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Ref. 429



SEPT. 1995

AN CLÁR

Dathanna: Gorm agus Ór

1
ÁINE NIC CORMAIC
Áine McCormack
Wolfe Tones

2
GOBNAIT NÍ CHEALLAIGH
Debbie Kelly
Wolfe Tones

3
MARIAN NIC COISTEALA
Marian Costelloe
Wolfe Tones

4
GOBNAIT NIC DHONNCHA
Debbie McDonagh
Wolfe Tones

5
ORLA NÍ SLATARA
Orla Slattery
Bodyke

6
CLÓDA NÍ LEANNÁIN
Clodagh Lennon
Wolfe Tones

7
MOIRA NIC MHATHÚNA
Moira McMahon
Wolfe Tones

8
SINÉAD NÍ BHRIAIN
Sinéad O'Brien (Captaen)
Bodyke

9
PROINSÉAS NÍ FAOLÁIN
Frances Phelan
Wolfe Tones

10
CAITRÍONA NIC LOCHLAINN
Catherine O'Loughlin
Kilnamona

11
ÁINE NIC CATHÁIN
Ann Keane
Kilnamona

12
PÁDRAIGHÍN NÍ MHAOLOMHAIGH
Patricia Maloney
Eire Óg

IONADAITHE:

13. **SIOBHÁN AN ISEACA**
14. **MÁIRE NÍ NIALLAÍN**
15. **DEIRDRE SHEOIGH**
16. **EDEL NIC ARTÚIR**

Joanne Frost
Mary Neylon
Deirdre Joyce
Edel Arthur

St. Brigid's An Ghailimh
Kilmaley
Wolfe Tones
Newmarket

TIOBRAID ÁRANN

Dathanna: Gorm agus Órga

1
NÓRA NÍ DHUAIN
Nora Dwan
Toomevara

2
TREASA DE BURCA
Theresa Bourke
Shannon Rovers

3
REGINA NÍ MHÉARA
Regina O'Meara
Toomevara

4
CÓRA UÍ CHINNÉIDE
Cora Kennedy
Toomevara

5
CLÁR NÍ MHADAIN
Claire Madden
Portree

6
MÁIRE NÍ RIAIN
Marie Ryan (Captaen)
Toomevara

7
KAIFFE NÍ MHAOLOMHAIGH
Kaiffe Maloney
Cashel

8
MÉADHBH STOC
Meadhbh Stokes
Clonmel

9
NOLLAIG NÍ CHINNÉIDE
Noelle Kennedy
Toomevara

10
CAITRÍONA DE BÚRCA
Catherine Bourke
Shannon Rovers

11
EIBHLÍN NÍ CHADHLA
Helen Kiely
Drum/Inch

12
DEIRDRE NÍ AODHA
Deirdre Hughes
Toomevara

IONADAITHE:

13. **AILIS NÍ DHUBHLÁINE**
14. **SIOBHÁN NÍ CHEALLAIGH**
15. **SIOBHÁN CHIOSÓG**
16. **GRÁINNE NÍ RUA**

Ailish Delaney
Suzanne Kelly
Siobhan Cusack
Grace Ormond
Templemore
Toomevara
Toomevara
Templemore

Gabhtar buíochas le



a bhronn na boinn orainn

CLARE 1-10 TIPPERARY 1-9

Report: Austin Hobbs

Photos: Eamon Ward

Trailing by six points at half time, it was a transformed Clare side which took to the field in the second half. Showing tremendous hurling skills, the Clare girls took the fight to Tipperary and a goal from full forward, Patricia Moloney, with fifteen minutes remaining put them on the road to victory.

However, the issue was in the balance right up to the final whistle and it was fitting that centre forward, Catherine O'Loughlin should round off a five star performance with the winning point from a free in the dying minutes of the game.

It was a great win for Clare over a Tipperary side which was strongly fancied in view of the county's junior and minor all-Ireland successes in recent years. Clare's march to a second intermediate title was all the more impressive when one considers that they were missing two key first choice players.

The prospect of a Clare victory looked very remote in the early stages of the game when Tipperary, with the assistance of the breeze, went three points clear with splendid scores from D. Hughes, H. Kiely and C. Bourke.

Catherine O'Loughlin, from a free, opened Clare's account after four minutes.

Tipperary increased their lead to 0-6 to 0-2 by the 13th minute following pointed frees by Noelle Kennedy. Clare's reply came from an O'Loughlin free.

The Tipperary girls really stamped their authority on the game when full forward Deirdre Hughes latched on to a long clearance and rattled the Clare net in the 14th minute. Hughes should have claimed another goal a minute later when, with only the Clare goalie, Aine McCormack, to beat, she drove the ball wide.

The Clare defence was under terrible pressure at this stage and did very well to repel some very dangerous moves by Noelle Kennedy, Helen Kiely and Deirdre Hughes.

On a break from defence Sinead O'Brien laid on a fine pass for Patricia Moloney to pick off a point. Clare then began to come more into the game but a few scoring chances were wasted.

An accidental clash between Catherine O'Loughlin and Tipperary captain, Marie Ryan, saw both players panned out. Fortunately O'Loughlin recovered and continued to play a vital role in the Clare attack but Ryan was removed by ambulance to hospital and her absence from

midfield was felt by Tipperary in the second half.

Clare missed quite a few scoring chances in the closing stages of the first half and then fell further in arrears when Noelle Kennedy was on target from a free.

A minute into injury time Catherine O'Loughlin replied from a close range free to leave Clare six points adrift. At that stage it seemed that Tipperary would only have to go through the motions in the second half before laying claim to their first ever intermediate title.

However, whatever words were spoken to the Clare girls by Kitty McNicholas and Kevin Trixie Twomey during the break they worked wonders. Clare were well fired up and from the throw in the pass was whipped to Patricia Moloney and she put Catherine O'Loughlin away for a great point.

Moloney began to wreak havoc with the Tipperary defence and she paved the way for another O'Loughlin score when she was fouled close to goal.

It was all Clare as the forwards laid siege to the Tipperary goal but the finishing was off and valuable scoring chances continued to be wasted.

Ten minutes into the half Tipperary goalie Nora Dwan made an excellent save from

Ann Keane.

The Tipperary forwards were making no progress whatsoever against a rock solid Clare defence, led by Debbie McDonagh, and they tried to improve matters by introducing Ailish Delaney in place of Helen Kiely.

However, Clare made what proved to be a match-winning substitution when they drafted in Edel Arthur for Ann Keane in the attack. Her strength and skill really tipped the balance in Clare's favour.

With a quarter of an hour remaining Clare cut the lead back to three points when Frances Phelan picked off a superb score from play.

CLARE GOAL

A minute later Clare got the all important break when the Tipperary goalie could only parry a stinging shot from Catherine O'Loughlin and Patricia Moloney was in like a flash to drive the ball to the net. The score gave the Clare side a tremendous lift and they played with even greater determination.

Tipperary regained the lead through Noelle Kennedy but with ten minutes to go the sides were locked at 1-8 apiece after a pointed free from O'Loughlin.

Clare took the lead for the very first time two minutes later when O'Loughlin was on target from a 30.



● I'VE DONE IT . . . Clare full forward Patricia Moloney celebrates after scoring a goal in the All-Ireland intermediate camogie final.

The hurling was played at a frantic pace in the closing minutes and the Clare backs and midfielders Moira McMahon and Sinead O'Brien showed their worth as they kept Tipperary at bay.

With twenty seven minutes gone Tipperary were awarded a rather dubious free about forty metres from the Clare goal. Noelle Kennedy's powerful drive was batted off the line and cleared over the sideline. Tipperary were awarded another free and this time Kennedy scored to equalise.

The excitement was at fever pitch around the grounds and the sizeable Clare following really got behind their team at this crucial stage of the game. Clare attacked and earned a free about forty metres from the Tipperary goal. Catherine O'Loughlin stepped up for one of the most important tasks of her career and she passed with flying colours, sending the ball over the middle of the bar.

Tipperary came storming back but the Clare defence held fast. Clare counter tracked and were on the offensive when the final whistle was sounded two minutes into injury time.

While Catherine O'Loughlin emerged yet again as Clare's top scorer there were a number of other outstanding individual displays on what was a great day for Clare camogie.

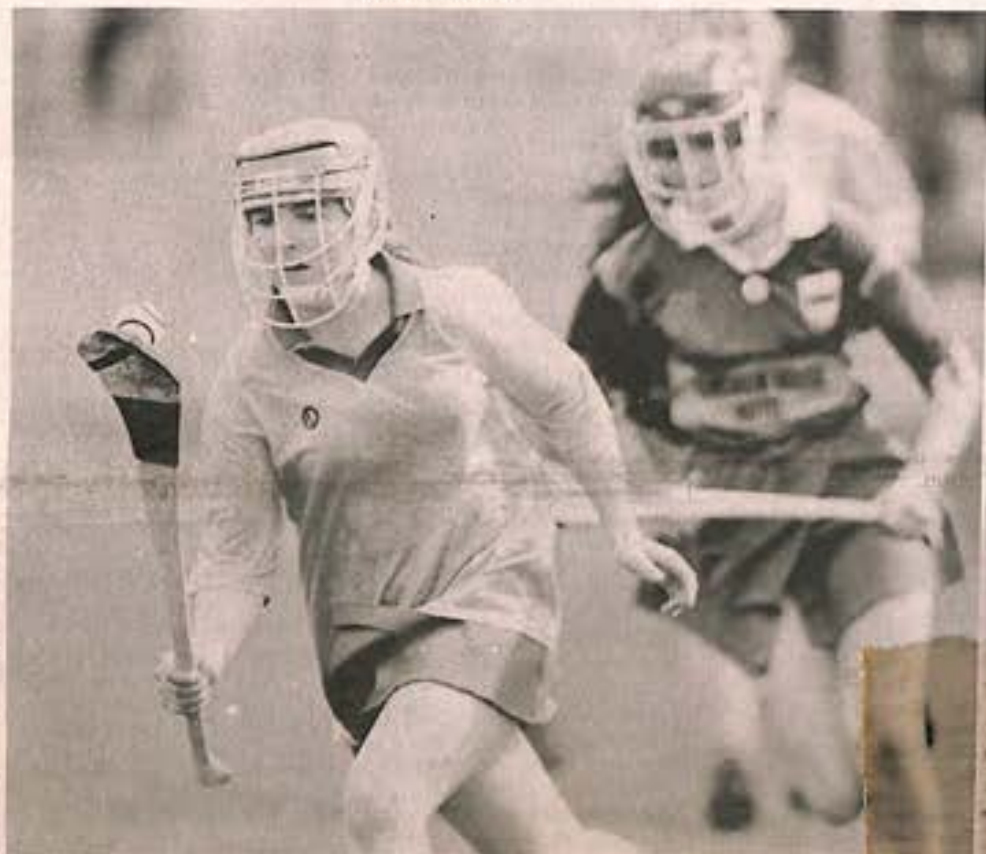
Debbie McDonagh had a tremendous hour at centre back and was well supported by Orla Slattery. In midfield Moira McMahon was always in the thick of the action and captain Sinead O'Brien also played exceptionally well in this sector.

Frances Phelan was in great form at wing forward and Patricia Moloney was very effective at full forward. Substitute Edel Arthur made a major difference when introduced for the final quarter.

Tipperary's star player was Noelle Kennedy in the attack and they had other fine players in C. Kennedy in defence, K. Maloney, midfield, and D. Hughes and C. Bourke in the forwards.

Clare team and scorers: A. McCormack, (W. Tones), D. Kelly, do., O. Slattery, (Bodyke), D. McDonagh, (W. Tones), M. Costelloe, do., C. Lennon, do., M. McMahon, do., S. O'Brien, (Bodyke), F. Phelan, (W. T.), C. O'Loughlin (Kilnamona), 0-8, A. Keane, do., P. Moloney (Eire Og) 1-1, sub. E. Arthur, (Newmarket) for Keane.

Tipperary scorers: N. Kennedy 0-6, D. Hughes 1-1, C. Bourke, H. Kiely 0-1 each.



Ann Keane on the attack for Clare in the All-Ireland camogie final.

Second Half Rally Gives Girls All-Ireland Title

While the volume of support seen at Croke Park a week earlier was missing, the drama and excitement of the all-Ireland hurling final was certainly matched at Toomevara on Sunday when Clare's camogie stars turned in a magnificent second half display to beat Tipperary by a single point (1-10 to 1-9) in the all-Ireland intermediate camogie championship final.

All Ireland title for Clare girls

Clare 1-10
Tipperary 1-9

A last minute pointed free by Catherine O'Loughlin gave Clare a dramatic win over Tipperary in the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie final at Toomevara yesterday.

It was a sensational ending to a game that looked destined to go Tipperary's way as they enjoyed a 1-7 to 0-4 interval lead. The home county dictated from the start and were aided by a 15th minute goal from Deirdre Hughes.

Clare came back strongly in the second-half and with a goal by Patricia Moloney drew level entering the third quarter.

The closing period was hectic as the lead exchanged hands a couple of times. Then with a draw on the cards up popped O'Loughlin who held her nerve to shoot the winning point from a free in the last minute.

While Catherine O'Loughlin was the toast of Clare following the win, Debbie McDonagh, Orla Slattery, Moira McMahon and Sinead O'Brien were others to star.

Scorers for Clare: C. O'Loughlin 0-7, P. Moloney 1-1, F. Phelan, C. Lennon 0-1 each.

Tipperary: N. Kennedy 0-6, D. Hughes 1-1, C. Burke, H. Kiely 0-1 each.

CLARE: A. McCormack, D. Kelly, M. Costello, D. McDonagh, O. Slattery, C. Lennon, M. McMahon, S. O'Brien, F. Phelan, C. O'Loughlin, A. Keane, P. Moloney.

TIPPERARY: N. Duane, T. Burke, R. O'Meara, C. Kennedy, C. Madden, M. Ryan, K. Moloney, M. Stokes, N. Kennedy, C. Burke, H. Kiely, D. Hughes.



All-Ireland intermediate camogie champions. The Clare team pictured prior to Sunday's final. Back, from left: Clodagh Lennon, Debbie McDonagh, Patricia Moloney, Frances Phelan, Marian Costelloe, Moira McMahon. Front: Catherine O'Loughlin, Aine McCormack, Sinead O'Brien, Ann Keane, Debbie Kelly, Orla Slattery.

Bord na Gaeilge

All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final
for the O'Duffy Cup

Bord na Gaeilge



The Kilkenny panel photographed before their All-Ireland semi-final win over Galway by 1-14 to 1-9. The Noreiders are champions.



Cork, who had a comprehensive semi-final win over Wexford. The Leesiders are National League Champions and seeking a first final win over Kilkenny since 1972.



