the year award, not to mention too-many-to-count league and club honours, O'Connor had nowhere near enough after last year.

"I just absolutely love the game, I adore it, and I've always put camogie first, it's always been my priority. I play it for my family, my club, my county and myself. I tried other sports before and nothing really compares, camogie is just something special. And to play it at the top level, for Cork, is an honour.

"My family is steeped in the GAA tradition, my brother Glen played hurling for Cork, so it's in the blood. I've been fortunate to be on teams through the years that have had a lot of success and I'll keep going as long as I can. I just love being pushed to the limits."

After watching RTÉ's *Recruits*, you wonder if playing in All-Ireland finals is a walk in the park next to army life. "Ah no, it's very different," laughs the army corporal who is based at Collins Barracks in Cork. "You expect people in the army to be super fit, but it's a different fitness, the army is about slogging it out in rough conditions, not so much running as fast as you can! But I suppose there's a mental toughness that you might have over others, the ability to drive on no matter what, not to give up, you feel you might have that bit more heart, and that you're more driven."

She's over 10 years with the Defence Forces now, with stints in Liberia, Chad and Lebanon along the way, and has always received the support she has needed to maintain her intercounty career.

"They've been super. The Defence Forces and sport, especially GAA, go hand in hand, they are very supportive leading up to the games – they look after you and make sure you're given enough time to train. I suppose it's great PR for them too, they take massive pride in having intercounty players and have had plenty through the years."

Embracing success

More All-Ireland glory for Cork

2-5



Cork's Hannah Looney with the O'Duffy Cup after defeating Galway in the All-Ireland final at Croke Park yesterday. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



James Moysham, Chairman of the Munster Council, presents Clare's Chloe Money with her 'Player of the Match' award - July 26th - Clare v Derry.



Wexford's Kate Kelly is presented with her 'Player of the Match' award by John Coffey, Sponsorship and PR Manager Liberty Insurance - August 3rd - Wexford v Dublin.

Enthusiasm

Less supportive, though, and a continuing source of frustration for her, has been the element of the Gaelic games-loving Cork public who don't extend their enthusiasm to the camogie team, last year's attendance of just over 12,000 at the All-Ireland final when they beat Kilkenny, compared to over 33,000 when they got the better of Wexford seven years before, a bitter blow.

"You're doing it for your family and friends, the people who are always there, the same faces, you do it for yourself and for each other. But while you say you do it for Cork too – of course you do – sometimes you're left disappointed that you don't have a bigger support.

"You get the phone calls, the text messages, the media, the interviews, the hype before a final, but we want the support just as much as the lads do. It means a lot.

"When you're playing in Croke Park you want to do it for the people who have made the effort to come to Dublin. Sometimes I feel disappointed, it's a big county, but you just don't feel you're getting the support. I hope a big crowd would turn up for us, but I think there's still that sense that 'it's just the girls', 'it doesn't mean as much'."

There's some frustration on her part, too, in the pace of progress being made by the sport, in how it promotes itself and how its players are looked after. "I mean, it certainly has progressed in terms of advertising and PR, and the launch of the WGPA (Women's Gaelic Players Association), which I think is fantastic, so things have got a bit better. But it's small steps, there's still a massive gap – say between how the Cork lads and ladies are looked after – to what it should be. I probably won't see it in my time, but I hope that in the next five to 10 years it will change dramatically.

"Ultimately I think the GAA and the Camogie Association should be under the one umbrella, that would do nothing but benefit us. Our association struggles at times by itself, we need the support of the GAA to progress and I think as long as we're a standalone association it's going to be very slow. I just think from the female sports perspective, coming under the umbrella of the GAA would be absolutely massive with the likes of player welfare, PR and media coverage; there'd be a big turnaround, I'm convinced.

"The player welfare issue is huge. You go to work, then you're trying to make training, then there are injuries – it's too much at times. There should be better facilities, better services for the players. It's there to some extent for the lads. Women are still left in the shadows.

"I don't think players should be paid or anything, but all expenses, certainly all medical expenses, should definitely be covered. You should be left wanting for nothing, instead of being left out of pocket. People go to all lengths to be the best that they can be. Sometimes that's putting your hand in your own pocket, and you get no thanks at the end of it. That's what it's about, it's about fairness and equality. It is getting better, but it's slow. It's a long way to go to where it needs to be."

Underdogs

Come the final, though, those frustrations will be set aside, O'Connor eyeing that seventh All-Ireland medal. But Cork lost to Galway by three points in the league back in May, and again, by two points in the group stage of the championship. Are the defending champions the underdogs, then?

"Well, they've beaten us twice this year, they're the form team, probably the best team Galway has produced in a long time, but we've been underdogs many times in finals before and have come through. We're certainly in a different place now than we were when we

played them. We still feel we haven't produced that performance that we're capable of – that might or might not happen on Sunday. If it does, we have a chance."

Irish Times Sat, Sep 12, 2015



Dublin's Sarah O'Donovan is presented with her 'Player of the Match' award by Joe Canning, Sponsorship and PR Executive Liberty Insurance – August 1st - Dublin v Clare.



Joe Canning, Sponsorship and PR Executive Liberty Insurance presents Cork's Orla Cotter with her 'Player of the Match' award – August 1st - Cork v Tipperary.



Annette Ni Dhathalaoi, Head of Marketing Liberty Insurance presents Galway's Niamh Kilkenny with her 'Player of the Match' award – August 15th - Galway v Wexford.



Cork's Pamela Mackey is presented with her 'Player of the Match' award by Catherine Neary, Uachtarán An Cumann Camogalaíochta – August 16th - Cork v Tipperary.

18 Opinion

Evening Echo

These women are role models

THE Cork camogie team are a remarkable group of young women.

The squad had to replace 10 players from last year and had a new management team.

They had a tough year and some of the players had to deal with personal challenges.

Yet somehow they managed to blend the vibrancy of youth with the cleverness of experience and to overcome all obstacles and become champions of Ireland once again.

They are fine role models. They have set a headline now for all other Cork teams, both female and male.



Cork's Ashling Thompson is presented with her 'Player of the Match' award by Annette Ni Dhathalaoi, Head of Marketing Liberty Insurance – June 20th - Cork v Galway.



(Photos: iStock)



Annette Ni Dhathalaoi, Head of Marketing Liberty Insurance presents Wexford's Mary Lacey with her 'Player of the Match' award – June 27th - Offaly v Wexford.



Wexford's Kate Kelly is presented with her 'Player of the Match' award by John Allen – July 4th - Wexford v Limerick.



Annette Ni Dhathalaoi, Head of Marketing Liberty Insurance presents Kilkenny's Katie Power with her 'Player of the Match' award – July 11th - Kilkenny v Tipperary.



Dublin's Alison Maguire is presented with her 'Player of the Match' award by Bronagh Gaughan, Camogie Association – July 18th - Dublin v Derry.

Laois



PREMIER JUNIOR



Back row (l.-r.): Aisling Burke, Rebecca Treacy, Niamh Coss, Mairéad Burke, Sarah-Anne Fitzgerald, Niamh Dollard, Eimear Delaney, Olga Parkinson, Rosemary Bermingham, Laura Marie Maher, Michelle Holmes, Ciara Cuddy, Dawn Mortimer, Catriona Downey.
 Front row (l.-r.): Margaret Hogan, Claire Walsh, Louise Mahony, Amy Loughman, Elaine Mahony, Laura Dunne, Aoife Burke, Sarah Creagh, Aisling O'Dea, Sharon Moylan.
 Missing from photo: Elizabeth Ryan, Sile Burke.