The Cill Chainnigh team who defeated An Ghaillimh in the Bord na Gaeilge Senior Championship semi final. Front, left to right: Brigid Barnaville, Gillian Dillon, Ann Downey, Michelle Fennelly, Angela Downey, Sinead Millean. Back, left to right: Deirdre Malone, Marie Maher, Breda Holmes, Margaret Hickey, Sinead Costello, Marina Downey

However, they will meet with strong opposition from the Limerick Ladies who are entering their fourth All-Ireland Junior Championship final and seeking their second title. They won the first in '77. Their scoring ace Pauleen McCarthy is the only remaining member from that team.

In the semi final, after a hard fought tussle they got the better of Kildare 2-11 to 2-8. Limerick have two National League titles to their credit, annexed in '91 and '92. Their opponents in '91 were Roscommon.

They have star performers, among them Pauleen McCarthy, Bernie O'Brien, Liz O'Riordan, Ida Quaid, Agnes Sheehy, Helan Clifford McCarthy (Capt.) and Vera Sheehan. Their Coach Eamonn Cregan will be hoping that his charges will go one better this year. It should be a very entertaining encounter with Limerick favourites to lift the title.



Marie Pollard, Waterford, takes charge of the Junior final

FIXTURES

Sunday September 24th
At Croke Park
All-Ireland Finals
Junior: Limerick v Roscommon 1.45 p.m.
Referee: Marie Pollard, Waterford
Bord na Gaeilge Senior Championship
Cill Chainnigh v Corcaigh 3.30 p.m.
Réiteoir: Aine Derham, Atha Cliath



Rebel star Linda Mellerick

CLARE TAKE INTERMEDIATE TITLE

Clare secured their second All-Ireland Intermediate Championship title with a brilliant second half display against Tipperary in the final played at Toomevara. Tipperary were much the superior side in the opening half and led 1-7 to 0-4 at the break. In the second half the Clare Roses were dominant on most parts of the field and Catherine O'Loughlin who was in superb form put the sides level. With seven minutes to go Clare took the lead when O'Loughlin pointed again. Back came Tipperary with their second point of this half by Noelle Kennedy on the 29th minute to equalise. From the puck out Catherine O'Loughlin sent over the winning point for Clare to give The Banner County their second All-Ireland Cup in a week. Final score: Clare 1-10, Tipperary 1-9. Scorers: Clare: Catherine O'Loughlin 0-8, Patricia Molloney 1-1, Frances Phelan 0-1. Tipperary: Noelle Kennedy 0-6, Deirdre Hughes 1-1, Catherine Bourke and Helen Kiely 0-1 each. Referee: Mary Connor, Louth.

CAMOGIE AFFAIRS <<<>>> BY MARY MORAN



Once again the big two contest the All-Ireland Camogie final. Pictured here are Ann Downey (Kilkenny) left and Therese O'Callaghan (Cork) with referee Maria Pollard (Waterford) when the counties last met in the championship at Ballinlough.

There is nothing in camogie to whet the appetite like a Kilkenny/Cork clash. When Croke Park is the setting and the O'Duffy Cup is the prize, their meeting presents the greatest challenge the game can offer.

On September 24, the champions in their familiar black and amber strip will lay their All-Ireland title on the line against their red and white clad rivals. This will be the ninth clash between these counties in an All-Ireland Senior Final. Cork emerged successfully from the first two encounters in 1970 and 1972 but have not been able to lower the Kilkenny colours in Croke Park since.

Cork have had the measure of Kilkenny in earlier rounds of the championship and, indeed, on many times in the National League. But when it comes to final day with the ultimate prize on hand, Kilkenny are almost invincible. Wexford and Dublin have found this to be the case as well as Cork.

The teams last met in the championship in August 1994 at Ballinlough. A hat-trick of goals from Angela Downey contributed greatly to Kilkenny's success on the day. However, much has changed in both camps in the meantime.

Both coaches, Tom Ryan (Kilkenny) and Joe McGrath (Cork) have stepped down. Tom Nott, who brought Cork to six finals winning four between 1978 and 1987 is back on the job for the Rebels. However none of his four victories were against Kilkenny opposition. He will have little difficulty in finding grounds to motivate his squad.

Kilkenny introduced a number of newcomers to their team last season. Michelle Fennelly, Sinead Costello, Marie Maher, Margaret Kavanagh and Margaret Hickey have benefited from the experience. With an All-Ireland medal in their pockets they will not lack in confidence.

Apart from the evergreen Downey twins, this Kilkenny side is a young one. Sinead Millea, Gillian Dillon, Marina Downey and Deirdre Malone have years of top class camogie to come.

Angela and Ann Downey still remain a huge threat to Cork. Given half a chance they will pounce to clash home match winning scores. Their tally of All-Ireland medals stands at twelve apiece. Should they be successful on the 24th, they will share second spot on the all-time roll of honour with Dublin's Una O'Connor. Another former Dublin star, Kay Mills tops the list with fifteen medals.

Captained by Denise Cronin, Cork have a number of changes from their last championship outing with Kilkenny. Breda Kenny, Liz Towler and Liz O'Neill are not available. Breda's place at full-back has been taken by Bishopstown player Eithne Duggan who played Ashbourne camogie with U.C.D.

Margaret Finn, who has been a member of the panel for sometime has established herself on the team this year. Stephanie Dunlea, younger sister of top scorer Lyn is shaping up well in midfield. Talented newcomer Vivienne Harris, who played in many of the league games may enter the fray at some stage.

Anything can happen on the big day. Both teams have the potential to be champions of 1995. It has all the ingredients for a marvellous game and should be well worth going to see.

Limerick have reached the final of the All-Ireland junior championship. However, they await the replay of the semi-final between Antrim and Roscommon to learn their final opponents.

Limerick came very close to winning the title last season but were pipped in the end by Galway. Eamon Cregan will have his charges in top form on this occasion to ensure that all goes well irrespective of the opposition.

LIMERICK GET ANOTHER CRACK AT JUNIOR CROWN. ROSCOMMON STAND IN THE WAY

The curtain raiser to the main event will be the Junior final. This year sees Limerick, last year's finalists, back again. They were defeated by Galway last year and this time they take on another Connacht county, Roscommon, who are making history for themselves by contesting their first All-Ireland Championship final.

In the last year Roscommon have made great strides. They had a convincing win over Galway in the Connacht final, and in the All-Ireland quarter final they had one point to spare over London 1-11 to 2-7. They then went on to meet the Ulster champions Antrim in the semi final and after a replay emerged winners by the minimum score 1-8 to 1-7. Their coach Michael Kelly has worked hard to get the squad this far. He will be hoping for a good contribution from Matread Coyle, Mary Gannon, Karina Jones, Mary Grehan and Liz Hanley to give Roscommon their first title.

It's the All Ireland camogie final countdown

Centre stage

for the girls



Paula Goggin, a big task on Sunday

By T.P.O'Mahony

Is the O'Duffy Cup destined for the banks of the Suir or the banks of the Lee this year?

The stage is set for what virtually every fan agrees will be the camogie clash of the year when the two premier senior sides in the land confront each other.

This senior camogie final has all the ingredients — and the added spice of a Cork squad seeking revenge for last year's semi-final defeat.

The memory of that loss to Kilkenny still rankles, all the more so because the game was played in Ballinlough, in Cork's backyard.

Cork appeared to have that game all sown up at half-time, only to see it swept away by a resurgent Kilkenny team in the second period, ruining the chances of achieving three All-Ireland titles in a row.

"We want to rub out the memory of that loss," says Cork captain Denise Cronin of Glen Rovers.

Her Glen team-mate, midfielder Therese O'Callaghan (who was captain last year), said this should give the Leesiders added incentive.

"Mentally, we know we are ready for this one, and that's important because we might have had a problem with our approach a few times in the past where Kilkenny are concerned.

"Having said that, we know that Kilkenny will throw everything into this game, especially with Angela Downey as captain."

"Kilkenny will be all out to win this one for Angela, all the more so if it is true that

Sunday's final is to be her last game," says Therese.

Asked how she saw the game going, she replied: "There will be nothing in it, and it could depend on who gets the breaks. But hopefully things will go our way."

"I don't think we've ever trained harder for a final, not in my time anyway."

The secretary of the Camogie County Board, Ms Tracy Sheehan, is confident that this can be Cork's year — but her confidence is tinged with caution.

"You can't take anything for granted against Kilkenny, especially in a final. But we have prepared very well, and the girls are ready."

"We have a panel of 21 players going into this final," explained Tracy. "And that includes new, younger players who were brought in this year, so we have a very good blend."

"They are very enthusiastic, though I know it takes more than enthusiasm to win an All-Ireland final."

"Still, I'm very hopeful. We have a very good bunch of girls, and they are very united. I think we can do it this year."

All connected with the team acknowledge that Tom Nott's coaching has given a new edge and a new bite to the team.

"He has worked very hard with the squad, and I think you'll see the results of all of that work on Sunday," added Tracy.

This is a well-balanced Cork side, strong in defence, fluid in midfield, and potent up front where a lot will be expected of Lynn Dunlea.

Dubbed by many the "next Angela Downey", Lynn has the capacity to find something extra for the big occasion.

Cork supporters will be hoping she can get the vital scores on Sunday, in what promises to be one of the greatest of finals.

Camogie fans everywhere will be hoping that the prediction made by goalkeeper Kathleen Costine, who comes from Cloyne and minds the net for Killeagh, turns out to be correct: "It'll be one cracker of a game!"

QENDSQ

A camogie final cracker at Croker

BY BRENDAN LARKIN

NEXT Sunday's senior camogie championship final at Croke Park between Cork and Kilkenny brings together two counties who between them have amassed 30 All-Ireland titles. Both Cork and Kilkenny have been very impressive in their earlier rounds, beating Wexford and Galway respectively, and so the scene is set for a thrilling climax to the camogie inter-county season.

Last year Kilkenny turned the tables on Cork by beating them in the semi-final as the Leesiders looked to complete a hat-trick of victories.

For this year's assault on the championship Cork changed their coach, got in a new sponsor in the ACC Bank, and introduced a number of new players, all of which introduced a new air of enthusiasm among both players and selectors and the changes have certainly worked well.

Tom Nott is no stranger to Cork camogie. During an eight year reign in charge in the 1970s early 1980s, he coached the team to four All-Ireland successes and this year the girls have responded superbly to his training methods.

Sponsor

The new sponsor has allowed the team the luxury of being able to train uninterrupted at the UCC Grounds in the Mardyke and well as acquire new playing gear, all of which plays a part in a team's All-Ireland preparations.

The introduction of new players has worked well and Eithne Duggan from Bishopstown who is a daughter of former Cork senior stalwart Phil, and Margaret Finn won't let the side down.

Midfield will play a vital role, and here Cork will have to at least break even. Up front Lynn Dunlea who was their chief scorer in the semi-final against Wexford, will have to get more support on this occasion, as she is unlikely to enjoy the same freedom she had last time out.

The experience of Sandie Fitzgibbon, Linda Mellerick, Therese O'Callaghan and Kathleen Costine will also play a vital role for Cork. They have all been through it before and know what's required to win All-Irelands.

However Kilkenny are not without their own stars.

The Downey sisters Angela and Ann, Gillian Dillon and Sinead Millea are all superb camogie players and with the incentive to win their 17th title, these girls and the rest of their colleagues won't give up their All-Ireland title easily.

Cats will trouble Cork

By Brendan Larkin

THE clash of Cork and Kilkenny in Sunday's Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park is eagerly awaited.

Both sides have impressive credentials and excelled in their respective semi-finals. Add in the intense rivalry and you have all the ingredients for a thriller.

Cork cruised into the final with a crushing 5-3 to 1-6 victory over Wexford, while Kilkenny had five points to spare (1-14 to 1-9) over Galway.

The Cats are chasing their 17th title while Cork are seeking their 13th. A huge incentive for Cork is the fact that it's all of 23 years since they beat Kilkenny in the final. However, they can boast a

number of wins over them at the semi-final stage, most notably in 1993 when they denied the Cats a seventh final appearance in-a-row.

Cork went on to lift the O'Duffy Cup for the second successive year and were going for three in-a-row last year only to be denied by their great Leinster rivals at the semi-final stage.

So, it's easy to understand the tremendous rivalry between these great camogie counties.

Early this year Cork lost the services of a number of very experienced players in Breda Kenny and Liz Towler, but such is the tremendous strength of the game in the county, they were hardly missed.

Bishopstown's Eithne Duggan took over from Kenny at full-back and hasn't put a foot wrong, while Mags Finn has

also settled in very well in defence. Against Wexford Cork were in brilliant form with Lyn Dunlea emerging their top scorer with 3-9.

Cork were very disciplined in defence where goalkeeper Kathleen Costine was almost unbeatable. A repeat on Sunday and the Leesiders would be well on their way to their 14th title.

The team has trained extremely hard under the guidance of coach Tom Nott, who was involved in four winning All-Ireland teams before stepping down.

In the words of team selector Miriam Murphy: "Kilkenny in a final are an entirely different proposition. They are the team to beat and Cork must at least break even at midfield to have any chance".

Paula Goggins has been

given the task of marking Angela Downey, and if she can put the shackles on the Kilkenny wizard, Cork will be well on their way.

Lynn Dunlea won't get the freedom she enjoyed in the semi-final and her forward colleagues will have to contribute more to take the pressure off the Glen ace.

Linda Mellerick, Fiona O'Driscoll, Therese O'Callaghan and Sandie Fitzgibbon have all been through the mill and know only too well what's required.

In the final analysis the outcome may depend on how the new Cork defenders cope. A first senior All-Ireland is a huge occasion and with Kilkenny desperately keen to restore county pride, Cork will have to be at their very best to keep the Cats at bay.

Kathleen all set for the final

She wants that medal

By BRENDAN LARKIN

CORK goalkeeper Kathleen Costine will be hoping to emulate the feat of fellow Cloyne player Donal Og Cusack when she lines out with the county senior camogie team in next Sunday's All-Ireland final.

Donal, who is Kathleen's nephew, won an All-Ireland minor medal with Cork two weeks ago.

"I'm expecting to have it much tougher than Donal had in his final recently. Kilkenny are always the team to beat in the championship. The Costines have a long and distinguished career in Cork camogie. Kathleen's sister Marie is the holder of six senior All-Ireland medals, while Bernadette won a junior All-Ireland. Kathleen herself is looking for her third senior medal on Sunday.

She burst into the Cork senior camogie team four years ago and has been ever present between the posts since.

Ambition

"Playing against Kilkenny in an All-Ireland final at Croke Park is the ambition of every Cork camogie player.

Asked if the new players on the team will be a drawback to Cork, Kathleen didn't think so.



Another big day for Cork goalkeeper Kathleen Costine

"I have the utmost confidence in Eithne Duggan who is making her senior All-Ireland final debut.

"She came in at full back early this year in place of Breda Kenny and hasn't left the side down.

"If we can get an even break at midfield I feel our forwards are good enough to get the scores to win it.

"No All-Ireland final

is easy, but we have prepared well, won't be lacking in fitness, and the incentive to win the title by Kilkenny is the motivating factor.

"Victory would give us the double as we have already won the league this year. We beat Kilkenny along the way, but that will count for nothing on Sunday. Championship camogie is entirely different", she said.



Eithne Duggan, Bishopstown, playing in her first senior All-Ireland final.

Cork are out for revenge

THIS Sunday is All-Ireland final day at Croke Park and it brings together rival counties Cork and Kilkenny in a senior final that should be a classic.

Should be a classic game of camogie

The curtain raiser to this game will be the junior final which will see Limerick and Roscommon in opposition at 2 p.m.

In recent years there has been many a great battle between the counties of Cork and Kilkenny and Sunday's eagerly awaited clash between these two sides promises to be no different. Kilkenny have certainly been to the forefront in camogie for the past decade winning an historic six-in-a-row from 1986 to '91. Cork broke their winning sequence in '92 in a semi-final clash played at Ballinlough and subsequently went on to win two All-Ireland titles in a row but Kilkenny were not to be denied for too long and last season they were back for revenge and were rewarded with a semi-final victory over Cork.

This was a heart-breaking defeat for the Cork girls as that panel of players were certainly deserving of more success but on the day in a game that should have been won Cork exited from championship and Cork's hopes of a three-in-a-row were dashed.

Amends

This time out no doubt Cork will be hoping to make amends but they are certainly under no illusions as to the task confronting them. They would dearly love to beat Kilkenny in an All-Ireland final something they have not done since 1972 and all involved with the present panel are certainly very much aware that it will take a top class performance from all involved if they are to succeed.

Cork have already defeated Kilkenny in the National League semi-final earlier this season but championship camogie is different and on form Kilkenny will probably go into the game as slight favourites to raise the O'Duffy Cup once again.



Denise Cronin, Glen Rovers, captain of the team.

However, Cork have prepared very well for this game under the expert eye of coach Tom Nott. Tom is certainly no stranger to All-Ireland final day as he has successfully coached Cork sides in the past and he above all other coaches is very much aware that his charges will have to play out of their skins if they are to break Kilkenny's record of not being defeated in an All-Ireland final since 1972 a remarkable achievement indeed for any county.

Confidence

For Sunday's game the Cork selectors have decided to pass a vote of confidence in the side that defeated Wexford in the semi-final. This means that regular keeper Kathleen Costine will once again command the number one position and Kathleen will be hoping to bring a second All-Ireland medal to the Costine family this year as her nephew Donal O'Gusack was the goalkeeper on the winning Cork minor hurling team. Full-back Eithne Duggan will be playing in her first senior final. She replaces

Breda Kenny who opted out of inter-county camogie this year. Long time server Paula Gog-

gins will be in her usual position at right corner-back while Fr. O'Neill's player Mags Finn will fill the other corner. Glen Rovers stalwart Sandy Fitzgibbon who once again proved what a whole-hearted player she is in the semi-final clash with Wexford will be at centre-back with the midfield positions going to Linda Mellerick, Denis Cronin who captains the side and Stephanie Dunlea. Therese O'Callaghan will be at centre-forward with Fiona O'Driscoll, Lyn Dunlea and Ireland O'Keeffe completing the inside line.

Path

Kilkenny's path to the final included a semi-final victory over Galway. In this game Galway lead for almost the entire game but typical of the Kilkenny girls they staged a dramatic comeback to grasp victory.

In this game players like the Downey sisters Angela and Ann, Sinead Millea and goalkeeper Michelle Fennelly, once again played a major

role in their victory. If these girls play to their usual from Cork will no doubt have it tough. However whatever the outcome it should be a

thrilling game and hopefully a Cork victory.

Cork team: Kathleen Costine (Killeagh); Paula Goggins (Na Pi-



Aine Derham, the Dublin girl in the middle for the Senior final



The Dunlea sisters, Lynn, left and Stephanie, who will be looking for their first senior All-Ireland camogie medals on Sunday.

One more point to prove

SANDY Fitzgibbon thinks it was an under 14 match. Nora Newman of Glen Rovers is sure it was under 18. Either way, Fitzgibbon was nine and the Glen were short.

Nora will never forget it: Fitzgibbon was this "tiny tot", playing her first match. They shoved her into the forwards and hoped she wouldn't get a belt. Long before the end, however, Nora noticed players getting out of the way just to leave her at it.

You didn't need to look hard to see her gift. At 14 she was a Glen senior player, at 16 she won her third minor (under 16) All Ireland with Cork — the first player ever to win three. Two years later, she won her first senior medal. People realised it was best just to leave her at it.

This afternoon, she plays centre back for Cork in her ninth senior All Ireland final. Four up, four down — nothing much has changed. At nine, she was amazing for her age; at 31, she carries the years effortlessly.

They don't play her at centre field any more, although she might prefer if they did. It is no reflection on her; she hasn't slowed down or anything. God forbid.

Before she got a car last year, it wasn't unusual for Fitzgibbon to run the mile and a half from her home to Glen Rovers training. It wasn't unusual for her to arrive at camogie training having finished basketball training with her National League club. With Fitzgibbon, it was all go.

One year Glen Rovers travelled to Swatragh in Derry to play an All Ireland club semi-final. On the night before, Fitzgibbon stopped off in Galway to play a National League basketball match and after the camogie match, she flew to the US with the Irish basketball team for a 10-day tour.

Beaten in four All-Ireland camogie finals by Kilkenny, Sandy Fitzgibbon badly wants to win the fifth encounter, writes Denis Walsh

On the day she arrived back in Cork she played another basketball match and, four days later, played for Glen Rovers in the All Ireland club final against St Paul's of Kilkenny in Nowlan Park. The Glen won; Fitzgibbon had a blinder. Nora says she's exhausted from looking at her.

Kilkenny and St Paul's have

been around on most of the big days of Fitzgibbon's career. Some good days, some bad days. In her first two years with Cork, they beat Dublin in the All Ireland final but in the next four finals they contested, Kilkenny were too good. It became a bit of a thing for Cork.

"Getting beaten was one thing, but the worst disappointment about it was that a lot of the time we didn't do ourselves justice. Granted we mightn't have won on the day anyway, but we didn't play nearly as well as we could."

"It was great when we beat them in the semi-final in 1992. We had been meeting them in finals and we felt all along they were a bogey team for us in Croke Park."

Fitzgibbon played well in two of the losing finals and not as well as she would have liked in two of the others. One year, Cork had a plan to stop Angela



Sandy Fitzgibbon

Downey which involved playing three forwards instead of four and placing Fitzgibbon in front of Downey to dam the supply of ball. That wasn't one of the good days.

It was the other Downey.

Ann, that was Fitzgibbon's principal foe. Two of them in the centre of centre field, club and county. The last time they met, before Cork shifted Fitzgibbon, she roasted Downey. Overall, there wasn't much in it.

It was Fitzgibbon's speed, says Downey, that made her. Frightening pace and hurling to burn. In the first All Ireland club final between St Paul's and Glen Rovers in 1986, Angela Downey had hauled the Kilkenny team back from a dire position to within two points of the Glen.

The game was going away from the Cork team when Fitzgibbon won a ball in the middle of the field, flicked it over one tackler, then another, pushed it into space beyond another challenge and drove it over the bar. The Glen won by a point.

There is no sign of her slowing down. God forbid. While Cork coughed and spluttered against Wexford in the semi-final Fitzgibbon was flawless. She needed to be. "In the first half, we didn't play that well. Once we got a few scores we got going a bit, but we can't go on playing like that in the final."

Three years ago she won every honour in the game; all the honours she had won before except in the same year: club, county, province. The National Camogie Player of the Year was the only new prize. Yet the excitement remains.

"I love all the build-up to the final. It's only when you're not playing in the final that you miss it. You get nervous when you're talking about it, but it's great because it gets you keyed-up."

"If we can win this one, it would be the icing on the cake for me. None of the finals that I was on the winning team were against Kilkenny. It's one that I want." One more prize.

**All Ireland Camogie Final
Cork v Kilkenny,
Croke Park 3.30**

Cork can lay to rest an old bogey

THE semi-finals have created a conflict of pessimism. Cork's routing of Wexford couldn't mask their shortcomings. Wexford rolled over, lamely, before the finish but for as long as the game was a contest, only half of the Cork team was seen.

Kilkenny, on the other side, won almost in spite of themselves. The game was there for Galway to win and Galway lost it.

Kilkenny will take some reassurance from how little their victory depended on Angela Downey's performance. She got her only score from play with four minutes to go. Sinéad Millea handled most of the scoring, mostly from dead balls.

The switch of Breda Holmes and Gillian Dillon

in the centre of the attack made an appreciable difference against Galway and this time they start with Holmes outside and Dillon on the edge of the square.

Holmes could do well. The Cork full back Eithne Duggan, is a good hurler, but she doesn't have the physique or the desire to impose on opponents that Breda Kenny had.

There is a suggestion, though not a new suggestion, that Ann Downey isn't covering enough ground in the middle. Earlier in the year, there was talk of her making a new home at full forward and they have resorted to moving her in there on occasion.

Against Galway, however, the middle of centre field was loose and the amount

of ball that she processed intelligently made a significant difference.

She may not find as much room today as Cork's centre field is reasonably solid. Linda Mellerick runs hard, Denise Cronin grafts hard and Stephanie Dunlea is a good striker, although her knee gave her trouble against Wexford and made her look particularly slow.

Inside, Lynn Dunlea is the best full forward in the country. She gets goals and isn't afraid to take a belt in getting them. With Therese O'Callaghan at centre forward, Dunlea will get fast, manageable ball with which to do something.

Cork haven't beaten Kilkenny in a final since 1972. Today.

Denis Walsh

Passionate love of camogie is still as strong as it ever was

By BRENDAN LARKIN

NOW in the twilight of a most illustrious career, Sandie Fitzgibbon's passionate love of Camogie is still as strong today as it was all those 18 years ago when she first took up the sport.

Next Sunday she lines out with Cork in the All-Ireland camogie final against Kilkenny in what will be her 14th season in senior ranks. In that time she has amassed four All-Irelands with Cork, four club All-Irelands and nine county senior medals with Glen Rovers. A equally gifted basketball player, Sandie decided early this year to give up playing in the National League, but will not be

entirely lost to that sport as she intends to continue playing at local level once the camogie season is over.

"There were times over the years when I felt like calling it a day with the camogie, but when the championship season comes round, the urge to get out and play has always proved too great."

"This year in particular I couldn't resist the chance to play against Kilkenny in the championship final. They are always the big one. We have met at the semi-final stages over the years but a final meet-

ing is always something special.

"I have never been on a winning final team against them, and it would be the crowning glory for me if I were to collect my fifth medal next Sunday at their expense", she said, on Tuesday night as she took time out to talk about the big game.

Even the symptoms of a cold didn't deter this bundle of energy from taking part in training, and as she said herself, "wild horses wouldn't keep me away from all the action".

Sandie reckons this present Cork side is as good as other teams she has played on. "We have introduced a number of new players this year

and they have gelled in superbly."

"Obviously they will be under pressure going into their first senior final, but the league final victory over Kilkenny earlier in the year has given them the taste for the big time, and they won't be found wanting on Sunday."

"Another bonus for Cork this year has been the strength of the entire panel. There are players in the squad pushing for places on the starting 12, and puts pressure on us all to play well."

"We have prepared well and if we play to our potential we have every chance of winning the title."



Sandie Fitzgibbon who hopes to put one over on "the old enemy" on Sunday.



Kevin
Cashman

Kilkenny to win battle of Old Firm

THIS year's renewal of the camogie final has about it something of a routine, or vaguely jaded, aura. Perhaps because in its very predictability it offers an example of non-completion or irresolution or volatility, or something, in the female of the species?

Consider that, at one time or another, through the past decade, Dublin threatened to take over and dominate; Galway displayed immense potential; Tipp improved and looked capable of continuing to do so; Wexford were solid and competitive; Kildare, Limerick and Armagh made their marks at junior level. Yet, here we are today with The Old Firm as principals, yet one more monotonous time.

This staleness of the camogie pairing is, of course, more marked — almost flagrant — in hurling's blessed Year of The Banner. And it is further emphasised by the indisputable decline of Cork and Kilkenny since their magnificent confrontations — and those of their mighty club champions, Glen Rovers and St Paul's — in the later '80s. Quite simply: neither the abundance of spectacularly gifted individuals nor the awesome aggregates of collective competence, on show in those matches, will be challenged today.

To say all that is not to suddenly become a Jeremiah; it is merely to acknowledge that camogie is passing through a trough such as hurling experienced in the '70s. Then again, given the times that are in it and the stern indispensability of ever closer cooperation in coaching and general promotion that these times impose on all — female and male — who profess the hurling faith, should not the notion of a single hurling authority be getting more, and more favourable, attention?

Ponder just one example: the counter-attraction which deprives Cork of a good deal of support, in Croke Park today, is the Cork county hurling final. Can anyone seriously deny that this setting *camánach* in opposition to *camógach* damages but one game, hurling? Can anyone pretend not to know the cure?

THE semi-finals provided few pointers to today's outcome. Cork were dull and flat, and inflicted much too much travail on themselves and their supporters, in seeing off a pedestrian Wexford side. The spark of high skill, and higher mettle, that distinguished the teams of Landers and Delaney and Fitzpatrick and the rest is extinct.

And the survivors from that era, to

whom Cork most look for a rekindling of fire and brio, Linda Mellerick and Sandy Fitzgibbon, look strangely incombustible, these days. These women have put vast hurling mileage behind them. Much of their arrogant invincibility in the sprint, their consummate dexterity of first touch, their mischievous trickery and strategy, seems, sadly, to be behind them, too.

Denise Cronin has occasionally looked capable of grasping the nettle of leadership by example — most notably in that epic at Nowlan Park, two years since. Today would be a most felicitous occasion to resume the role.

Lynn Dunlea's impressive scoring returns sometimes hide — but cannot excuse or compensate for — her ignorance of the most fundamental law of field games: "when the other lot have the ball, you scrap like blazes to get it back." Glen Rovers' disaster at Ballyragget, last Winter, was an object lesson in the imperative of forwards becoming the first line of defence. Recollection — and heeding — of that lesson would be salutary for Cork today.

Some slight waning of the powers of the Downeys has been leaking into the collective hurling consciousness: Angela tends to play at maximum revs only in spurts, to be choosy about which ball she'll go all out for, very much as Christy Ring was at her age; Anne does not leave stud marks on every square inch of the wold, as she did of yore. The supply of optimally flighted ball to the inside women is not as guaranteed as it once was. An old reliable, a Claire Jones or a Bridie Neary, would get a fairly rapturous welcome back from *Tír na nÓg*, in The Cats dressing-room.