- 16) C. Nic Mhuireartaigh
Dawn Mortimer
Camross
- 17) C. Ni Dhúnaigh
Catriona Downey
O'Moore's
- 18) S. Ó Mhaoileáin
Sharon Moylan
St. Brigid's
- 19) C. Bhreatnach
Claire Walsh
The Harps
- 20) M. Ni hOgáin
Margaret Hogan
St. Brigid's
- 21) N. Ni Choise
Niamh Coss
St. Brigid's
- 22) A. Ni Dhonnchaidh
Aishling Dunphy
O'Moore's
- 23) E. Ni Riain
Elizabeth Ryan
Camross
- 24) C. Ni Chuidithigh
Ciara Cuddy
Naomh Éamann
- 25) R. Ni Threasaigh
Rebecca Treacy
St. Brigid's
- 26) S. de Búrca
Sile Burke
Camross
- 27) M. Nic Thomáis
Michelle Holmes
Camross

Laois

Dathanna: Gorm agus Bán

PREMIER JUNIOR

	1st	2nd	3rd
CIL			
CIL/IN			
SEACHAÍ			
CE			
SAB			
PICARNA			



(1) L. Ni Dhoimn
LAURA DUNNE
St. Brigid's



(2) M. de Búrca
MAIRÉAD BURKE
Camross



(3) R. Ni Fheorais
ROSEMARY BERMINGHAM
O'Moore's



(4) A. de Búrca
AISLING BURKE
Camross



(5) E. Ni Mhathúna
ELAINE MAHONY
The Harps



(6) E. Ni Dhúláinne
EIMEAR DELANEY
St. Brigid's



(7) S. Chraobhach
SARAH CREAUGH
St. Brigid's



(8) O. Ni Pheáircín
OLGA PARKINSON
Camross



(9) S. Á. Nic Gearailt
SARAH-ANNE FITZGERALD
Camross



(10) N. Dollard (Capt.)
NIAMH DOLLARD
Camross



(11) L. Ni Mhathúna
LOUISE MAHONY
The Harps



(12) A. Ni Dheá
AISLING O'DEA
St. Brigid's



(13) A. Loughman
AMY LOUGHMAN
O'Moore's



(14) L. M. Ni Mheachair
LAURA MARIE MAHER
O'Moore's



(15) A. de Búrca
AOIFE BURKE
Camross

Manager: David Cuddy Maoir Feinne: Bernadette Fitzpatrick
 Selectors: Mary Dunne, Martin Moore
 Physio: Miriam Harrison Doctor: Dr John Paul Campion

Ros Comáin



PREMIER JUNIOR



Back row: Margaret Fannon, Eala Coyle, Sile Carney, Susan Spillane, Elaine Daly, Caroline Connaughton, Siobhán Coyle, Fiona Connell, Edelle Gately, Caroline Dowling, Annette McGeeney, Rachel Fitzmaurice, Niamh Conway, Rebecca Brennan, Michaela Fallon.
Front row: Caoilfhionn Cox, Maeve Brennan, Noeleen McCormack, Niamh Farrell, Niamh Coyle, Carmel Killeen, Kelley Hopkins, Aisling Byrne, Joanne Beattie, Claire Curley, Caitriona Morris.

2015 LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

	TOP LEFT	TOP RIGHT	MIDDLE
DATE			
TIME			
VENUE			
OPPONENT			
SCORE			
MANAGER			

Ros Comáin

Dathanna: Ór agus Gorm

PREMIER JUNIOR



 (1) C. Ní Chonnachtáin CAROLINE CONNAUGHTON St. Dominic's		
 (2) C. Ní Chillín CARMEL KILLEEN Padraig Pearces	 (3) S. Ní Giolla Chomhaill (Capt.) SIOBHÁN COYLE Four Roads	 (4) A. Ní Bhroin AISLING BYRNE St. Dominic's
 (5) S. Ní Spealáin SUSAN SPILLANE St. Dominic's	 (6) E. Ní Dhálaigh ELAINE DALY Athleague	 (7) S. Ní Bhiaitaigh JOANNE BEATTIE St. Dominic's
 (8) N. Ní Giolla Chomhaill NIAMH COYLE Four Roads	 (9) R. Ní Mhuiris RACHEL FITZMAURICE Athleague	
 (10) C. Ní hOibicín KELLEY HOPKINS Athleague	 (11) A. Ní Ghéibheannaigh ANNETTE McGEENEY Athleague	 (12) R. Ní Bhraonáin REBECCA BRENNAN Athleague
 (13) C. Ní Thoirdealaigh CLAIRE CURLEY Oran	 (14) N. Ní Fhearaill NIAMH FARRELL Athleague	 (15) F. Ní Chonaill FIONA CONNELL-JONES Athleague

- (16) M. Ní Fhalláin
Michaela Fallon
Oran
- (17) C. Ní Mhuiris
Caitriona Morris
Oran
- (18) S. Ní Chearnaigh
Sile Carney
St. Dominic's
- (19) M. Ní Fhionnáin
Margaret Fannon
Oran
- (20) E. Ní Giolla Chomhaill
Eala Coyle
Athleague
- (21) E. Ní Ghatlaoch
Edelle Gately
St. Dominic's
- (22) R. Ní Bhraonáin
Maeve Brennan
Athleague
- (23) C. Ní an Cholligh
Caoilfhionn Cox
St. Dominic's
- (24) M. Ní Cormaic
Noeleen McCormack
Oran
- (25) N. Ní Chonbhul
Niamh Conway
Athleague
- (26) C. Ní Dhúllaing
Caroline Dowling
St. Dominic's

Management: Noel Finn, Noel Murphy, Ciara Moran
Physio: Niamh Mulhern

Niamh DOLLARD

LAOIS CAPTAIN

Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

My parents and Martin Moore. My parents have supported and encouraged me since a very young age and Martin has taught me everything I know

What has been your sporting moment of 2015?

Winning the semi-final and getting another chance at the All-Ireland

Who is the toughest opponent that you've faced?

Michaela Kenneally, full back on the Kilkenny Intermediate team

What are your pre-match rituals?

Get up early have a good breakfast, then out for a few pucks to get the eye in early before the game

Three words to describe yourself as a player?

Dedicated, hard-working and passionate

What does it mean to wear the County Jersey?

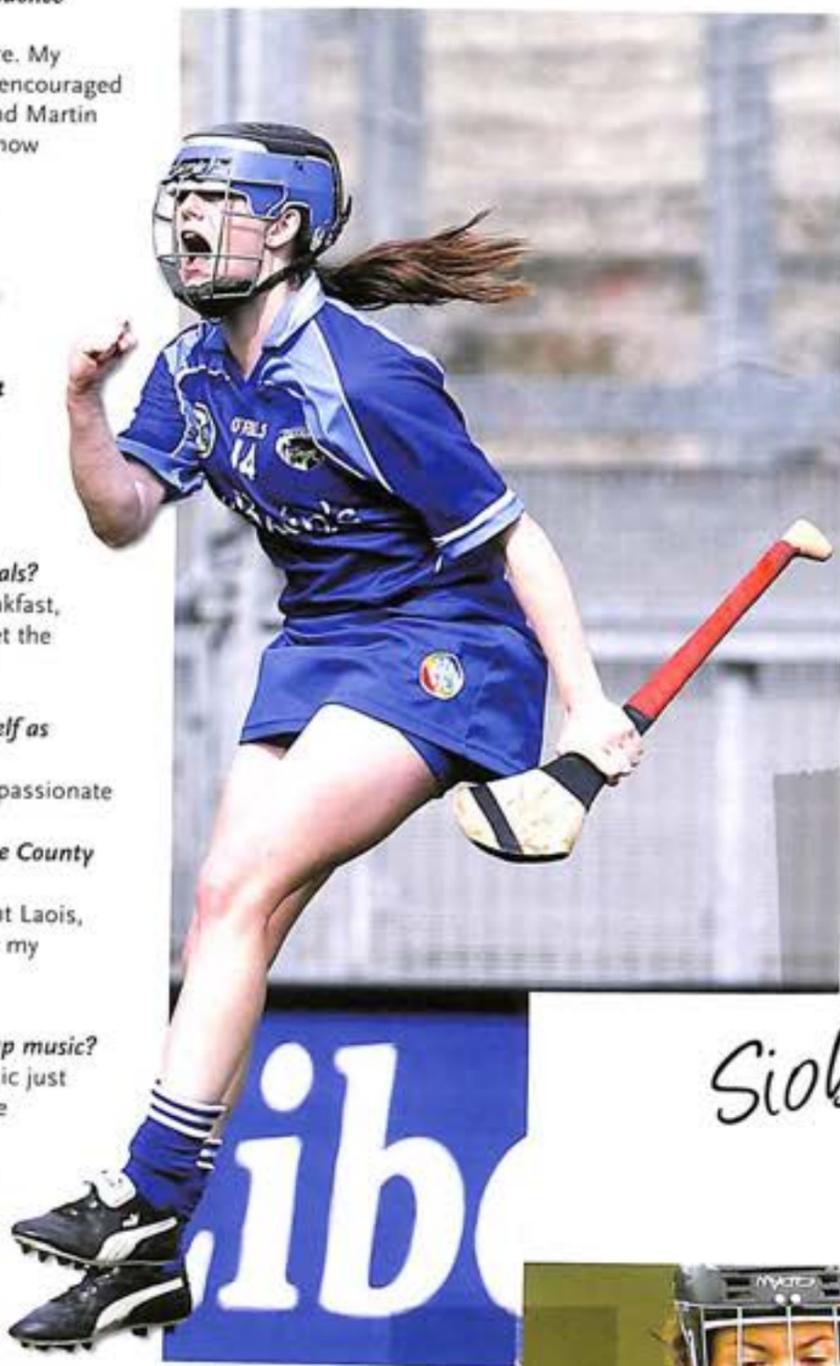
It's a huge honour to represent Laois, but not only for myself but for my club and family

What is your favourite warm-up music?