On the other hand Gillian Dillon and, particularly, Sinead Milica are beginning to fulfil youthful promise. And Breda Holmes and Deirdre Malone have a deal of hurling left in them.

Of course, if a line were taken through Wexford — who collapsed in the last quarter against Cork, after beating Kilkenny in Leinster — Cork would have to be tipped. But a hunch hints that Angela Downey still has some nasty shocks in her quiver, and that Cork will be on the receiving end of them.



LETHAL OR LAZY? . . . Lynn Dunlea admits to being laid back.

Photographer: Jim O'Kelly

Leeside legend Lynn hopes to justify status



Enda McEvoy

her way, there were three or four girls around her, she "took a chance and hit it", and next thing the net was flapping and the referee was tooting the final whistle. Lynn Dunlea, all of 20 years, had become a Leeside Camogie legend at one fell stroke.

The venue was Nowlan Park, the date August 15, 1993, the event the All-Ireland senior semi-final, the scoreline 5-10 to 2-18 in favour of the Rebels. The game, the most powerful ladies' encounter in recent memory. The upshot, one of the greatest — and sweetest — victories by a Cork team.

Of course, Lynn Dunlea's hand in the glory was brief, if significant. Down in Eamon Langton's afterwards, the visitors were toasting Sandie Fitzgibbon and Denise Cronin and Linda Mellerick and rightly so. For even the slightest want of the usual hands to the usual pumps for the full hour, the ship would have foundered long beforehand.

But so what if Ms Dunlea's claim

IT came about simply enough, the way great moments usually do. Freshly on as a substitute, she was in the right place (the Kilkenny goal-mouth) at the right time (a couple of seconds remained). The *sliotar* came

to fame is based on grounds of serendipity rather than of long service? She did what generations of Corkonians before her, male and female, had failed to do: she belted the Cats at the death. A Terry Leahy in reverse for her era, gender and county. Maybe she should have quit there and then while the going was good...

Today finds her in Croke Park chasing her second All-Ireland senior medal. No longer a last-throw-of-the-dice substitute but the big wheel in the attack. Full-forward, freetaker, chief trigger woman, scorer of 3-9 of her side's 5-13 versus Wexford in the semi-final. For all that she meant to the team two years ago, these days Lynn offers so much more. This is the afternoon for her to provide.

"She's lethal," announces Ann Downey, not one to damn a colleague or opponent with faint praise. "She has speed, she has skill, she scored some great points against Lisdowey in the Club final last year. Lethal."

Lethal Lynn. Lazy Lynn as well. So she's often told, at least. Accused of working hard for five minutes, then going asleep. "It's true that I don't get worked up about games like some players might do. I won't be harping on for weeks before. I haven't thought about today's match at all, and I won't until an hour or two before-hand. Then I'll worry!"

Teacher of the second class girls ("I'd better say they're complete angels, although they are") at Farranree NS on the north side of Cork city, her approach hasn't served her too badly so far. A chestload of underage medals with her home club Cloghduv was followed by three local championships and an All-Ireland Club win upon the switch to Glen Rovers, a Purcell Shield with Mary Immaculate Teacher Training College in Limerick and, with the county, the National League this year and that All-Ireland in 1993 when, Kilkenny having been disposed of a month earlier, Galway proved gritty but green opposition in the final.

JOINING Glen Rovers was inevitable, and not merely because the best and the brightest of Cork camogie eventually gravitate into town; Mrs Dunlea, Nuala Humphries as was, hurred for years with the Glen. At Cloghduv she and husband John, who kicked some notable football for Canovee in his day, were the camogie club's secretary and coach respectively. Lynn and younger sister Stephanie, who lines out at midfield this afternoon, could not have been anything but camán kids. And good ones.

"As a youngster Lynn was all but incredibly plucky," recalls Helen Callinan, a former teammate. "There was no fear of bigger girls, no standing back, and definitely no worrying about breaking a nail. She was one of the first girls I remember to play like a boy — she didn't think she was holding a hockey stick."

While winning brings, naturally, "a fantastic feeling", our heroine's deepest satisfaction has come from acquiring and perfecting the skills of the game. "Or by attempts to perfect them," she corrects herself.

Camogie remains a sport to be enjoyed, she stresses. All the same, wider publicity would be marvellous. "I think the interest of the girls would be stronger, and more TV coverage would attract the attention of people who don't travel to matches but nevertheless would like to sit down and watch them on television. And I am in favour of the 15-a-side format. It looks better, it's less cluttered, there are no puck-outs travelling the length of the field. There is more hurling in it. You're seen to be playing the game the way it should be played."

Downey magic wins the day? We've seen the headline, with slight variations, so often. We might well see it once again tomorrow, though maybe with a more than slight variation. Dunlea magic wins the day? does have a certain ring to it, doesn't it?

Rebels to keep Cats in basket

THE ARISTOCRATS of camogie will do battle for the ultimate prize when Kilkenny take on Cork in the Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior final in Croke Park on Sunday.

This will be the ninth time these sides have met in the final but, remarkably, the Rebels have not defeated Kilkenny in a final since 1972.

The Cats have never been defeated in a championship final since that clash 23 years ago. Their incredible seven-in-a-row run commenced in 1985 and they defeated Cork in four of those finals, 87, 88, 89 and 91.

However, there are favourable statistics for Cork having ousted Kilkenny in the semi-finals of 92 and 93.

Kilkenny have not been very impressive during the year. They were defeated by Sunday's opponents in the National League semi-final (3-9 to 1-10) and were struggling against Galway in the championship semi-final until the final quarter.

CAMOGIE With PJ FULHAM

But they still carry significant fire-power with players such as the Downey sisters Ann and Angela, Marina Downey, Deirdre Malone, Brigid Barnaville, Sinead Costello and Gillian Dillon.

Cork were in total command when they defeated last year's finalists Wexford in the championship semi-final. They have noted performers in Linda Mellerick, Sandy Fitzgibbon, Terese O'Callaghan, Fiona O'Driscoll, Lynn Dunlea, Denise Cronin.

In recent times they have added new talent to the panel in Vivienne Harris, Stephanie Dunlea and Hilda Conneely.

Both sides are very evenly matched. Both have few weak links and know each other very well which should ensure an entertaining spectacle.

The curtain-raiser to the main event will be the junior final. This year sees Limerick, last year's finalists back again. They were defeated by Galway in the final last year and they now face newcomers Roscommon who are making history by contesting their first All-Ireland championship final.

They had a convincing win over Galway in the Connacht final and in the All-Ireland quarter-final they defeated London (1-11 to 2-7). They overcame Antrim in the semi-final after a replay (1-8 to 1-7).

They will meet with strong opposition from the Limerick ladies who are entering their fourth All-Ireland championship final and seeking their second title. They won the first in 77. They got the better of Kildare in the semi-final (2-11 to 2-8).

Eamon Cregan will be looking for a measure of personal compensation after Offaly's defeat in the All-Ireland final.

Cregan has been manager of the Camogie team for a number of years and also suffered disappointment with them 12 months ago when they were beaten by Galway at Croke Park.

His daughter Niamh is substitute goalkeeper for Sunday.

TEAM — Limerick: B O'Brien, H Clifford, A Sheehy, A Lenihan, E Leonard, E O'Riordan, M Cagney, M Burke, A M Stock, K Burke, P McCarthy, V Sheehan.

FIXTURES — Saturday — At Cusack Park, Ennis: Clare Senior Championship final, Wolfe Tones (holders) v Traugh G.D.

SUNDAY — At Croke Park: All-Ireland Junior Championship final, Roscommon v Limerick 1.45; Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Championship final — Cill Chainnigh v Corcagh 3.30.

Limerick girls head for Croke

EAMONN CREGAN will be back in Croke Park on Sunday, his fourth visit inside 12 months.

The much in demand Nenagh based building society manager has charge of the Limerick junior camogie team, hoping to make up for last season's lapse when beaten by Galway at the same stage.

This time Roscommon provide the opposition and if Cregan is looking for a form marker he can look to when the sides met in the League final some months ago, and Limerick claimed the title with a one point winning margin.

Limerick last won the All Ireland back in 1977 and were beaten finalists 11 years later.

They draw their players mainly from the West Limerick area and it is interesting that Cregan's daughter Niamh is listed as the first substitute.

From the 1988 team, the Shannonsiders will have Elizabeth Leonard, Elizabeth O'Riordan, Pauline McCarthy and Helen Clifford.

The path to the final has been impressive, having disposed of Cork in the opening round, Tipperary in the Munster final before going on to master Kildare in the All-Ireland semi.

The Limerick team for Sunday is: Breeda O'Brien; Helen Clifford, Agnes Sheehy, Anne Lenihan, Elizabeth Leonard, Elizabeth O'Riordan, Mairead Cagney, Mary Burke, Anna Marie Stack, Kay Burke, Pauline McCarthy, Vera Sheehan. Subs: Naoimh Cregan, Bernie O'Brien, Deirdre Sheehan, Carol Murphy, Jean Cullinane, Kathleen O'Connor, Cecilia McNamara, Helen Kelleher, Ide Quaid, Mary Lonergan.



Dress rehearsal for Croke Park...Pauline McCarthy and Anna Marie Stack at Mary Immaculate grounds this week.



Vera Mulcahy, Bernie O'Dea, Eamonn Cregan and Noreen Lynch, at a training session.



Cinder Who? . . . the Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club have presented the Kilkenny senior camogie team with new boots for their All-Ireland clash with Cork at Croke Park on Sunday and picture shows Marina Downey being fitted with her boots by Tom Holden, Treasurer, Supporters Club. Also in the picture are (from left): Noelle O'Driscoll, (selector); Sinead Costello (player) and Ann Downey (player and Supporters Club). Win or lose, on their return from the All-Ireland the team will be given a reception by Eamonn Langton in his restaurant.

Photo: Tom Breen

THE PLAYERS, THE MANAGEMENT

Brigid Barnaville (Lisdowney). 5th season with seniors. Won 2 senior all-Irelands, 2 national leagues, 1 club all-Ireland, 2 minor all-Ireland, 3 Leinster senior medals, 2 minor, one under 14, 2 Leinster club, one Leinster colleges senior B medal, 3 senior county plus 2 u-21 county, 2 u-18 county, 1 u-14 county, 1 senior B county, 1 junior B county.

Caitriona Carey (Young Irelands). First season with seniors. Won 1 minor all-Ireland, 1 Feile na nGael, 1 community games, 3 Leinster minor, 1 senior Leinster colleges, 1 minor Leinster colleges, 2 Leinster colleges seven-a-side, 1 junior county, 1 junior B county, 2 minor county, 1 u-14 county.

Sinead Costelloe (Freshford). Third season with seniors. Won 1 senior all-Ireland, 1 national league, 1 minor all-Ireland, 1 all-Ireland colleges, 2 Feile na nGael, 1 Leinster senior, 2 Leinster junior, 2 Leinster minor, 1 Leinster u-14, 2 Leinster colleges senior, 1 Leinster colleges seven-a-side, 1 Leinster junior, 3 u-21 county, 6 u-18 county, 5 minor county, 3 u-14 county, 2 primary schools county, 1 senior B county.

Gillian Dillon (Freshford). Sixth season with seniors. Won 3 senior all-Irelands, 3 national leagues, 2 Gael Linn, 2 minor all-Irelands, 2 Leinster senior, 2 Leinster minor, 2 Leinster u-14, 2 Leinster colleges senior, 1 Leinster V.S. senior, 5 u-21 county, 4 u-18 county, 1 minor county, 1 primary schools county, 1 senior B county.

Angela Downey Browne (Lisdowney). Twenty third season with seniors. Won 12 senior all-Irelands, 9 national leagues, 10 Gael Linn, 6 club all-Irelands, 8 Leinster senior, 11 Leinster club, 1 Leinster colleges senior, 1 Leinster colleges junior, 1 Ashbourne shield, 22 senior county, 1 junior county, 3 Kilmacud Crokes seven-a-side, 4 B&I awards, 1 Texaco award, 3 Graham Taitle trophies.

Ann Downey (Lisdowney). Twenty third season with seniors. Won 12 senior all-Irelands, 9 national leagues, 10 Gael Linn, 6 club all-Irelands, 8 Leinster senior, 11 Leinster club, 1 Leinster colleges senior, 1 Leinster colleges junior, 22 senior county, 1 junior county, 3 Kilmacud Crokes seven-a-side, 2 B&I awards.

Marina Downey (Lisdowney). Ninth season with seniors. Won 5 senior all-Irelands, 6 National leagues, 2 Gael Linn, 1 club all-Ireland, 6 Leinster senior, 2 Leinster

club, 1 Leinster colleges, 3 senior county, 1 junior county, 2 u-21 county, 2 u-18 county, 1 senior B county.

Deirdre Doyle (Dicksboro). First season with seniors. Won one Leinster colleges senior, 1 Leinster colleges senior shield, 1 Leinster seven-a-side, 1 minor county medal.

Catherine Dunne (Lisdowney). Second season with seniors. Won one senior all-Ireland, 1 national league, 1 club all-Ireland, 1 Leinster junior, 2 Leinster club, 3 senior county, 1 junior county, 1 u-21 county, 2 combined colleges medals.

Michelle Fennelly (Carrickshock). Second season with seniors. Won one senior all-Ireland, 1 minor all-Ireland, 1 all-Ireland colleges senior, 3 Leinster minor, 1 Leinster colleges, 1 Leinster colleges senior B, 1 Leinster colleges seven-a-side, 3 u-14 county, 3 primary schools county medals.

Sandra Gleeson (Lisdowney). Second season with seniors. Won one club all-Ireland, 1 Leinster junior, 1 Leinster minor, 2 Leinster club, 1 Leinster senior B, 1 Leinster colleges seven-a-side, 1 Leinster V.S. junior, 2 senior county, 1 minor county medal.

Margaret Hickey (Freshford). Second season with seniors. Won one senior all-Ireland, 1 minor all-Ireland, 1 Feile na nGael, 2 Leinster junior, 1 Leinster minor, 1 Leinster u-14, 1 Leinster colleges senior B, 1 Ashbourne shield, 1 Purcell cup, 1 combined colleges, 3 u-21 county, 3 u-18 county, 2 minor county, 2 u-14 county, 1 primary schools county, 1 senior B county.

Breda Holmes (Tullaroan). Tenth season with seniors. Won 7 senior all-Irelands, national leagues, 3 Gael Linn, 3 club all-Irelands, 5 Leinster senior, 4 Leinster club, 5 senior county, 2 intermediate county, 1 B&I award.

Margaret Kavanagh (Freshford). Second season with seniors. Won one senior all-Ireland, 1 minor all-Ireland, 2 Feile na nGael, 2 Leinster junior, 2 Leinster minor, 1 Leinster u-14, 1 Leinster colleges senior, 1 Leinster colleges senior B, 1 Leinster colleges seven-a-side, 3 u-21 county, 6 u-18 county, 5 minor county, 3 u-14 county, 2 primary schools county, 1 senior B county.

Esther Kennedy (Freshford). Fourth season with seniors. Won one senior all-Ireland, 2 national leagues, 1 minor all-Ireland, 2 Leinster junior, 1 Leinster minor, 2

Leinster u-14, 1 Leinster colleges senior, 5 u-21 county, 4 u-18 county, 2 minor county, 2 u-14 county, 2 primary schools county, 1 senior B county.

Imelda Kennedy (Freshford). Second season with seniors. Won one national league, 1 all-Ireland colleges senior, 1 Feile na nGael, 2 Leinster junior, 2 Leinster minor, 2 Leinster u-14, 2 Leinster colleges senior, 1 Leinster colleges senior B, 1 Leinster colleges seven-a-side, 4 u-21 county, 5 u-18 county, 3 minor county, 2 u-14 county, 2 primary schools county, 1 senior B county medals.

Mary McGrath (Graigie-Ballycallan). Fourth season with seniors. Won national league medal, 1 minor all-Ireland, 2 Leinster junior, 1 Leinster minor, 2 Leinster u-14, 1 Leinster colleges senior, 1 Leinster colleges junior, 1 Leinster colleges seven-a-side, 2 senior county, 1 u-21 county, 1 u-18 county, 2 minor county, 1 u-14 county, 1 primary schools county, 1 senior B county medals.

Marie Maher (Tullaroan). Third season with seniors. Won senior all-Ireland, national league, 2 all-Ireland colleges senior, 1 all-Ireland colleges junior, 2 Leinster junior, 2 Leinster minor, 1 Leinster u-14, 3 Leinster colleges senior, 2 Leinster colleges junior, 1 Leinster colleges seven-a-side, 1 intermediate county, 1 junior county, 1 minor county, 1 u-14 county, 3 primary schools county medals.

Deirdre Malone (Graigie-Ballycallan). Fourteenth season with seniors. Won 9 senior all-Irelands, 7 national leagues, 2 Gael Linn, 6 Leinster senior, 1 Leinster colleges senior B, 2 senior county, 1 junior county, 1 u-21 county, 3 minor county, 1 u-14 county, 1 intermediate county, 1 senior B county medals.

Sinead Millea (Graigie-Ballycallan). Fifth season with seniors. Won 2 senior all-Irelands, 2 national leagues, 1 Gael Linn, 3 minor all-Irelands, 1 all-Ireland colleges senior, 1 all-Ireland colleges junior, 3 Leinster senior, 4 Leinster minor, 4 Leinster u-14, 2 Leinster colleges senior, 2 Leinster colleges junior, 1 Leinster colleges senior B, 1 Leinster colleges seven-a-side, 1 Ashbourne cup, 1 combined colleges, 1 freshers seven-a-side, 2 senior county, 1 u-21 county, 2 u-18 county, 2 minor county, 1 u-14 county, 2 primary schools county, 1 senior B county medals.

Tracey Millea (Graigie-Ballycallan). Fifth season with seniors.

Won 2 senior all-Irelands, 1 national league, 1 Gael Linn, 2 minor all-Irelands, 3 Leinster senior, 2 Leinster minor, 2 Leinster u-14, 1 Leinster colleges senior, 1 Leinster colleges junior, 2 senior county, 1 u-21 county, 2 u-18 county, 2 minor county, 1 u-14 county, 2 primary schools county, 1 senior B county medals.

Deirdre O'Sullivan (Graigie-Ballycallan). First season with seniors. Won all-Ireland colleges senior, 2 Leinster minor, 1 Leinster colleges senior, 1 senior county medals.

Fran Shore (Lisdowney). First season with seniors. Won club all-Ireland, 1 Leinster junior, 2 Leinster minor, 2 Leinster club, 1 Leinster colleges senior B, 1 Leinster colleges seven-a-side, 1 Leinster junior, 2 senior county, 1 minor county medals.

Team trainer - Shem O'Grady. He was born in Graignamanagh, Co. Kilkenny. He won two junior southern championships in 1971/1972; won junior hurling and football medals in 1972; intermediate hurling medal in 1980, all with Graignamanagh.

Winner of 15 all-army hurling medals with James Stephens Barracks, Kilkenny and the Curragh Command hurling teams. Completed P. T. 1. physical education course in army school of physical culture in 1977/1978. Retired from hurling and football in 1992.

Team selector - Noelle O'Driscoll (Lisdowney). Was coach to St. Brigid's college, Callan, all-Ireland senior champions in 1993 and all-Ireland colleges junior champions in 1990.

Holder of senior and county medals in Cork and Kilkenny as well as 3 all-Ireland senior, 1 all-Ireland junior with Cork, 3 all-Ireland senior with Kilkenny, 3 club all-Irelands, 6 Leinster club plus 1 munster club championship and national league medals with Cork and Kilkenny.

Billy Malone (St. Brigid's). Was a founder member of St. Brigid's camogie club (Graigie-Ballycallan) in 1977 with continued involvement as an officer and selector since.

Served as county chairman from 1980 to 1986. Billy has also served as a county senior selector for 15 years and was, at various times, a selector with the junior and minor sides.

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Girls have sights set on retaining the Duffy Cup

ALTHOUGH not generally known, the winners of camogie's premier award, the O'Duffy cup, belong to an even more exclusive club than their hurling counterparts.

Of the 63 championships played to date, only five counties have annexed the title. Dublin lead the roll of honour with 26, Cork have 16, Kilkenny 12, Antrim 6 and Wexford 3.

In recent times, Kilkenny and Cork have dominated since Kilkenny's inaugural appearance in the final in 1970, the title has rested by the Nore or the Lee on no less than 22 of the 25 occasions since. Now the counties are shaping up for another showdown at Croke Park on Sunday.

The meeting of Kilkenny and Cork in the all-Ireland senior camogie championship final has become as much of an "old firm" affair as the equivalent clash in hurling.

Cork defeated Kilkenny on the occasion of their debut and repeated their victory in 1972. These two losses represent the only times Kilkenny have been defeated in the final.

However, in each of the six meetings since, in 1974, 1981, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1991, Kilkenny have emerged victorious.

The full list of Kilkenny/Cork all-Ireland senior camogie final results to date is - 1970 Cork 5-7, Kilkenny 3-2; 1972 Cork 2-5, Kilkenny 1-4; 1974 Kilkenny 3-3, Cork 1-5 (replay) and Kilkenny 3-8, Cork 4-5; 1981 Kilkenny 1-9, Cork 0-7 (replay) and Kilkenny 3-9, Cork 3-9; 1987 Kilkenny 3-10, Cork 1-7; 1988 Kilkenny 4-11, Cork 3-8; 1989 Kilkenny 3-10, Cork 2-6; 1991 Kilkenny 3-8, Cork 0-10.

Won league

The rivalry has also extended to the senior national league, with either Kilkenny or Cork winning 14 of the 20 finals played to date. They have, however, only met in the final on 4 occasions. The results were - 1982 Kilkenny 2-5, Cork 1-4; 1989 Kilkenny 6-7, Cork 1-11; 1991 Cork 2-13, Kilkenny 2-6; 1993 Kilkenny 4-7, Cork 1-13.

Kilkenny's other all-Ireland final winning scorelines were - 1976 Kilkenny 0-6, Dublin 1-2; 1977 Kilkenny 3-4, Wexford 1-3; 1985 Kilkenny 0-13, Dublin 1-5; 1986 Kilkenny 2-12, Dublin 2-3; 1990 Kilkenny 1-14, Wexford 0-7; 1994 Kilkenny 2-11, Wexford 0-8.

Cork are the current senior national league champions, having defeated Kilkenny in

the semi-final. The form guide favours Cork. They also disposed of Wexford much more comfortably in the all-Ireland semi-final than Kilkenny did Galway.

To add to Kilkenny's unease, this was the same Wexford side that Kilkenny lost to only a short time before in this year's Leinster final.

The all-Ireland series is played on an open draw basis. Admittedly, the home side had been short the services of their captain, Angela Downey, for this match.

Cork's main strength would seem to lie in their forward line. They have been scoring freely all year. A determined and cohesive effort will need to be made by the Kilkenny defence to curtail this fast moving unit.

Underdogs

The stage is set then for an intriguing clash in Croke Park. Undoubtedly Kilkenny enter the match as underdogs, despite being the reigning champions.

Consolation comes in the shape of the fact that this has, so far, been the year of the underdog, and, like most Kilkenny teams, the camogie team relishes adversity.

Angela and Ann Downey are the only members of the team

who have served on all of Kilkenny's sides. Indeed, Ann retains the distinction of never having lost an all-Ireland senior camogie final.

Both will join Una O'Connor (Dublin) in second place in the senior all-Ireland medal winning roll of honour, with 13 medals. Should Kilkenny triumph, Kathleen Mills (Dublin) leads the list with 15.

Coincidentally, since 1985, the camogie team has won the all-Ireland in every year that the senior hurlers have not! It is to be hoped that this will remain the case this time.

This year has seen the addition of four new faces, Caitriona Carey, Deirdre Doyle, Deirdre O'Sullivan and Fran Shore to the panel. It also saw the return of a member of the seven-in-a-row winning side, Breda Holmes.

The only member missing from last year's panel is Brigid Mullally. Changes have also taken place in the backroom team, with Shem O'Grady taking over from the long serving Tom Ryan as trainer, joined by Noelle O'Driscoll and Billy Malone as selectors.

Morale in the Kilkenny camp remains high as they finalise their preparations for the match. Hopes are high that the O'Duffy cup may be retained.

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Camogie: All-Ireland Junior Intermediate Final - Limerick v Roscommon

Roscommon's Dream Tie in Croke

The Roscommon County Junior team will be hoping to make history on Sunday when they take on Munster champions Limerick, in this year's All-Ireland junior championship final at Croke Park.

This will be a big challenge for the Roscommon girls, but they have worked hard all summer and Michael Kelly has believed all along this team can win an All-Ireland title. It is unlikely that Michael will be with the team on Sunday, due to illness, but he has drafted in assistants, Harry Crowley and Brian McDonnell who have been working hard for the last two weeks with the team, and no doubt will be eager to guide the team to All-

Ireland glory.

Limerick will no doubt prove tough opponents on Sunday, and will be very determined to capitalise where they failed in last year's All-Ireland final to Galway. Having played in last year's final will no doubt be of benefit to the Limerick team, but Roscommon will not be daunted by that fact.

The two teams met in this year's League back in October and Limerick came out on top on that occasion by 4 points. Roscommon can realise from that they have little to fear from this Limerick side. A lot of hard work has been put in since then and preparation for the final has gone very well.

The Roscommon defence who were excellent in both

games against Antrim will be hoping to do likewise on Sunday, but will be put under a bit more pressure by a talented Limerick forward line. In the middle of the field, Roscommon will be hoping to dominate and up front the Roscommon forwards will be hoping to improve on their scoring tally from the Antrim game.

Playing in Croke Park for the first time will be a daunting task for the team, but no doubt Harry and Brian will be hoping to settle any nerves there may be, and if the team can settle early they have every chance of taking this title from a fancied Limerick side. The game commences at 1.45 p.m. and the referee is Maria Pollard from Waterford.



Cork's ace forward Lynn Dunlea.

Dillon follows path of success

IN KILKENNY a famous Da comes with the territory.

The Downey twins have one, the Millea sisters have one, hell, even Kilkenny substitute Cathriona Carey has a famous relative who precedes her in the revered form of brother DJ.

The problem with the daughters and sisters though is that sometimes they grow up to outdo their Dads and brothers.

There's young Gillian Dillon, joining the Kilkenny seniors when she was 18 and a few years later rattling in two goals to take the 'Telecom Woman of the Match' award in her second of three All-Ireland (1990, '91, '94) senior victories.

She treasures the gold watch to this day. Nearly lost it at a function one night last year, mind you, but someone read the inscription on the back and returned it. The rarity of such accolades for sporting women makes such trinkets priceless.

Tomorrow Gillian Dillon will take the day off from running the six-day-a-week family equestrian centre outside Freshford.



By Cliona Foley

Her father 'Pa' is the former Kilkenny great, the sturdiest of fullbacks who won four All-Irelands in eight finals, the last in '72.

Dillon, a qualified riding instructor, does the bulk of the work herself with around 30 horses, combining schooling, lessons and livery.

Work and camogie are juggled daily and she underplays the physical demands. Her Kilkenny senior career started at midfield, she lines out at full-forward tomorrow but actually prefers centre-back.

That's Pa Dillon's daughter, say Freshford locals watching locals St Lachtains who now have six on the county panel; a chip off the old block.

Dillon, 22, gets her hurls ('I just like them light') handmade from Mick Neary in the city, the gifted craftsman who services most of the county's senior hurlers.

But there the similarities end. Female players simply don't get the same public or media attention, no matter how brilliant they are.

"Half the people in Kilkenny probably don't know we're playing this weekend! The boys get a meal after every training session, we get nothing."

ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE FINALS SPECIAL

THREE simple words — 'Old Firm Derby' — capture the mood of tomorrow's All Ireland Bord na Gaelge All Ireland senior camogie final in Croke Park (3.30).

Holders Kilkenny are the doyennes of the modern age with 12 titles, but 16 time-champions Cork stole their thunder in 1992 and '93 and this is their first final meeting since 1991.

Last September Angela Downey announced her retirement after 22 years, but they've persuaded her back to captain the side.

With sister Ann, she could now join Dublin's Una



By CLIONA FOLEY

O'Connor as second highest individual winner on 13 medals.