I don't have any favourite music just whatever is popular at the time

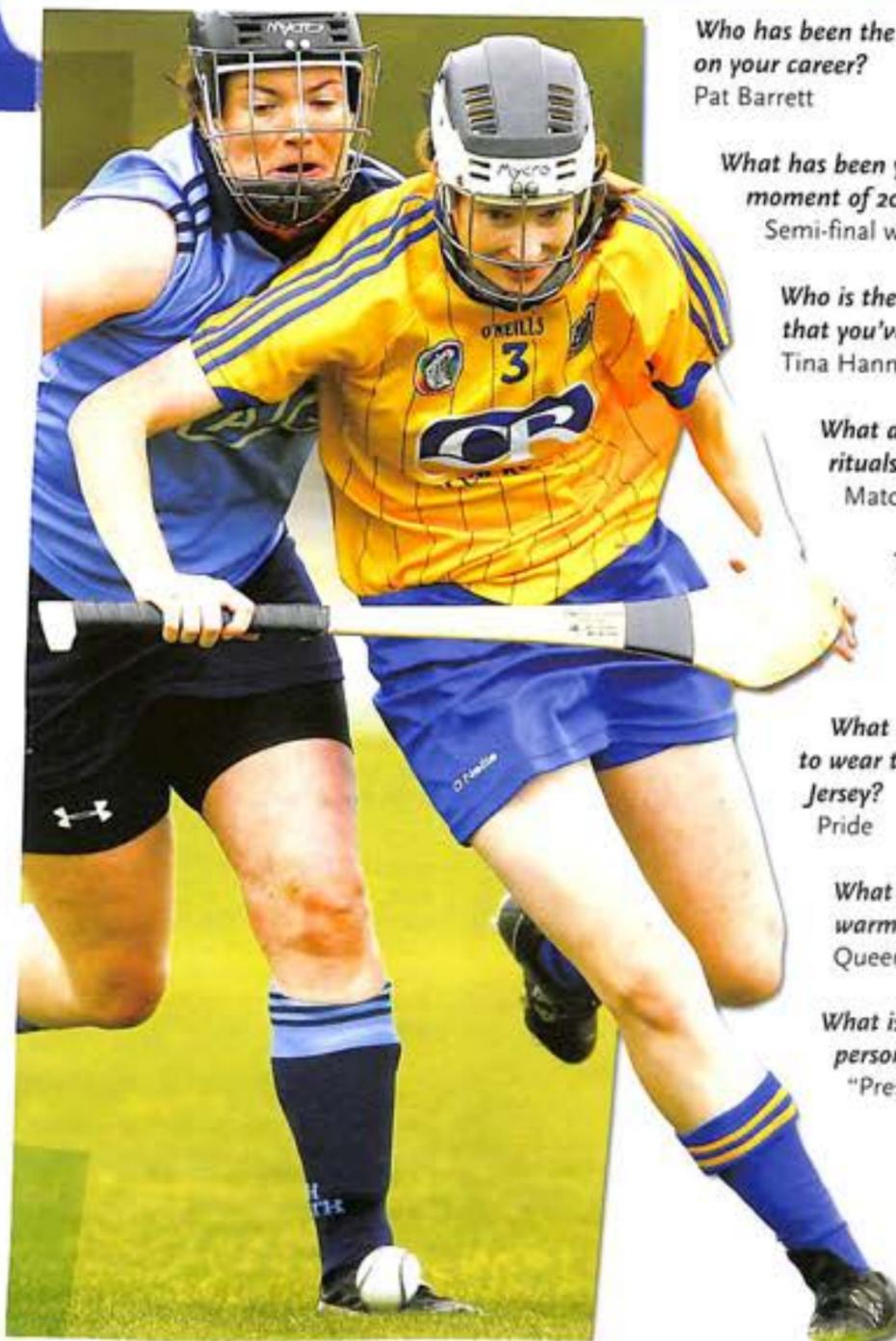
What is your personal motto?

Winners never quit, and quitters never win.



Siobhán COYLE

ROSCOMMON CAPTAIN



Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

Pat Barrett

What has been your sporting moment of 2015?

Semi-final win!!

Who is the toughest opponent that you've faced?

Tina Hannon (Offaly)

What are your pre-match rituals?

Matching pair of socks

Three words to describe yourself as a player?

"All or nothing"

What does it mean to wear the County Jersey?

Pride

What is your favourite warm-up music?

Queen

What is your personal motto?

"Pressure is for tyres"

Paths to the 2015 Final

Laois

04/07/2015	Laois.....	3-18	Dublin.....	1-10
12/07/2015	Laois.....	5-19	Westmeath.....	0-1
19/07/2015	Laois.....	2-15	Limerick.....	1-12
26/07/2015	Laois.....	2-17	Roscommon.....	2-4
02/08/2015	Laois.....	4-20	Armagh.....	0-5

Semi-Final

23/08/2015	Laois.....	1-16	Westmeath.....	0-8
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Roscommon

05/07/2015	Roscommon.....	3-6	Limerick.....	2-9
12/07/2015	Roscommon.....	2-8	Dublin.....	2-18
19/07/2015	Roscommon.....	5-11	Armagh.....	2-9
26/07/2015	Roscommon.....	2-4	Laois.....	2-17
02/08/2015	Roscommon.....	2-11	Westmeath.....	2-9

Semi-Final

23/08/2015	Roscommon.....	1-9	Dublin.....	1-5
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Mairéad Burke (Laois) about to strike the sliotar as Westmeath's Sarah King moves in to block.



Roscommon's Annette McGeeney is in control of this situation against Dublin during the semi-final at St. Brendan's Park, Birr. (Photos: INPHO/Ken Sutton)

erty Insurance All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship Final

LAOIS v ROSCOMMON

Can Laois make their third final appearance in-a-row be a successful one?

LAOIS have been operating in the fashion of a team on a mission this year, having fallen at the final hurdle in this championship the last two seasons – to Kildare (2013) and Down (2014).

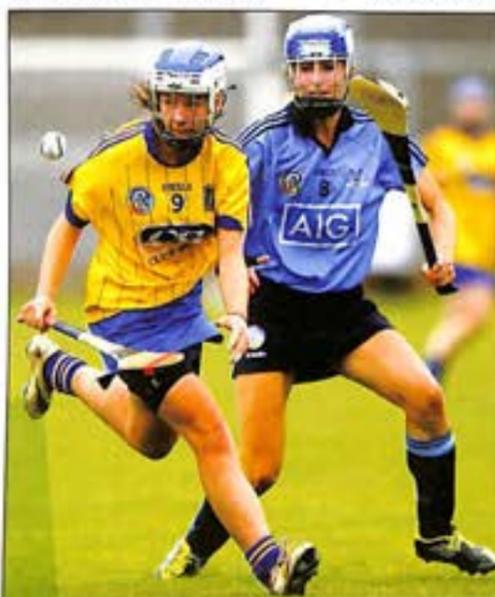
They prepared for the summer with a splendid League run that brought them all the way to the Division 2 final, where they finally were forced to give best to Intermediate finalists Waterford.

Buoyed by that form, they sailed through the group

stages of the championship with a flawless record and carried that through to the semi-final, where they emerged with 11 points to spare against Westmeath.

Sarah-Anne Fitzgerald remains an inspiring figure for David Cuddy's crew while Louise Mahony's finesse from placed balls is crucial. Niamh Dollard, Laura Marie Maher and Eimear Delaney are other key performers.

Laois will carry the favourites' mantle given their form coming into the game but the Roscommon camogie



Roscommon's Rachel Fitzmaurice about to gain possession of the sliotar during the semi-final with Dublin's Róisín Drohan moving in to challenge. (Photos: INPHO/Ken Sutton)

tradition is long established. Like Laois, they are pursuing the county's first title at this level and the manner in which they ground out a four-point victory over Dublin in the semi-final certainly made people sit up and take notice, particularly as they had lost by 10 points



Louise Mahony (Laois)

to the Metropolitan in the group phase.

The management team of Noel Finn, Noel Murphy and Ciara Moran got their tactics spot on for the rematch though. The defensive unit confined Dublin to just a goal and five points while Athleague sharpshooter Kelley Hopkins kept the scoreboard ticking over with seven points. A goal from clubmate, Niamh Farrell gave the Rossies vital breathing space.

This is a boost in another way too. Roscommon have 13 points to make up on Laois from the round-robin stage. A similar turnaround to the one with Dublin would see them home by a point but it will take doing.