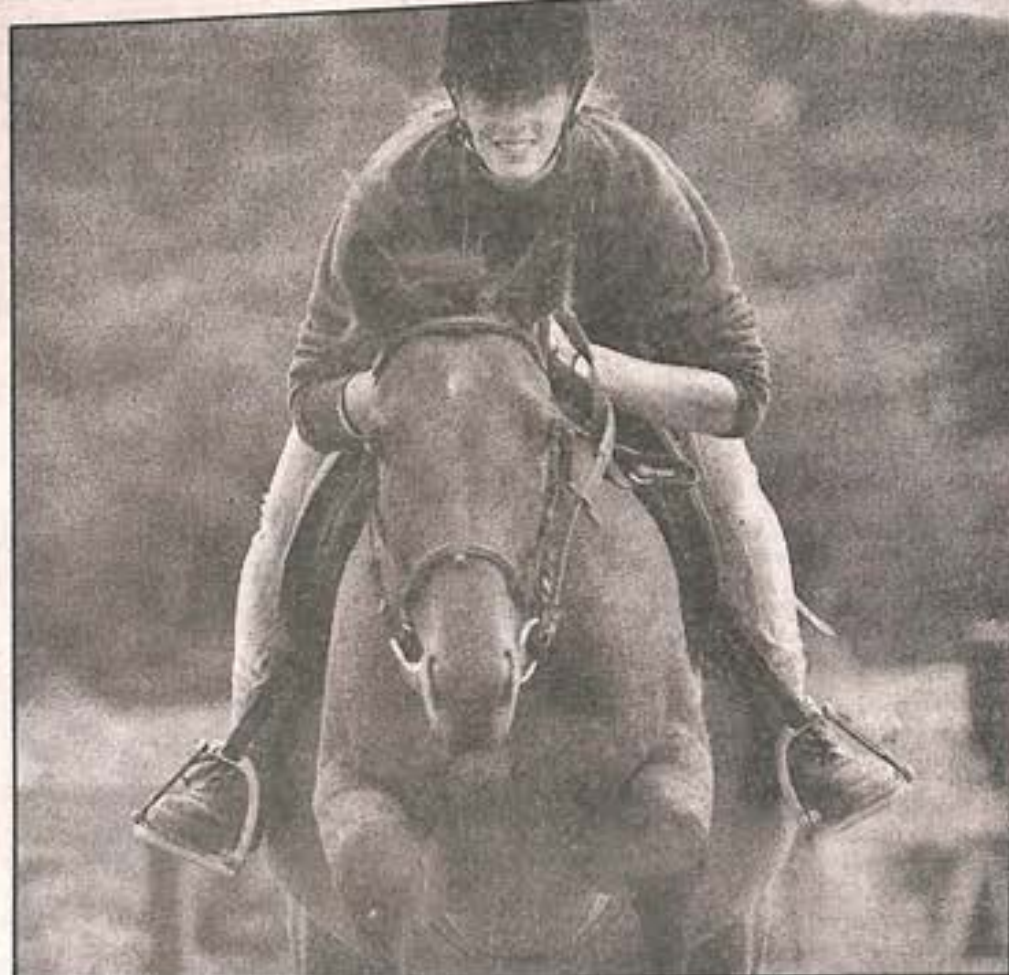
League champions Cork are the form team, particularly upfront where Lynn Dunlea scored a phenomenal 3-9 in their semi-final rout of

Wexford.

The junior final (1.45) pits last year's beaten finalists Limerick (coached by Eamonn Cregan) in a unique pairing against first-time finalists Roscommon managed by the county's 'Mr Hurling' Mick Kelly.

Limerick will be driven by the fact that they were controversially refused a late penalty when beaten by Armagh last year.

But they'll have stiff opposition in Karina Jones and Mary Grehan, who is a dual star like her footballing brother Tommy, except her second specialty is rugby!



CLEARING THE OBSTACLES . . . Kilkenny's full-forward Gillian Dillon, only 22 but already has three All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship medals

It's a familiar refrain amongst camogie's elite, echoed for the past 23 years of senior service by Kilkenny's peerless Downey twins Angela and Ann.

Tomorrow's final will be the eighth between these great modern rivals. Cork won the first two (1970 and '72) and Kilkenny have beaten them since.

"There's fierce rivalry, we're both skilful teams and if the weather keeps dry it will be a great game of camogie."

"They beat us down in Cork in the league semi-final but they had far more hurling than us then."

After six years in the county senior colours is there anything that could possibly make her sporting life better?

"I suppose I personally would like more support and more acknowledgment of what we are doing."

"I'd like to think that eventually we'd be on a par with the men."

Tomorrow her three biggest fans, the famous father, loyal mother and only brother Bobby will head to Croker to watch her fourth senior final.

So what about the horses? "Ah, I think I'll let them out into the fields for the day," she says with a grin.

A day off gambolling in the long grass for the gee-gees maybe but hard work and little fame as usual for their boss.

CORK — K. Costello, E. Duggan, P. Grogan, S. Fitzgibbon, M. Finn, L. Mollenick, D. Cronin (capt), S. Dunlea, F. O'Driscoll, T. O'Callaghan, I. O'Keefe, L. Dunlea.

KILKENNY — M. Fennelly, D. Malone, M. Hickey, S. Costelloe, B. Barnaville, M. Downey, Ann Downey, M. Maher, S. Millea, B. Holmes, Angela Downey-Broome (capt), G. Dillon.

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'Dual' in the crown

O'Driscoll bidding for a Cork double

IN Cork her surname is as resonant in GAA circles as that of Teddy McCarthy who, in 1990, achieved the elusive All-Ireland double which she is now chasing.

Yet few outside women's gaelic circles have every heard of Fiona O'Driscoll and her amazing sporting escapades.

O'Driscoll, 23, is Cork's right corner-forward against Kilkenny tomorrow. A week later she will be back in Croke Park again playing in the All-Ireland junior football final, Cork's women's historic first big-ball decider. Her exhaustive dual schedule is enough to make you weep.

The recently qualified PE teacher from Knockadoon, near Youghal, got well used to travelling the 60-mile round trip into Cork city this summer. The county camogie team trains in the Mardyke, the footballers in The Farm. "If I'd been in UCC it would have been a lot easier!" she admits.

Last year the Fr O'Neill's star captained the University of Limerick to their first Ashbourne Cup (camogie's equivalent of the Sigerson) and amongst her teammates was Sinead Millea, one of the old enemy tomorrow.

When she took up employment in the Patrician College, Ballyfin, Laois a few weeks ago things got even more hectic; a mid-week trip to Cork for training and back, down every weekend too.

To make the school's morning bell mid-week she has to get the 5.30am 'mailtrain' from Cork. "Ah, no, there are other passengers, I'm not in with the post-bags or anything!" she protests. "But it's pretty quiet for the first few stops alright."

Tomorrow, O'Driscoll is one of several dual talents on show. Cork's tenacious fullback Sandie Fitzgibbon is 31 and only hung up her international basketball boots last season. Fitzgibbon, O'Driscoll and Cork have been here before of course.

In four years with the senior 'Rebelettes' she has won two All-Ireland medals ('92 and '93) when Cork knocked out Kilkenny in the semi-finals.

In last year's semi the trend was reversed. O'Driscoll was dropped for that game and didn't make the starters until the second round this season but was delighted with their 5-13 to 1-6



LEADING BY EXAMPLE . . . Cork camogie star Fiona O'Driscoll with her pupils at Patrician College, Ballyfin

CORK FOCUS



Cliona Foley Reports

semi-final defeat of Wexford.

"I just scored a little (1-1), Lynn Dunlea got 3-9! We should have split hers and taken half each!" she jokes.

Yet this is her first final against Kilkenny. "I remember the first one I saw in 1986, I remember thinking I want to play in one of those. This is very special."

Interviewing camogie players before the All-Ireland is a joy but underlines their predicament.

Anonymity protects the nerves.

They chatter enthusiastically when the phone rings while their male counterparts get pre All-Ireland jitters and close ranks. Hunger is a great sauce but no consolation.

"I'm not sure the GAA or the public appreciates how much any player gives, whether it's men or women," O'Driscoll says. "People will always criticise you if you lose or play badly but they don't give you the credit when you're winning. I think that's the same problem for players across the board."

The delicate issue of taking a photograph at her workplace just two days before the All-Ireland then crops up. "Oh yeah! No problem, I'll have the kids out training after school, sure it'll be a great boost for them."

A boost for O'Driscoll too and long overdue. A player pursuing All-Ireland medals in two sports in one season, a rare gem indeed.

Go for it, girls

Limerick in search of first All-Ireland camogie title since '77

BY JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

FIVE Limerick girls, Elizabeth Leonard, Elizabeth O'Riordan, Mairead Treacy, Pauline McCarthy and Helen Clifford, are hoping it will be third time lucky at Croke Park, on Sunday.

They were on the Limerick camogie team which lost All-Ireland junior titles to Galway, in 1988, and again last season, and don't want to make it a hat-trick of losses, when they clash with Roscommon in the 1995 decider.

Limerick, last winners of the trophy in 1977, are due a change of fortune-and there is a feeling in their ranks that this could be their year.

For one thing, they are glad it is not Galway they are meeting again.

That is not meant to show any disrespect to Roscommon, but there is a belief that the Galway girls have some sort of jinx on them, just as they also have it over their neighbours, whose lack of success in Connacht has been put down to that same reason.

Bernie O'Dea, PRO for

the Limerick county camogie board, is encouraged that, earlier this year, in the league, they beat Roscommon. "It was only by a point, but that was a very important result for us now that we are to meet again."

The Munster champions-they beat Cork and Tipperary along the way-draw the majority of their players from west Limerick, with Croagh Kilfinny, Newtown, Ballyagran and Granagh seen as the strongholds.

The game has also made progress in the Bruff area, and then there is young Niamh Cregan, from Monaleen, who is substitute goalkeeper.

There is an amount of experience in the current squad, with benefits, they hope, having accrued from last season's defeat. "I think this time we are that bit cuter and more mentally prepared. The girls have put in an amount of hard work and, clearly, don't want to let the title slip this time", continued Bernie, who lauded such people as Brid Stokes, Marguerite Guiry, Kathleen Coffey, Vera Mulcahy, Margo Connell, June Hannan, Margaret O'Neill, Noreen Lynch and, the ever popular, Brid Naughton, for their tireless work behind the scenes, as well, of course, as their trainer and

tactician, Eamonn Cregan.

Ita Quaid, who has given marvellous service to the sport, will, unfortunately, miss out on the big day. She received a leg injury some weeks ago and recovery has been slow.

The Limerick panel is comprised of: Breda O'Brien, Helen Clifford, Agnes Sheedy, Liz Leonard, Ann Lenihan, Jean Cullinane, Liz O'Riordan, Mairead Treacy, Mary Burke, Deirdre Sheehan, Pauline McCarthy, Kay Burke, Kathleen O'Connor, Vera Sheehan, Carol Murphy, Anna Marie Stack, Celia McNamara and Niamh Cregan.

Newcomer this season is, Anna Marie Stack, with Ann Lenihan having returned to the fold after a break period.

The crucial midfield berths are expected to be filled by Jean Cullinane and Liz O'Riordan. Helen Clifford and Agnes Sheedy are seen as the mainstays of a defence which has played exceptionally well all season.

Limerick will this time be looking for a better return from their front runners, who, it must be said, were out of luck 12 months ago.

When they accounted for a very strong Cork outfit in the opening round, it was obvious that the locals were



Words of wisdom from Eamonn Cregan to his charges for Sunday's final.

hungry for success. They went on to master Tipperary, away from home, and kept the momentum going when disposing of Kildare, in the semi-finals, at home.

There is some disappointment in camogie circles that the county GAA board turned down a request to defer their senior hurling final, between Patrickswell and Ballybrown, for one week.

Back to Bernie O'Dea: "The main reasons for that request were, to facilitate those who support both codes, and to help put the emphasis and spotlight on camogie, for one week-end at least."

We have always had lots of followers from Patrickswell, and the likelihood is, they will not be in Croke Park."

Those charged with responsibility for Camogie

have done tremendous work over the years. Yet, they continue to get little in the way of recognition. They will, for example, travel by train to Dublin on Sunday morning, simply because it is the cheapest way to the get to the Metropolis. In addition, they have to meet the costs of their overnight stay.

"We don't exactly get people rushing to us with sponsorship cheques, and,

so far, we have got nothing from the Limerick county board. The Limerick Sports Store did sponsor our jerseys, and for that, we are grateful."

But the girls won't let all that trouble them when they trot onto Croke Park, where there is usually a special welcome for them.

Roscommon, said Bernie, had never won the trophy before. They is, however, always an ele-

ment of fear about the unknown, and Limerick acknowledge that they know little about the westerners, who finally got over their Galway jinx this year. It must be pointed out that it was an all-change Galway side from 12 months ago for, having won the junior title, they had then to go intermediate.

Limerick teams, and that applies to hurlers at county and club level, have had no

luck at the national stadium since 1977. Limerick, twice, Patrickswell, Kilmallock and Ballybrown, as well as the junior camogie team, have all gone down on the big day.

That could all change this Sunday. Best of luck girls...

Throw-in is 1-45. In the senior match which follows, Cork take on Kilkenny.



Ready for Croke Park: Anna Marie Stack, Liz O'Riordan and Liz Leonard.



Limerick camogie stars, Vera Sheehan, Pauline McCarthy and Jean Cullinane on the ready for Croke Park on Sunday.



Agnes Sheehy, Mary Burke and Helen Clifford

LIMERICK

Breda O'Brien
(Granagh-Ballingarry)

Helen Clifford (Capt)
(Bruff)

Agnes Sheehy
(Croagh-Kilfinny)

Elizabeth O'Riordan
(Bruff)

Anna Marie Stack
(Ballyagran)

Ann Lenihan
(Croagh-Kilfinny)

Mairead Cagney
(Granagh Ballingarry)

Kay Burke
(Feohanagh-C'mahon)

Vera Sheehan
(Granagh-Ballingarry)

Elizabeth Leonard
(Bruff)

Mary Burke
(Glen Rovers)

Pauline McCarthy
(Bruff)

Subs: Niamh Cregan (Croagh-Kilfinny), Bernie O'Brien (Granagh-Ballingarry), Deirdre Sheehan (do), Carol Murphy (Croagh Kilfinny), Jean Cullinane (Granagh-Ballingarry), Kathleen O'Connor (Croagh-Kilfinny), Cecilia McNamara (Ballyagran), Helen Kelliher (Newtownshandrum), Ide Quaide (Granagh-Ballingarry), Mary Lonergan (Bruff).



Bernie O'Brien, Celia McNamara and Kathleen O'Connor, panel members.



Limerick's Kay Burke, Breda O'Brien and Niamh Cregan, looking forward to Sunday's All-Ireland junior camogie final at Croke Park.



Ann Lenihan, Deirdre Sheehan and Mairead Cagney look ahead to Croke Park and their All-Ireland junior camogie final against Roscommon



Goalkeeper Breda O'Brien in action

LUIMNEACH



Ar Chéil (6 chlé) Eibhlín Ní Chláirín, Uí Chatháin, Captaen, Ní Riordan, Breda O'Brien, Póilín Ní Cárthaigh, Síle Ní Gannara, Briáinín Ní Bhráin, Una Ní Shíobhlaigh, Sínead Ní Chuilleanáin, Caitlín Ní Chonchubhair, Máire Ní Longargáin, Ceirín Ní Mhurchú, Chloé Níosaigh (6 chlé) Cárta de Burca, Eilís Ní Lónáird, Vera Ní Shíobhlaigh, Máire de Burca, Eibhlín Ní Chéilleacháin, Máiread Ní Cháighe, Áine Ní Loingeacháin, Deirdre Ní Shíobhlaigh, Áine-Máire Stac, Niamh Ní Chriagáin, Ida Ní Uaith.