NIAMH DOLLARD (Capt.)
Camross
Leinster Junior title, Nat League Div 3, 2 Soaring Star awards, 3 County C'ship titles, numerous underage titles.



LAURA DUNNE
St Brigid's
Leinster Junior title, Nat League Div 3, 2 Soaring Star awards.



AISLING BURKE
Camross
Leinster Junior title, Nat League Div 3, All-Ireland Minor title, Leinster Minor title.



ROSEMARY BERMINGHAM
O'Moores
2 Nat League Div 3, Leinster Junior title, 4 County C'ship titles, 2 Leinster Senior Ladies Football titles.



MAIRÉAD BURKE
Camross
Leinster B title, Nat League Div 3, 3 County Senior titles, numerous underage titles



ELAINE MAHONY
The Harps
3 All-Ireland Junior Club titles, 2 Leinster Junior titles, Nat League Div 3, 4 Leinster Junior Club titles, 2 Leinster Intermediate Club titles, 6 County C'ship titles.



EIMEAR DELANEY
St Brigid's
Leinster Junior title, Nat League Div 3, County Junior title, numerous underage titles.



ELIZABETH RYAN
Camross
All-Ireland Minor B Shield title, 2 County Senior title, School camogie awards.



OLGA PARKINSON
Camross
Nat League Div 3, Leinster Junior title, 3 County C'ship titles.



SARAH-ANNE FITZGERALD
Camross
Leinster Junior title, Nat League Div 3, 4 Soaring Star awards, Leinster Gael Linn title, 3 County Senior titles, 4 Ashbourne titles, 2 Ashbourne All-Star awards.



DAWN MORTIMER
Camross
Leinster Junior title, Nat League Div 3, 4 County C'ship titles.



LOUISE MAHONY
The Harps
Leinster Junior title, Nat League Div 3, 3 All-Ireland Junior Club titles, 4 Leinster Junior 2 Leinster Intermediate 6 County C'ship titles.



AMY LOUGHMAN
O'Moores
3 County Minor titles, 2 County Ladies Football titles.



LAURA MARIE MAHER
O'Moores
Leinster Minor titles, Nat League Div 3 title, Leinster Junior title, 2 County Senior Ladies Football titles, 2 Leinster Senior Ladies Football titles.



AOIFE BURKE
Camross
4 Leinster Minor titles, All-Ireland Minor B Shield title, 2 County C'ship titles.



SARAH CREAM
St Brigid's
All-Ireland Minor Shield title, All-Ireland U16C title, Leinster U16C title.



MICHELLE HOLMES
Camross
All-Ireland Minor B Shield title, 3 County Club titles, numerous Schools finals.



SHARON MOYLAN
St Brigid's
Leinster B title, Nat League Div 3, 2 County titles, Ashbourne Cup.



CLAIRE WALSH
The Harps
Leinster Junior title, Nat League Div 3, 3 County Junior titles, 2 County Intermediate titles, 3 Leinster Junior Club titles, 2 Leinster Intermediate Club titles, 2 All-Ireland Junior Club titles, All-Ireland Schools title.



AISLING O'DEA
St Brigid's
All-Ireland Minor B Shield title.



CATRIONA DOWNEY
O'Moores
Leinster Junior title, 2 Nat League titles, All-Ireland Junior title, Purcell Cup title.



MARGARET HOGAN
St Brigid's
4 Ashbourne Cups titles, County Div 1 League.



NIAMH COSS
St Brigid's
All-Ireland U16C title, Leinster U16C title, All-Ireland Minor B Shield title, 3 County U16 titles, 2 Leinster Ladies Football titles.



CIARA CUDDY
Naomh Éamonn
All-Ireland Minor B Shield title, All-Ireland U16C title, Leinster U16C title, numerous underage titles.



REBECCA TREACY
St Brigid's
Leinster B title, Leinster Minor title, All-Ireland College titles.



AISLING DUNPHY
O'Moores
Leinster B title, Nat League Div 3 title, Soaring Star award, numerous Ladies Football titles.



SÍLE BURKE
Camross
Leinster Junior title, Nat League Div 3, 3 County C'ship titles, numerous underage titles.

ROSCOMMON *Player Profiles*



SIOBHÁN COYLE (Capt.)
Four Roads
 Connacht Junior title, All-Ireland Junior Club title, All-Ireland Intermediate Football title, numerous County senior and underage titles.



CAROLINE CONNAUGHTON
St. Dominic's
 5 Connacht titles, All-Ireland Junior title, 9 County Junior titles, County Senior title, 2 County Senior Leagues, Kilmacud Crokes 7s, London 7s Plate, Connacht Junior Camogie Player of Year, Soaring Star award, numerous underage titles.



CARMEL KILEEN
Padraig Pearces
 All-Ireland Junior title, County Minor title, County Junior title, Connacht Club titles, Connacht Interprovincial Player of Year, numerous underage Camogie and Ladies Football titles.



AISSLING BYRNE
St Dominic's
 4 County Junior titles, London 7s Senior Plate title.



SUSAN SPILLANE
St Dominic's
 4 County Junior titles, County Minor title, London 7s Senior Plate title, Kilmacud 7's Plate, numerous underage County & Club titles.



ELAINE DALY
Athleague
 All-Ireland Junior title, 2 County Senior titles, Connacht Junior Club title, numerous underage county titles.



JOANNE BEATTIE
St. Dominic's
 All-Ireland Junior title, 4 County Junior titles, County Minor title, Kilmacud 7's Plate, Tara Sevens Senior Plate title, numerous underage titles.



NIAMH COYLE
Four Roads
 All-Ireland Junior title, 2 Connacht titles, 8 County Senior titles, 4 Connacht Intermediate Club titles, All-Ireland Junior Club title, Soaring Star award, County Junior Football title.



RACHEL FITZMAURICE
Athleague
 All-Ireland Minor C title, All-Ireland Schools Junior title, Connacht Senior title, County Football title, numerous underage titles.



KELLEY HOPKINS
Athleague
 All-Ireland Junior title, 2 County Senior titles, 2 Connacht Junior Club titles, numerous underage titles, Soaring Star award, County Senior Poc Fada.



MARGARET FANNON
Oran
 County Senior title, 2 County Junior titles, Connacht Junior Club title, County and Provincial Ladies Football titles, numerous underage titles.



REBECCA BRENNAN
Athleague
 2 County Minor titles and Provincial Ladies numerous underage titles.



ANNETTE MCGEENEY
Athleague
 All-Ireland Junior title, 2 Connacht titles, Soaring Star award, International Player of Year award, Roscommon Player of the year, numerous underage titles, All-Ireland Ladies Football title.



NIAMH FARRELL
Athleague
 All-Ireland Minor C title, County Poc Fada, County & Provincial Ladies Football titles, numerous underage titles.



FIONA CONNELL-JONES
Athleague
 All-Ireland Junior title, 2 Connacht titles, Ashbourne Shield with Garda College, Fr Meachair title with Tralee IT, County & Provincial Ladies Football titles, numerous underage titles.



MICHAELA FALLON
Oran
 All-Ireland Minor C title, County U16B title, County Minor B title, Connacht School title.



CAITRIONA MORRIS
Oran
 All-Ireland Junior title, Connacht Junior title, Gael Linn title, 3 County Senior titles, 3 County Junior titles, Connacht Intermediate Club title, 2 Connacht Junior Club titles, County & Provincial Ladies Football titles.



SÍLE CARNEY
St Dominic's
 3 County Junior titles, County Minor title.



CLAIRE CURLEY
Oran
 All-Ireland Junior title, Connacht Junior title, Gael Linn title, Shinty International title, 2 County Junior titles, Connacht Junior Club title, Provincial Ladies Football titles.



EALA COYLE
Athleague
 All-Ireland Minor C title, Connacht Junior A Club title, County Minor A title, County & Provincial Ladies Football titles, numerous underage titles.



EDELLE GATELY
St Dominic's
 4 County Junior titles, Minor County title, Kilmacud 7 Plate title, London 7s Plate title, numerous underage titles.



MAEVE BRENNAN
Athleague
 County Senior League, County U16 title, 2 Connacht Junior Club titles, County & Provincial Ladies Football titles, numerous underage titles.



CAOILFHIONN COX
St Dominic's
 4 County Junior titles, Minor County title, London 7s Plate title.



NOELEEN MCCORMACK
Oran
 All-Ireland Junior title, 2 County Junior titles, County Senior title, Connacht Senior Club title, County & Provincial Ladies Football titles, Fr Meachair Cup with NUI Maynooth.



NIAMH CONWAY
Athleague
 2 Connacht Junior A Club titles, numerous underage titles.



CAROLINE DOWLING
St Dominic's
 4 County Junior titles, County Ladies Football title.

Senior dream realised as Déise camogie reaches new heights

ALL IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE FINAL

WATERFORD 2-9
KILDARE 1-5



Tomás McCarthy

Waterford summoned a gutsy and gritty performance to deliver the grand prize of senior camogie at a gloomy Croke Park on Sunday afternoon. Caithriona McGlone had the honour of leading the girls in blue up the Hogan steps to receive the Jack McGrath cup for the very first time.

A league and championship double marked the happiest ending of all to an epic voyage. "It's something we have been dreaming of for the last number of years," remarked Patricia Jackman. "We've had a lot of transition and a lot of younger players stepping up. It's very much been a journey from February 22 which was our first game together this season. We were unbeaten in the league and championship. It's fantastic to go up those steps and reach our goal."

Once again, they had to do it the hard way before stamping their authority on this contest. Leading 1-2 in the opening quarter certainly wasn't in the script or waiting fourteen minutes for their first point. They

steadied down, chipped away and gradually worked their way back into the ball game.

Jackman didn't feel under too much strain despite their erratic beginning. "I knew we were on top and that's what I kept saying to the girls. Our shooting was just letting us down. They got a goal and they had the momentum as well, they were creating a lot of space. As soon as we got to grips with the system they were playing, it was little bit chaotic for the first ten minutes, we asserted a bit of dominance. To take the lead into half time, we just had to grind it out. The hooking and blocking was superb. When things weren't going well for us, we just stuck to the task."

They never stopped grinding and grafting and that perseverance paid off. The forwards applied constant heat and made Kildare defenders earn the right to clear their lines. Manager Sean Fleming demanded that work ethic from his players. "I would like to say that we model ourselves on Kilkenny but it was very much the case that the forwards are the first line of defence. You could see that. The amount of hassling, harassing and tackling that our forwards did was incredible."

Goals either side of the interval by Aisling Power and Beth Carton transformed this final. Power's hard earned green flag on 29 minutes sent Waterford



The Waterford players celebrate after they were crowned as All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Champions 2015 on Sunday last in Croke Park. Photos: Noel Browne.

into the lead for the very first time. There was an element of good fortune about the second as Beth Carton's close-in free from the left wing skidded past three Kildare bodies and nestled in the corner of the net. Waterford kept their opponents at a distance from there to the finish.

Bundle of energy Lorraine Bray earned the player of the match gong on her first Croke Park appearance. The diminutive number nine persistently turned up to jostle for possession in scrum situations around the centre and her endurance levels never waned. Last year's All Ireland minor medallist contributed three points from five shots including two second half efforts to push out the lead. She took a nasty blow to the helmet towards the end but she scarcely flinched.

Shrewd tactical manoeuvres along the line also eased them into this game. Patricia Jackman swapped places with Jennie Simpson and slipped seamlessly into the sweeper role. It allowed the Gailltír native grow into the game and also interfered with Kildare's fast start. She consumed high ball and also sprayed smart deliveries into the forwards. It afforded Simpson the freedom to plough forward from midfield and benefited immediately with a point before the break. Shona Curran also made a huge impact around that sector when she was introduced during the opening half. She imposed her physicality, won aerial battles and displayed her

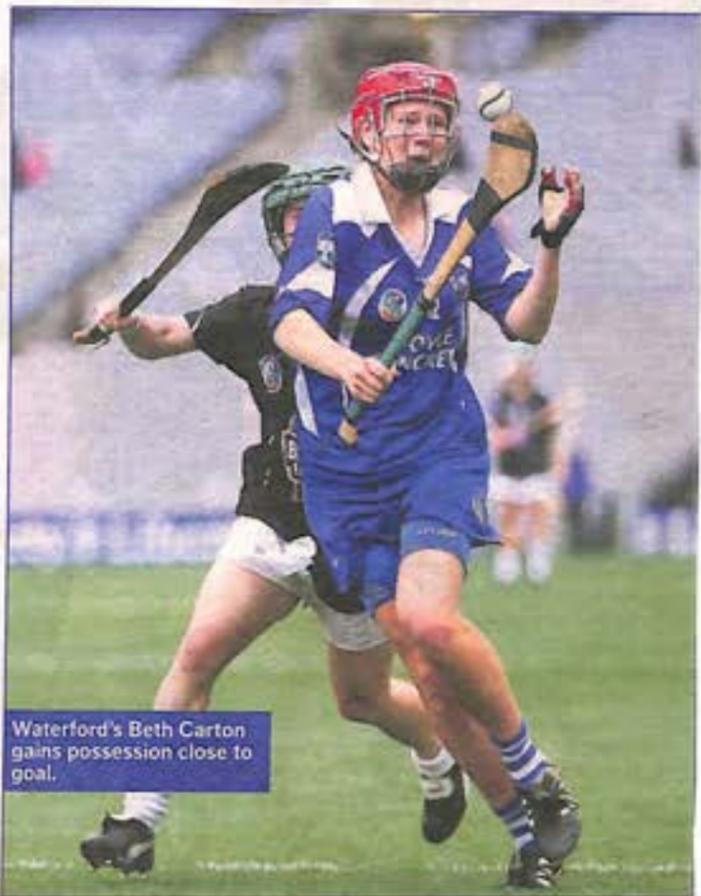
ball carrying abilities. "They did a tactical move on us which was trying to isolate Trish Jackman and we decided that we were not going to allow that so we moved her back into a central defensive position and pushed Jennie Simpson forward into midfield. Jennie and Shona Curran gave sterling displays at the middle of the field."

Waterford experienced a harrowing first quarter as the rain poured down on Jones' Road. Kildare centre forward Noelle Early palmed to the Hill 16 net after just two minutes. Melissa Lyons snuck in behind the Déise cover and even though the Blues defence averted the danger initially through Deirdre Brennan and Kate McMahon, Susie O'Carroll passed off for Earley to force it in high over Brennan. Waterford chose to place Aisling and Dawn Power in a two pronged attack with Caithriona McGlone in an unfamiliar role at midfield. Full back Carol Nolan was left spare to police the Déise duo.

Corner forwards Melissa Lyons and Emer Reilly added Kildare points as Waterford piled on five wides into the Canal End. Aisling Power, Niamh Rockett, Lorraine Bray and Patricia Jackman all missed across the opening half hour. Jackman was denied by the first ever Hawkeye ruling in a camogie game.

Beth Carton carved out a much sought after opener off her favoured left side on 14 minutes and she followed that up with a free. Ten scoreless minutes unfolded where both sides slogged it out in the tricky weather conditions. Niamh Rockett battled gamely at centre forward and she located Lorraine Bray to score. In the next play, Caithriona McGlone sent Jennie Simpson into open space to belt over another.

With 29 minutes elapsed, Shona Curran cursed her luck after her point effort lagged short and dropped around the goalmouth. Aisling Power caught the sliotar but let it slip out of her grasp. She regained possession however and fended off the Kildare security to leather the ball past Roisin O'Connell. The goalkeeper will be disappointed as the shot came straight at her but she couldn't bat it out. The teams dispersed with Waterford pretty chuffed to take a 1-4 to 1-2 lead.



Waterford's Beth Carton gains possession close to goal.

Another bolt from the blue arrived early in the second period. Carton collected a quick delivery by Jackman but was whistled back for an earlier foul as she bore down on goal. The 17 year old stood over the dead ball to the left of the posts and her low strike caught the Kildare defence unawares. The net bulged behind them as Carton claimed her sixth goal of the championship (2-4 to 1-2). Whether she intended it or not, Waterford suddenly found themselves in total charge of this final.

Kildare replied immediately with Emer Reilly on target after Susie O'Carroll looked to be through on goal. Bray won another free as she drove down the centre but Carton didn't connect properly and it landed shy of the target. Jennie Simpson and Nicola Morrissey spurned

further opportunities to cash in on their midfield dominance. Caithriona McGlone received treatment after taking a heavy hit. Simpson and Jackman also required attention during the second half as a result of Kildare challenges.

On 40 minutes, Morrissey rounded off a team score. Beth Carton and Aisling Power chased down a lost cause and eventually forced the turnover for the experienced Lismore forward to shoot with accuracy. Niamh Rockett was replaced by Valerie O'Brien but bizarrely returned to the field a minute later. With her first involvement as a substitute, Rockett made no mistake after Jackman delivered the ball in front of the St Anne's forward. Bray stretched the lead to seven with nine minutes left.

Melissa Lyons missed out on a Hawk-

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Waterford's Niamh Rockett drives at the Kildare goal in the second half.