1. Breda O'Brien, Granagh-Ballingarry. Bhí sí ar an bpainéal don Chluiche Ceannais anuraidh. At seventeen years of age she has already won 2 All-Ireland medals in Community Games, 2 All-Ireland Colleges medals, and numerous County Championship medals from under-age up to Senior level.

2. Helen Clifford-McCarthy, Bruff. Captaen.

3. Agnes Sheehy, Croagh-Kilfinny. Bhí sí ar an bpainéal don Chluiche Ceannais i gcoinne na Gaillimhe i 1988. She holds numerous County medals at under-age level, a Féile na nGael medal, Munster Championship medals with Club and County, Corn Puirseil medals at Third level, and Gael Linn medals with Cúige Mumhan.

4. Ann Lenihan, Croagh-Kilfinny. Tá sí ag imirt leis na Sóisir le roinnt bliain anuas. Her collection of medals includes 2 Junior National League medals, Intermediate and Junior County medals. While a student at U.C.G. she represented the Combined Universities.

5. Elizabeth Leonard, Bruff. Is duine i Elizabeth a chuireann suim i gcúrsaí spóirt i

gcoitinne agus a bhaineann ard-chaighdeán amach iontu uilig. She plays Gaelic Football and Soccer at both Club and County level. Her Camogie awards include Junior National League, Munster Championship and County Intermediate medals.

6. Elizabeth O'Riordan, Bruff. d'Imir sí le Croimghlinn lena bhuaidh sí Craobhchomórtas na Sínear Átha Cliath i 1987. She also holds a Luimneach Senior County Championship medal, as well as Munster Junior Championship, Junior Gael Linn and National League medals.

7. Máiread Cagney, Granagh-Ballingarry. Bhí sí ar an bpainéal don Chluiche Ceannais Sraithchomórtas i gcoinne Roscomáin i 1991. Ina captaen ar Luimneach nuair a bhuaidh Luimneach Sraithchomórtas i 1992. As well as having 2 Junior Gael Linn medals Máiread has numerous medals from under-age to Senior level.

8. Mary Burke, Glen Rovers. Is sár-imreoir í. She was the recipient of the Luimneach Player of the Month Award in May, 1994. Her medals include Junior and Intermediate

County and she also holds 2 Munster Junior Championship medals.

9. Anna Marie Stack, Ballyagran. Is scoláire í i Coláiste na hOllscoil, Luimneach. She was a member of the victorious team which won the Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde competition for the first time this year. Her collection of medals include Munster Championship and County Championship medals at under-age level with her club.

10. Kay Burke, Feohanagh-Castlemahon. Is deirfiúr í le Máire ata ag imirt i lár na páirce. Among Kay's medals are County Championship Junior and Intermediate medals and 2 Munster Junior medals.

11. Pauline McCarthy, Bruff. Sé seo an cúigiú huair do Phóilín Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann a bhaint amach le Contae Luimní. Pauline has the unique distinction of being the only Luimneach player on the team who has played in each All-Ireland Final which her County has contested to date. She is also the only member of the panel who holds an All-Ireland medal, the Junior of 1977. Tá mór-charn de bhoinn aici maille leis an gceán sin. She holds numerous Colleges, County and Munster Championship medals at various grades, 2 Junior National League medals, 1 All-Ireland Club Championship and 3 Junior and 1 Senior Gael Linn medal with Cuige Mumhan.

12. Vera Sheehan, Granagh-Ballingarry. Is scoláire scoile í ar an duine is óige ar an bhfoireann. Holder of Féile na nGael, All-Ireland Community Games, All-Ireland Colleges medals with St. Mary's, Charleville and numerous County medals from under 12 to Senior with her club.

13. Niamh Cregan, Croagh-Kilfinny. Bhí sí ar an bpainéal don Chluiche Ceannais i gcoinne na Gaillimhe anuraidh. As well as her 2 Munster Junior Championship medals, Niamh also holds a County Intermediate League medal which she won with her Club in 1992.

14. Bernie O'Brien, Granagh-Ballingarry. Imreoir eile a bhí ar an bpainéal i 1988. Beidh fonn uirthi an bob a bhualadh ar mhuintir Roscomáin inniu. Tá stór de bhoinn aici lena



2. Helen Clifford-McCarthy, Bruff. Captaen. Tá taithí aici ar bheith i bPáirc an Chrócaigh ar lá an gCluichí Ceannais agus ba mhór aici é ach an lá a bheith le Luimneach inniu. She was a member of the team which forced Corcaigh to a replay in 1980, played at left half-back against An Ghaillimh in the 1988 Junior Final. She won 2 Junior National League medals with Luimneach in 1991 and 1992 and Junior Gael Linn medals in 1988 and 1993, as well as County Championship medals at u-14, Junior and Intermediate.

club agus lena contae. She holds 4 All-Ireland Colleges medals, 1 Junior National League, 8 Munster Championship, and numerous County Championship medals from u-14 to Senior. She was the August Player of the Month in Luimneach in 1994.

15. Deirdre Sheehan, Granagh-Ballingarry. Is deirfiúr í le Vera atá ina lán-tosach inniu. Is scoláire scoile í. She holds 2 Féile na nGael and All-Ireland Community Games medals. Deirdre also has 2 All-Ireland College medals and numerous County medals from under-age to Senior.

16. Carol Murphy, Croagh-Kilfinny. Is scoláire í freisin. As well as her Munster Junior Championship medal which she won in 1994 Carol also holds Senior County Championship and League medals, u-16 County Championship, 2 County Primary School medals and Munster mini-sevens medals.

ROSCOMÁIN



Ar eile (ó chlé) Áine Ní Leannáin, Mairéad Ní Fálaithe, Orlaíde Fídháin, Deirdre Ní Párláin, Treasa Ní Gbáirteagáin, Éilís Ní Laol, Eimhear Ní Fhearail, Ceiríle Ní Chomacháin, Máire de Nógla, Caitríona de Bóro, Áine Ní Mbailldeirg, Gáit Ní Clonnoill, Pádraigh Mulry, Chun tosaigh, (ó chlé) Caitríona Ní Gbáirteagáin, Mairéad Ní Gíolla Chomhaill, Gearóidín Ní Chorráin, Charmaine Ní Chuaná, Slobbáin Ní an Mhuir, Eadár Ní Eosa, Máire Ní Ghreagháin, Carina Mhic Sheoin, Captaen, Máire Ní Fhionnáin, Ursula Ní Eosa, Mairéad Ní Bheirín.

1. Ursula Hussey, Oran. Is scoláire i Ursula, ach, cé gur duine óg í, tá éiríthe go hiontach in imeachtaí Camógaíochta aici. Won under-age to County Senior titles with her Club, as well as two Féile na nGael and 1 Connacht Junior Championship medal. Cuireann sí suim i gcur-saí peile.

2. Caroline Connaughton, St. Dominick's. Is scoláire i Cearúilín chomh maith, agus carn de bhoinn buaite aici leis. Holds medals at u-12, u-14 and u-16 County levels, 2 Coláistí Connacht medals, and 1 Connacht Junior Championship medal. Tá suim aici sa pheil.

3. Emer Farrell, Oran. An triú scoláire atá ina cosantóir ag Roscomáin, tá morán buaite ag Emer chomh maith. Like her fellow students, she has won several under-age medals within her County, as well as Junior and Senior Colleges and Connacht Junior Championship medals. Cuireann sí suim sa pheil agus san hacáil.

4. Mary Grehan, Four Roads. A teacher joins the three students in the backline. Is múinteoir Corpoideachais i Mary a bhfuil boinn buaite aici lena Contae agus le C.C.I.A. Holds 4 County Senior Championship, 2 Connacht

Championship, and Purcell Cup medals. Was selected for the Combined Universities team while a student.

5. Teresa Carty, Oran. Rúnaí atá sa chúigiú cosantóir ag an bhfoireann. Won under-age to Senior County titles and Féile na nGael titles with her Club. Holds two Connacht Junior Championship medals.

6. Charmaine Cooney, Oran. Tá carn mór de bhoinn buaite ag Charmaine. She holds 8 under-age and 3 Senior County medals, as well as Féile na nGael and Senior and Junior Connacht Colleges medals, and 1 Connacht Junior Championship medal. She participates in athletics. Is scoláire i chomh maith.

7. Hilary Hussey, Oran. Tá boinn buaite ag gach leibhéal laistigh den Chontae lena Club aici, ó aosánach go Sinsear, maille le boinn i bhFéile na nGael. She has also won Connacht Junior Championship titles. Hilary is a Sales Representative.

8. Karina Jones, St. Brigid's. Captaen.

9. Liz Hanley, Oran. As well as her Connacht Junior Championship medals, Liz has numerous under-age and County medals, Féile

na nGael and Connacht Colleges medals. Is Rúnaí le Dlí í, agus imríonn sí cispheil chomh maith.

10. Mary Gannon, St. Dominick's. An tarna múinteoir ar an bhfoireann, tá an-taithí ag Máire ar chamógaíocht idir-Chontae. She is the holder of 7 County Senior Championship, 3 Connacht Junior Championship, 4 Combined Universities medals, and 1 Gael Linn medal. Imríonn sí hacáil leis.

11. Geraldine Carr, Oran. Now a Chemist, Geraldine won Ashbourne and Combined Universities medals while a student. Le linn di bheith in Áth Cliath, bhuaidh sí 3 bhonn ag leibhéal na Sinsear lena Club. She also holds Connacht Junior Championship medals. Her other sports are Squash, Badminton and Basketball.

12. Maeve Healy, Oran. Maeve holds several under-age and 5 Senior County Championship medals with her Club, as well as Féile na nGael and Connacht Junior Championship medals. Is Freastalaí Siopa í. Imríonn sí Peil agus Badminton.

13. Catherine Hoare, Oran. Tá áit faoi leith ag Catherine ar an bhfoireann toisc gur í an t-aon duine a bhfuil bonn Uile-Éireann de chuid na n-larbhuinscoileanna aici. She was on the Convent of Mercy, Roscommon, team which created history for the County in 1979 by winning its first All-Ireland title. She also won several under-age and 6 Senior County Championship medals with her Club, as well as Connacht Junior Championship medals. Tá sí ag obair leis an gComhlucht, Élan.

14. Mary Nagle, St. Brigid's. An Engineer, Mary won 1 C.C.I.A. League and 2 Combined Universities medals while a student. Le linn di bheith i gContae an Chláir, bhuaidh sí Sraith-chomórtas agus Craobhchomórtas an Chontae lena Club, maille le Craobhchomórtas na Sóisear i gCúige Connacht. She also plays golf and football.

15. Mairéad Coyle, Four Roads. An triú múinteoir ar an bhfoireann, is múinteoir Corpoideachais i Mairéad. Her large store of medals includes u-14, u-16, Junior and Senior County Championship medals with Four Roads, Senior County Championship medals in both Áth Cliath agus An Ghaillimh, a C.C.I.A. League medal with U.C.G., 4 Combined Universities medals, an All-Ireland 7-a-side medal with Marino, and 2 Gael Linn medals. Mairéad is the only All-Ireland medal-holder on the panel, having won the Junior Championship



8. Carina Mhic Sheoin, St. Brigid's. Captaen. Tá sé de phribhléid ag Carina bheith ina Captaen ar an bhfoireann ar an ócáid stairiúil seo i saol na Camógaíochta i Roscomáin. Ba mhór aici é an Corn a bhreith abhaile go Roscomáin lei.

Carina will always hold a special place in the Camogie annals of her county as the first person to captain a Roscommon team in Páirc an Chrócaigh on All-Ireland Finals Day. It is a tremendous achievement to have led her team to the Final for the first time, and Carina would be delighted to have the New Ireland Cup presented to her at the end of the match.

Is imreoir den chéad scoth í, agus tá líon de bhoinn buaite cheana féin aici. Now a Post-Primary teacher, Carina won two Ashbourne and three C.C.I.A. League medals while at University. She also won two Combined Universities medals. Chabhraigh sí lena Club, Naomh Bríd, chun Craobhchomórtas Sóisear an Chontae a bhuachaint faoi dhó. She won her second Connacht Junior Championship medal this year. Maille le bheith ag imirt, déanann Carina a cuid ar son cúrsaí rairacháin. Is í Rúnaí de Chomhairle Chonnacht í, agus bhí sí ina ball den Ard-chomhairle chomh maith.

Tréaslaitear le Carina féin agus le foireann Roscomáin as ucht an Cluiche Ceannais a bhaint amach.

with An Ghaillimh in 1985.

16. Patricia Mulry, Four Roads. Is scoláire i Patricia a chuireann go mór lena Club. She won a County Junior Championship medal with her Club in 1994, and was delighted to win her first Connacht Championship medal this year. Cuireann sí suim sa Chispheil agus san sacar chomh maith.