McGlone conquers Croke Park hoodoo

BY TOMÁS MCCARTHY

Caithriona McGlone has walked away from Croke Park empty handed in the past after All Ireland club finals with Lismore. On this occasion, the silverware travelled back home on the team bus. In their fourth year at intermediate level, Waterford weren't leaving this opportunity slip.

"It's absolutely huge. I've been here three times before and I've never won here so to get a win finally is great for Waterford. We've been here for the last couple of years losing out in the semi final so to finally get to Croke Park, to play there and get up senior next year is fantastic for Waterford and for the underage girls coming up."

McGlone followed the same path as club colleague Nicola Morrissey four years previous in leading the team up to the podium.

"It was an amazing feeling. We've been waiting a couple of years for it so to finally get up there and lift the cup was absolutely fantastic."

The Déise spluttered into life following yet another false start. "In all of our matches, we were slow to start. We tried to change that and get off to a good start but it wasn't to be. Maybe it was the field and the crowd that we are not used to playing in. I'd say there probably was a few nerves in the camp. It all worked out in the end. Fifteen or twenty minutes into the game, we were playing well and we kicked on from then."

McGlone traded her usual posting close to the target for a tiring stint at midfield. The decision even caught the captain by surprise. "I was picked at midfield last week when the team was named. I think it was a bit of a shock to myself as well. Look, I'll play in any position, I'm happy just to be on

the field. Luckily, it wasn't as bad as I thought it was going to be!"

Waterford's tackle count shot through the roof and McGlone praised the back-room team for equipping them with the necessary tools. At training in Walsh Park a fortnight ago, Brother Philip Ryan gathered the team in front of the bank and guided them through a hooking and blocking drill with no sliotars in use. "We work on that in training a lot," McGlone confirmed. "Brother Phil would be drilling in the hooking and blocking and our work rate to keep going and going and never give up."

Play was stopped for couple of minutes in the second half to allow for attention to come in for the stricken number ten. "I'm after getting a bit of a dead leg. We'll worry about that later and enjoy the celebrations."

Days like these in Croke Park must be savoured.



Waterford captain Caithriona McGlone lifts the Cup in the Hogan Stand on Sunday last in Croke Park. Photo: Inpho.



The Waterford back-room team celebrate after the final whistle in Croke Park.



Iona Heffernan, Trish Jackman and Molly Power celebrate at the final whistle in Croke Park.

eye decision but Kildare rallied briefly through two Susie O'Carroll points (one from a free and one from play). Their marquee forward was well marshalled by Vikki Falconer and Waterford's midfield monopoly also considerably reduced the supply. During this spell of pressure, Noelle Earley was harshly penalised by referee Jenny Byrne as she seemed to be clearly fouled while making her way towards goal.

Waterford composed themselves again. Jackman marched forward to slot a free and consolidate their position. The brilliant Bray appeared in the right place again in the first added minute to drive in her third point which was confirmed by the new technology. Waterford subs and management gathered along the touchline and rushed onto the field after Byrne's last blast of the whistle. Roll on senior camogie in 2016.

Scorers:- Waterford - Beth Carton 1-2 (1-1f), Aisling Power 1-0, Lorraine Bray 0-3, Jennie Simpson, Nicola Morrissey, Niamh Rockett, Patricia Jackman (f) 0-1 each.

Kildare - Noelle Earley 1-0, Susie O'Carroll (f), Emer Reilly 0-2 each, Melissa Lyons 0-1. **WATERFORD:** D. Brennan; K. McMahon, C. Whyte, V. Falconer; C. Maher, J. Simpson, I. Heffernan; P. Jackman, C. McGlone; N. Morrissey, N. Rockett, B. Carton; A. Power, L. Bray, D. Power. **Subs:** S. Curran for D.



Waterford's Dawn Power certainly knew how to celebrate an All-Ireland win.

Power, V. O'Brien for Rockett, N. Rockett for Morrissey, C. Murphy for McGlone, D. Power for A. Power. **KILDARE:** R. O'Connell; C. Flanagan, C. Nolan, F. Trant; A. Lyons, R. Gorman, C. Farrell;

C. Forde, O. Bambury; S. Hurley, N. Earley, L. Keatley, E. Reilly, S. O'Carroll, M. Lyons. **Subs:** H. McDonnell for Forde, D. Byrne for Trant. **Referee:** J Byrne (Dublin).



Charlotte Maher, Dawn Power and Sibeal Harney celebrate.

Bray at her best in busy traffic

BY TOMÁS MCCARTHY

Player of the hour Lorraine Bray left everything out on the field on Sunday. As one of the smallest players on the pitch, she excelled amid the hustle and bustle of midfield and relished the physical confrontations.

"Lorraine Bray has been heroic for us all year," Sean Fleming declared. "For a girl of her size, the amount of work that she does and the amount of fight that's in her, she is a scoring threat, she tackles hard, she supports players, she is back and helps players. She is a phenomenal worker, super fit and an absolute credit to train."

The Cappoquin representative modestly accepted the acclaim. "I'm absolutely delighted. I still think that they picked the wrong person! It's totally on behalf of the girls. The amount of work we put in all year was unreal. We finally got the end result at the finish."

Her display didn't come out of nowhere. Bray earned promotion from the 2014 All Ireland minor winning set-up under the guidance of Shane Ahearne. She has raised a flag in every single championship game and completed the season with a personal haul of 1-9 from five games.

Noelle Earley rattled the favourites with that second minute major before Waterford reacted. "When Kildare got the first goal, it set us back and we got a bit of a shock," Bray reflected. "Once we got those two goals, we stayed on top and kept going."

She had licence to roam about on Sunday even though she was stationed up front at first. "If they were playing fifteen on fifteen, I was going in full forward. If there was a sweeper, I was coming out. Then I got moved out to the wing and played there for the rest of the match."

She recognised the volume of support in the stands and also the buzz about the county in the build-up to the final. "The support was unreal, they are absolutely unbelievable. Especially in small places, I come from Melleray myself and there were buses up from there. All around there has been a great atmosphere around the county; it's been brilliant."

There is no reason to fear the step-up to senior camogie next season in her eyes. "I definitely think that we are going to give it one hundred per cent. There's a very young team in there and everyone is up and coming. There will be even more young players coming onto the panel again. There's definitely more All Irelands in us."

Laois and Louise end three years of losing misery

Laois 2-13
Roscommon 1-6

By Denis J. Croke

LAOIS put the disappointment of losing the last two All-Ireland finals to run out deserving winners at the third time of asking. In a rain-soaked Croke Park on Sunday the Laois girls made light of the horrendous conditions to keep their heads and get the better of a resolute Roscommon side.

Apart from the opening quarter when Roscommon matched them score for score, Laois always looked the better hurlers. But it took a touch of good fortune to turn the tide the O'Moore girls' way.

When Laois were awarded a penalty 15 minutes in after Aoife Burke was fouled, it was no great surprise to see Sarah Ann Fitzgerald step up to take the free. Although her initial shot was well blocked by the Roscommon keeper, Caroline Connaughton, the Laois midfielder followed up to get the touch to see the sliotar over the line from the rebound.

After the match Fitzgerald was modest saying it was her momentum that carried her forward and that it was like 'slow motion' watching the ball just make it over the line before Connaughton

got back to clear it.

Hardly had the Laois celebrations died down when Louise Mahony drilled a ball into Laura Marie Maher. The full forward did brilliantly to control the sliotar on her stick, turn and blast it to the corner of the net. Two goal in the space of a minute and surely Laois were on their way to the title.

The weight of having lost the last two finals seemed to weigh on Laois shoulders in the opening half as Roscommon more than held their own, particularly in and around the midfield sector. Similarly the westerners defence was rock solid making life very difficult for the Laois forwards.

Louise Mahony, who was the man of the match award, opened Laois' account with a free in the opening minute after Laura Marie Maher had been fouled. Mahony was then wide from play, her only inaccuracy of the afternoon, before Kelly Hopkins levelled affairs from a placed ball five minutes later.

Another Mahony free edged Laois back in front only to have it cancelled out by Clare Curley. With 13 minutes gone the sides were still level after Niamh Dollard, with an excellent point from 50 metres, and Hopkins (45) traded scores.

The game turned firmly in Laois' favour between the 15th and

16th minutes thanks to Fitzgerald's and Maher's goals, but the fact remained that while Laois now held a six-point advantage, it was just five scores to three, and Roscommon always looked dangerous when they delivered high balls into their full forward line.

Annette McGeeney pulled a point back for Roscommon in the 17th minute but from there to the break it was all about Laois.

Three and half minutes before the break they might well have had their third goal after Niamh Dollard worked hard and got the ball to Amy Loughman on the edge of the square but she mis-hit it.

But Laois finish the half in a flurry. Aoife Burke pointed from play, Elaine Mahony landed an inspirational point, while sister Louise rounded off the half's scoring with another free to send Laois into the break lading 2-6 to 0-4.

An eight-point cushion looked comfortable going into the second half, but within four minutes of the restart that advantage had been halved. When Laois failed to clear their lines two minutes in, Niamh Farrell pounced to bang the sliotar to the net. Two minutes later Hopkins converted another free and Laois knew they were in for a battle.

Just as quickly as the Roscommon revival had began it was killed off, but not without a battle. But Laois were now taking firm control of the middle third with Fitzgerald and Olga Parkinson immense. Another noticeable aspect of the Laois display in the latter stages was their fitness. They seemed to have plenty left in the tank while Roscommon visibly wilted.

While the final 25 minutes was all about Louise Mahoney's accuracy from play and frees, it was the work being done around her that created those chances. Her fourth point of the afternoon was a thing of beauty as she won possession went on a 30 metre run and split the posts without ever handling the sliotar.

The Harps forward to add six more points, equally divided between frees and from play, ensuring the cup was heading south down the M7. Roscommon's only response in this period was a 54th minute free from Hopkins.

The long wait was over and Laois can now look forward to mixing it with the best in the interme-



Laois - Liberty Insurance Premier Junior Camogie All-Ireland champions 2015
Photos: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

mediate grade next year. On the evidence of this past 12 months they will be well capable of holding their own.

LAOIS: Laura Dunne; Mairéad Burke, Rosemary Bermingham, Aisling Burke; Elaine Mahony (0-1), Eimear Delaney, Sarah Creagh; Olga Parkinson, Sarah Ann Fitzgerald (1-0); Niamh Dollard (0-1), Louise Mahony (0-10, 7f), Aisling O'Dea; Amy Loughman, Laura Marie Maher (1-0), Aoife Burke (0-1).
Subs: Dawn Mortimer for O'Dea (20m), Claire Walsh for Creagh (59m), Sharon Moylan for Burke (59m), Catriona Downey for O'Dea, Sile Burke for Loughman (59m)

ROSCOMMON: Caroline Connaughton; Carmel Killeen, Siobhan Coyle, Aisling Byrne; Susan Spillane, Elaine Daly, Joanne Beattie; Niamh Coyle, Rachel Fitzmaurice; Kelley Hopkins (0-4, 3f, 1 45), Annette McGeeney (0-1), Rebecca Brennan; Claire Curley (0-1), Niamh Farrell (1-0), Fiona Connell-Jones.

Subs: Margaret Fannon for Connell-Jones (21m), Caroline Dowling for R. Brennan (41m), Maeve Brennan for Curley (56m), Noeleen McCormack for Farrell (59m), Caitriona Morris for Killeen (59m)

Referee: Grainne Coulter (Down)

A happy c

By Denis J. Croke

I DON'T believe there was a happier woman in Ireland on Sunday than Laois captain Niamh Dollard. She arrived into the media briefing clasping the All-Ireland cup like it was a winning lottery ticket.

"It's a surreal feeling at the moment, all you want is to get that cup lifted. I suppose when we get home it'll sink in, I suppose we'll get a bit emotional but we won't worry about that yet," she said.

Niamh is already looking to the future, hoping this will be the start of something big for Laois camogie, alluding to it when she said in her acceptance speech, "here come the good times".

"We've struggled to get over that hurdle the past few years and we eventually did, so please God we can push on in the intermediate championship. We've played a number of intermediate teams already so we know we can put it up to the best of them, so we'll see what next year will bring us now."

But was she nervous when Roscommon came out for the second half and scored a goal and a point in the space of a few minutes?



Laois' Amy Loughman put under pressure by Carmel Killeen and Joanne Beattie

What a huge difference a year can make

By Denis J. Croke

TWELVE months ago David Cuddy faced the unenviable task of talking to the media after watching his side lose an All-Ireland final to Down. He also had the difficult task of trying to lift his charges who had suffered successive defeats.

On Sunday you could not stop the Castletown man grinning from ear to ear. He not only lifted the girls but had moulded them into a very successive outfit who thoroughly deserved their day in the sun, although it was raining heavily all through the game.

"It's great. This is wonderful. There's nobody wants to go into a losing dressing room, especially when you are in charge. It takes a lot of people to put things in place but ultimately the buck stops with you and it's nice to be a winner," he said after the game.

"This is huge. There's an awful difference down there in the dressing room. A complete scene of devastation last year. The year before I can't speak for, I wasn't involved but it was devastation last year. And we spoke about that all year, that feeling of devastation and the disgusting feeling of losing two in a row. We didn't want to be a team to lose three in a row."

But it hadn't been easy, despite the final scoreline.

"It was tense enough. It was a dogfight from start to finish. We expected that after our semi-final win over Westmeath. We expected it to be something similar and I suppose the way the game panned out. The two goals in the first half were a major turning point. It gave us a bit of a cushion that we held on to for most of the game," he said.

But then David hadn't expected anything else from Roscommon.

"To be fair to them, they had a lot of wides in the first half so we were very conscious of that at half time. Even though we were ahead by eight points, and ten the margin at the final whistle, we didn't play as well as we can play today. But then again I suppose All Irelands are all about winning. It's not about playing well. It's about getting over the line and winning them.

"They had that physical size over some of our players. They used that to full advantage today. But then again I thought, while they were causing problems, once the ball dropped to the ground, we were quick to get in a regroup and win that second phase possession."

David conceded the two goals in the space of a minute midway

through the opening half were crucial.

"They were key. Scoring one is a great boost and when you get the second, it really gave the whole thing a lift. It gave us that bit of a cushion. Even though they came out and scored 1-1 against us, they never got it back under that three, four point mark."

But it wasn't all about the forwards, the defence played its part too keeping Roscommon scoreless for almost 20 minutes after the goals.

"Again our backs stood up to the mark and our midfield really got on top in the second half. Every time we came raiding, we kept the scoreboard ticking over. That was important in itself."

And in Louise Mahony, Laois have a sharp shooter of the highest calibre.

"I don't think she missed a free. One in particular, I remember just here on the sideline in the first half, it was a smashing point. Forty yards out and it sailed over the black spot. That's Louise. She's been around on this team for a long time and I'm absolutely delighted for her."

Laois will now ply their trade at intermediate level next year but they have shown this year they are capable play at that level after their performances in Division 2 of the league.

"I just said when I spoke to the girls inside, really if they take it in their heads to celebrate for a month or two, whatever it takes, then knuckle back down, the whole lot of them, and work hard because there's nothing to stop those girls from playing in that second game (intermediate final) here today because they have played at that level and they're more than capable of matching any of those teams.

In the end the victory was down to the players and the effort they put in, said David.

"They put in a huge effort. Conditions some nights when you go training, you wouldn't feel like going out yourself. They chomp at the bit to get out there and train and that's what they do and that's what they do best. They keep turning up in training and working hard and they're always looking for that bit of improvement. They're always looking for that little bit extra to get them over the line.

"Anybody can hurl but to play at a high level, you have to be fit. That's the key thing. Your fitness will always come to the fore. If you have the work done, you have nothing to fear when you go out there and these did work hard on the long winter's nights."



captain and a happy camper

"I wouldn't say I was nervous. We knew they were going to have a spell when they would come back into the game, they weren't going to lie down at half time and say 'here we'll give to Laois'. That doesn't happen. We knew we'd have to weather the storm in that first ten minutes of the second half and when we started getting the points on the board we knew we'd push on and win it."

She paid tribute to manager David Cuddy for the work they had put in, and that fitness told in the final quarter.

"There were days in Trumera when you wouldn't put the dog out in the weather and we were out there running 40/20s and the figure eights that David is famous for. You'd drive into the hurling field and you'd look at the cones and you'd be dreading it before you'd even get out of the car. But on days like this you don't mind those things, you realise that it takes that kind of work to get over the line."

She was quick to pay tribute to her two team mates standing alongside her, goal scorers Sarah Anne Fitzgerald and Laura Marie Maher. "We knew if we could get the ball in-

to Laura Marie, and get Sarah Anne on the ball, they would get us the results. They are two great players. To get the ball into them, and credit to the backs, they were the ones that got the ball up through the lines to the forwards, so look, it a team effort but as they say goals win matches."

They turned losing the past two finals into a motivating factor.

"Nobody wants to come out of Croke Park two years in a row with a defeat, so we surely weren't going to let it happen three years in a row. That what we were talking about at half time, 'don't let this slip, don't let this slip'. We weren't going back into that dressing room defeated again. So, yeah, it was huge motivation for all the girls to push on."



Niamh Dollard leads out the Laois team in Croke Park

Buckley and Corkery refuse to be sated by relentless success

Eoghan Cormican

They don't come more modest than Rena Buckley and Briège Corkery.

The Cork dual pair wrote their names into Irish sporting history when capturing their 15th All-Ireland senior medal on Sunday afternoon, joining Dubliner Kathleen Mills as the most decorated sportswomen in the GAA.

When the achievement was relayed to Buckley in the long corridor underneath the Hogan Stand that history had been created on the Croke Park turf, the Cork wing-back quickly sidestepped the spotlight and instead turned the focus on what this title meant to Cork.

"Yeah, I think Cork have the same number of All-Irelands as Dublin now

at the top of roll of honour," she remarked.

When pushed on the matter, Buckley again downplayed the remarkable achievement.

"Oh, myself and Briège," she says, "we have 30 now altogether. Fifteen each. You wouldn't really think about that when the final whistle goes, though."

"Every year is a new year. The cup is there to be won again. I love playing and I absolutely love being here. Every year you get a chance to be here and you try your absolute best to be here."

"If you are thinking about records and let that stuff get to you, it is a distraction. That is something you can look back on when you are older."

Given the panel had been considerably weakened by the loss of big-name players Jenny O'Leary, Anna Geary, Joanne O'Callaghan and Angela Walsh during the off-season, did she believe she would have to wait for the ladies football decider to have a realistic chance of securing All-Ireland medal number 15?

"At the start of the year we were afraid to open a text because it was retirement after retirement. We weren't sure what way the year would go. We improved steadily throughout the season and we are delighted to be back here again. We were delighted to get to the final and then to win it."

"Time keeps going, time waits for no one. People get older and new players

have to come in. New players are coming in and it is great for Ladies GAA in Cork.

"Leanne O'Sullivan and Méabh Cahalane, two of the new girls who came in this year in the defence, had very good games. They didn't put a foot wrong. They held the head and we are delighted with them."

Down the corridor, Briège Corkery was reliving that game-changing strike.

"This goal is gas," quips the Cork full-forward of her 54th minute major. "As Paudie Murray said, he put his two hands on his head when he saw me going for goal. It just fell into my path and I went for it."

"We had been practising goals at training and I just tried my best to slot



Rena Buckley, right, and Briège Corkery have each won 15 All-Ireland senior medals, equalling the record of Dubliner Kathleen Mills.



it. I didn't really slot it, it just dribbled in. I nearly had to blow it across the line. It went in and that's all that matters. I didn't do a tap for the rest of the game, only that. We scored a point straight after and that settled us. Never did I think we would be back here this year after all the retirements last year."

Similar to her dual colleague, Corkery was keen to play down the significance of her historic medal count.

"We won't look at it that way for another couple of years, it won't be until we are old and crippled which will probably only be another five years. That is something we will look back on then."

O'Duffy Cup in safe hands



Camogie

Rory Noonan

IN the tunnel after the All-Ireland senior camogie final the chant by many of the Cork players was 'one more year.'

No they were not even thinking about making it three-in-a-row or anything of that nature. Their words were directed at goalkeeper, Aoife Murray.

Aoife would be the first to admit she is one of the more senior players in the side and has been playing at the top level of inter-county camogie for some time.

Her experience is something you can only build up over time and she has seen her share of heartache as well as glory.

And just like several players, who called it a day at the end of last season, there is always a fear the same will happen this year, so the cry went up early to try and convince her to stay on for another year.

Have no doubt if she does the same will



THE REWARD: Cork goalkeeper Aoife Murray celebrates with the O'Duffy Cup after the All-Ireland senior camogie final win over Galway on Sunday.

Picture: Inpho/Ryan Byrne

be heard at the end of next season, whether they retain the title or not.

With so many young players in the squad having someone like Aoife around

is invaluable and have no doubt her influence played a major part in their win on Sunday. Cool and calm on the pitch she never seems to be ruffled and with two 20-year-olds in Laura Treacy and Leanne O'Sullivan in the full-back line, you can be sure Aoife was a calming influence on them.

Laura was playing in her second All-Ireland final and Leanne her first and both had outstanding games, helped by having someone like Aoife behind them.

After the game Aoife reflected on their win and what it meant to all involved.

"It's a very special feeling to win an All-Ireland title and it's one that you never get tired of, no matter how many you have. If you work hard in life and in sport you normally get the rewards and this squad has worked really hard this year and I think we got our reward out there."

Annoyed

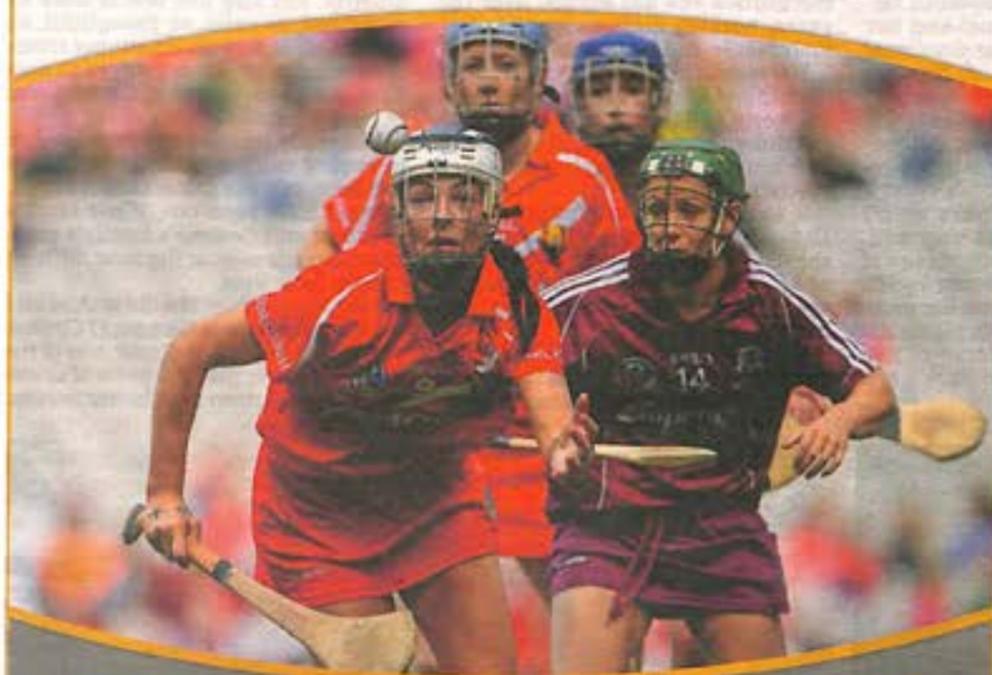
"A lot of people had written us off earlier in the year and to be fair you couldn't blame them. We were really annoyed with ourselves after the league final loss to Galway, but I think it was also the making of us this year."

"We knew where we were at and the work we had to do to have any chance of retaining the All-Ireland and in fairness to all the girls they put it in and thankfully it paid off. I have been lucky enough to have played for many years alongside the likes of Gemma, Briège, Rena, amongst others, and they are a pleasure to play with."

"Just like all the wins this is a very special feeling and one we will enjoy for some time," concluded Aoife.

■ The Cork camogie county championships resume this weekend. See Friday's *Evening Echo* for previews of all the games.

Congratulations to Cork on winning the All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship 2015



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Camogie girls make history

By Denis J Croke

THERE were jubilant and emotional scenes in Croke Park on Sunday when Laois camogie team made history when claiming their first adult All-Ireland title. This was something this group of girls have been threatening to do over the past couple of years.

Their victory is all the more remarkable as they had to put the disappointment of losing the last two finals but were determined they would not be remembered as the team that lost three in a row.

Team captain Niamh Dollard described the winning feeling as 'surreal'. "All you want is to get that cup lifted. I suppose when we get home it'll sink in. I suppose we'll get a bit emotional, but we won't worry about that yet," said Niamh.

It was a huge change for manager David Cuddy, now in his second year in charge.

"This is wonderful. There's nobody wants to go into a losing dressing room, especially when you are in charge. It takes a lot of people to put things in place but ultimately the buck stops with you and it's nice to be a winner," he said.

After all the hard work, the girls have said they will enjoy that winning feeling, celebrate in style before getting back down to the hard work of making a name for themselves in the intermediate grade.

Report, interviews and photographs on Pages 60-63



Laois camogie captain Niamh Dollard lifts the cup
Photo: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

Home with the cup



Cork captain Ashling Thompson with the O'Duffy Cup, at the homecoming of the victorious Cork senior camogie team on South Mall, Cork City. SEE: News 4; Sport 22
Picture: David Kean