LUIMNEACH

Dathanna: Uaithne agus Bán

1
BRÍD NÍ BHRIAIN
Breda O'Brien
Granagh-Ballingarry

2
EIBHLÍN NÍ CHLÚMHÁIN UÍ CHÁRTHAIGH
Helen Clifford-McCarthy CAPTAEN
Bruff

3
ÚNA NÍ SHÍTHIGH
Agnes Sheehy
Croagh-Kilfinny

4
ÁINE NÍ LOINGEACHÁIN
Ann Lenihan
Croagh-Kilfinny

5
ÉILÍS NÍ LIONÁIRD
Elizabeth Leonard
Bruff

6
ÉILÍS NÍ RÍORDÁIN
Elizabeth O'Riordan
Bruff

7
MAIRÉAD NÍ CHAIGNE
Mairéad Cagney
Granagh-Ballingarry

8
MÁIRE de BÚRCA
Mary Burke
Glen Rovers

9
ÁINE MÁIRE STAC
Anna Marie Stack
Ballyogan

10
CÁIT de BÚRCA
Kay Burke
Feohanagh-Castlemahan

11
PÓILÍN NÍ CÁRTHAIGH
Pauline McCarthy
Bruff

12
VERA NÍ SHÍOCHÁIN
Vera Sheehan
Granagh-Ballingarry

IONADAITHE:

- 13. **NIAMH NÍ CHRIAGÁIN**
- 14. **BRIAINÍN NÍ BHRIAIN**
- 15. **DEIRDRE NÍ SHÍOCHÁIN**
- 16. **CEARÚL NÍ MHURCHÚ**

Niamh Cregan
Bernie O'Brien
Deirdre Sheehan
Carol Murphy

Croagh-Kilfinny
Granagh-Ballingarry
Granagh-Ballingarry
Croagh-Kilfinny

ROSCOMÁIN

Dathanna: Gorm agus Órga

1
URSULA NÍ EOSA
Ursula Hussey
Oran

2
CEARÚILÍN NÍ CHONNACHTÁIN
Caroline Connaughton
St. Dominick's

3
EIMHEAR NÍ FHEARAÍL
Emer Farrell
Oran

4
MÁIRE NÍ GHREACHÁIN
Mary Grehan
Four Roads

5
TREASA NÍ CHÁRTHAIGH
Teresa Carty
Oran

6
CHARMAINE NÍ CHUANA
Charmaine Cooney
Oran

7
EALÁIR NÍ EOSA
Hilary Hussey
Oran

8
CARINA MHIC SHEOIN
Karina Jones CAPTAEN
St. Brigid's

9
ÉILÍS NÍ ÁINLE
Elizabeth Hanley
Oran

10
MÁIRE NÍ FHIONNÁIN
Mary Gannon
St. Dominic's

11
GEARÓIDÍN NÍ CHEARRA
Geraldine Carr
Oran

12
MAEDHBH NÍ ÉALAITHE
Maeve Healy
Oran

IONADAITHE:

- 13. **CAITRÍONA de hÓRA**
- 14. **MÁIRE de NÓGLA**
- 15. **MAIRÉAD NÍ GIOLLA CHOMHAILL**
- 16. **PÁDRAIGÍN MULRY**

Catherine Hoare
Mary Nagle
Mairéad Coyle
Patricia Mulry

Oran
St. Brigid's
Four Roads
Four Roads

CLUICHE CEANNAIS STAIRIÚIL

Ar chéad uair ariamh do Luimneach agus do Roscomáin casadh ar a chéile sa Chluiche Ceannais

Casadh Luimneach agus Roscomáin ar a chéile i gCluiche Ceannais cheana féin, ach ní sa Chraobhchomórtas. Bhaineadar an Cluiche Ceannais den Sraithchomórtas amach i 1991, an chéad uair dóibh araon an Cluiche Ceannais den chomórtas áirithe sin a bhaint amach, agus an chéad uair dóibh casadh ar a chéile i gCluiche Ceannais de chomórtas ar bith.

Roscomáin is seeking its first All-Ireland Inter-County title, although Clochar na Trócaire, Roscomáin, carved its name in the history books when, in 1979, it brought the first ever All-Ireland Camogie title to Roscomáin by winning Craobhchomórtas na n-Iarbhunscoileanna at Junior level. Bhí an Contae chun tosaigh i gCúige Connacht i 1970, '71, '75, '85 agus '90, ach ní raibh an t-ádh leis sna Cluichi Leathcheannais. The present team carries the hopes and aspirations of generations of players and followers, and is determined to bring the New Ireland trophy home for the first time.

Beidh fonn ar chailíní Luimni an corn a bhreith abhaile leo siúd, áfach, go háirithe tar éis dóibh bheith san iomaíocht sa Chluiche Ceannais i 1994. Muintir Chonacht a bhí chun tosaigh ar an lá sin nuair a d'imigh an corn siar go Contae na Gailimhe. Luimneach, however, has three All-Ireland titles to its credit, Craobhchomórtas na Sóisear i 1977, agus Sraithchomórtas na Sóisear i 1991 and 1992. Luimneach reached the Senior Championship Final for the only time in 1980, and brought Corcaigh to a replay before losing by one goal.

One goal was the margin of victory for Luimneach over Roscomáin in the National Junior League this year. An scór a bhí ann ná Luimneach 4-11, Roscomáin 3-11. Pé toradh a bhíonn ar an gcluiche inniu, is féidir a bheith cinnte de gur sár-chluiche a bheidh ann. Both teams have shown tremendous skill and talent in reaching this Final, and it would be difficult to predict whether the trophy will return to Luimneach after a gap of eighteen years or go to Roscomáin for the first time.

Craobhchomórtas na Sóisear, 1995

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
| An Cluiche Ceathrún: | Roscomáin | 1-11 | Londain | 2-06 |
| Na Cluichi Leathcheannais: | Luimneach | 2-11 | Cill Dara | 2-08 |
| | Roscomáin | 3-09 | Aontroim | 1-15 |
| Athchluiche: | Roscomáin | 1-08 | Aontroim | 1-07 |

NA RÉITEOIRÍ



Aine Derham
Áth Cliath
Sínear

Is Réiteoir sean-chleachtaithe i Aine a bhfuil taithí réiteoireachta ag gach leibhéal den Chumann aici. Ní don chéad uair atá sí anseo i bPáirc an Chrócaigh don Chluiche Ceannais. Aine has already refereed both Junior and Senior All-Ireland Finals and has, in fact, been in charge of All-Ireland Finals in eight of the Association's nine All-Ireland competitions.

Is ball de Lár-choiste na Réiteoirí i Aine, agus is lar-Chisteoir agus lar-Rúnaí de chuid Choiste Átha Cliath í.

Imríonn Aine a cuid camógaíochta le Cumann Celtic, Áth Cliath.

Maraon le hAine, is imreoir, réiteoir agus riarthóir i Máire. Is ball den Chlub Mícheál Mac Craith, Portláirge, í, agus is lar-Rúnaí agus lar-Chathaoirleach de chuid a Coiste Contae í. Tá sí ina Cathaoirleach ar Lár-choiste na Réiteoirí.

Maria has been in charge of several All-Ireland Finals of the various competitions, including the Junior and Senior Finals, the Senior in 1994. In fact, Aine and Maria refereed the Senior and Junior Finals, respectively, in 1992. Maria is joined by her daughter, Deirdre, who is an umpire.

Is Priomhoide i Maria i gClochar na Trócaire, Portláirge, agus oibríonn sí go dian, diograiseach chun an Chamógaíocht a chur chun cinn sna scoileanna i gcoitinne.



Máire Uí Pholáird
Portláirge
Sóisear

Na Maoir Chúil

Sínsear: Gráinne de Búrca, Áine Uí Cholgáin,
Máire Ní Nuanáin, Rita de Faoite.

Áth Cliath

Sóisear: Treasa Uí Mhuirí, Briainín Uí Chatháin,
Deirdre Ní Pholláird, Éilis Uí Mhuirí.

Portláirge

Na Maoir Líne

Máire Uí Scolai,
Caitlín Nic Éinrí.

Áth Cliath

Írín Ní Chiarubháin,
Niamh Ní Riagáin

Áth Cliath

CILL CHAINNIGH

Dathanna: Dubh agus Ómra

1
MICHELLE NÍ FHIONNALAIGH
Michelle Fennelly
Carrickshock

2
DEIRDRE NÍ MHAOILEOIN
Deirdre Malone
St. Brigid's

3
MAIRÉAD NÍ ÍCÍ
Margaret Hickey
St. Lachtain's

4
SINÉAD NIC COISTEALA
Sinéad Costelloe
St. Lachtain's

5
BRÍD BHEARNABHÁL
Bridget Barnaville
Lisdowney

6
MARINA NÍ DHÚNAIGH
Marina Downey
Lisdowney

7
ÁINE NÍ DHÚNAIGH
Ann Downey
Lisdowney

8
MÁIRE NÍ MHEACHAIR
Maria Maher
Tullaroan

9
SINÉAD NÍ MHAOLAIDH
Sinéad Millea
St. Brigid's

10
BRÍD NIC THÓMAIS
Breda Holmes
Tullaroan

11
AINGEAL NÍ DHÚNAIGH de BRÚN
Angela Downey-Browne CAPTAIN
Lisdowney

12
GILLIAN NÍ DHIOLLÚIN
Gillian Dillon
St. Lachtain's

IONADAITHE:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 13. TRACY NÍ MHAOLAIDH | Tracy Millea | St. Brigid's |
| 14. EISTIR NÍ CHINNÉIDE | Ester Kennedy | St. Lachtain's |
| 15. CAITRÍONA NÍ DHUINN | Catherine Dunne | Lisdowney |
| 16. CAITRÍONA NÍ CHIARDHA | Catherine Carey | Gowran |

CORCAIGH

Dathanna: Dearg agus Bán

1
CAITLÍN NIC OSTIN
Kathleen Costine
Killeagh

2
EITHNE NÍ DHUAGÁIN
Eithne Duggan
Bishopstow

3
PÓILÍN GHÓGÁN
Paula Gaggins
Na Píarsaigh

4
SANDIE NIC GIOBÚIN
Sandie Fitzgibbon
Glen Rovers

5
MAIRÉAD NÍ FHINN
Margaret Finn
Fr. O'Neill

6
LINDA NÍ MHAOILGHEIRIC
Linda Mellerick
Glen Rovers

7
DENISE NÍ CHRÓINÍN
Denise Cronin CAPTAIN
Glen Rovers

8
STIOFÁINÍN NÍ DHOINNLE
Stephanie Dunlea
Glen Rovers

9
FIONA NÍ DHRISCEOIL
Fiona O'Driscoll
Fr. O'Neill's

10
TREASA NÍ CHEALLACHÁIN
Therese O'Callaghan
Glen Rovers

11
IRENE NÍ CHAOIMH
Irene O'Keeffe
Inniscarra

12
LYNN NÍ DHOINNLE
Lynn Dunlea
Glen Rovers

IONADAITHE:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 13. RÓIS NÍ DHEASÚNAIGH | Rose Desmond | Bishopstow |
| 14. VIVIANNE NÍ EARCHAÍ | Vivienne Harris | Bishopstow |
| 15. COLETTE NÍ MHATHÚNA | Colette O'Mahony | St. Finbarr's |
| 16. MIRIAM DHÉISEACH | Miriam Deasey | Kilbritton |

CORCAIGH



Ar cúl (6 chlé) Stiofáin Ní Dboinnlé, Linda Ní Mhaoligbetríc, Caitlín Ní Ostin, Párla Gbógáin, Treasa Ní Cheallacháin, Eithne Ní Dhuáigáin, Chán (6 chlé) Lynn Ní Dboinnlé, Sandie Ní Gbógáin, Denise Ní Chráilín, Captaen Mairead Ní Fhinn, Irene Ní Chaoimh, Fiona Ní Dhriscoll.

1. Caitlín Ní Ostin, Killeagh. Sar imreoir lena club í. A member of a famous G.A.A. and Camogie family, her sister Marie captained Corcaigh to All-Ireland honours in 1973. Kathleen holds All-Ireland Senior, Junior and Minor medals, National League, Gael Linn as well as All-Ireland Club Championship medals.

2. Eithne Duggan, Bishopstown. An chéad bhliain leis na Sinsear dí. Is iar-scoláir de Choláiste na hOllscoile, Áth Cliath, í. As well as playing in Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde she played with the Combined Universities. She holds Senior National League, Munster Minor and County championship medals at under 16, 18 and Senior B level with her club.

3. Paula Goggins, Na Piarsaigh. An séú bliain leis na sinsir dí. Paula holds All-Ireland Colleges medals which she won with North Presentation and Senior, Junior and Minor Championship medals together with

Senior Gael Linn and National League medals.

4. Sandie Fitzgibbon, Glen Rovers. Ina captaen ar Chorcaigh i 1992 nuair a bhuaigh Corcaigh Sraithchomórtas agus Craobhchomórtas na hÉireann. A National Irish Bank Award recipient in 1992 she holds All-Ireland Senior, Junior, Minor, Colleges, Club and Gael Linn medals.

5. Margaret Finn, Fr. O'Neills. Sar imreoir lena club í. Holder of numerous medals with her Club and County. Gael Linn Senior and Junior medals, All-Ireland and Munster Senior and Junior Championship medals.

6. Linda Mellerick, Glen Rovers. Ina captaen ar Chorcaigh i 1993 nuair a bhuaigh Corcaigh an Craobhchomórtas na hÉireann. Linda also holds All-Ireland Club, Minor and Junior and Gael Linn medals. A recipient of the National Irish Bank and

Jury's Sports Awards in 1993.

7. Denise Cronin, Glen Rovers. Captaen.

8. Stephanie Dunlea, Glen Rovers. Bhí sí ar an bpainéal don Chluiche Ceannais i gcoinne An Ghailimhe i 1993. As well as holding Corn Puirseáil and Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde medals while attending Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh, Stephanie played on the Combined Universities team. Has medals at Senior County and Munster Club Championship with her club.

9. Fiona O'Driscoll, Fr. O'Neills. An triú bliain ar fhoireann na Sinsear dí. d'Imir sí leis na Mionúir agus na Sóisir. Captained Coláiste na hOllscoile, Luimneach, to victory in Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde. Bhí sí ina captaen ar fhoireann na n-Ollscoileanna nuair a bhuaigh siúd ar fhoireann na gColáistí i mbliana. She also holds 1 Corn Puirseáil medal.

10. Therese O'Callaghan, Glen Rovers. Ina captaen ar a Club, Fanaith an Ghleana, a bhuaigh Craobhchomórtas Idir-Chlub na hÉireann i 1990. Holder of 9 Senior County Championship medals one of which she won with Na Fianna, Áth Cliath, Senior All-Ireland Championship, National League, Gael Linn and All-Ireland Club seven-a-side medals.

11. Irene O'Keeffe, Inniscarra. An cúigiú bliain di ar fhoireann na Sinsear, cé gur imir sí leis na Sóisir agus na Mionúir. Has numerous medals and was the recipient of the Player of the Match Award in the 1992 Final.

12. Lynn Dunlea, Glen Rovers. Is deirfiúir í le Stephanie atá ag imirt i lár na páirce. Lynn holds Gael Linn, All-Ireland Senior Championship, National League and All-Ireland Club Championship medals. Is iar-scoláire Coláiste Mhuire gan Smal, Luimneach, í.

13. Rose Desmond, Bishopstown. Iar-



7. Denise Cronin, Glen Rovers. Captaen. An ceathrú bliain di ar fhoireann na Sinsear, cé gur imir sí leis na Sóisir agus na Mionúir. Is iar-scoláire Clochar Naomh Uinsíonn í. Denise has won All-Ireland Club Championship medals with her Club. She also has All-Ireland Senior Championship, National League and Gael Linn medals.

Rúnaí de chuid Choiste Contae Chorcaí i d'Imir sí le Mionúir agus Sóisir Chorcaí. Ashbourne Cup medals with U.C.C., Gael Linn, Senior National League and Championship and Club medals.

14. Vivienne Harris, Bishopstown. An chéad bhliain di ar fhoireann na Sinsear. Is scoláire scoile i gClochar Naomh Uinsíonn í. Vivienne was Féile na nGael Skills winner in 1992. Holds Junior and Senior Gael Linn and National League medals. Recipient of Munster Sports Star Award and Senior B Championship medals with her club.

15. Colette O'Mahony, St. Finbarr's. Represented Corcaigh in Féile na nGael Skills competition in 1981. Ina captaen an fhoireann na Mionúir a bhuaigh Craobhchomórtas na hÉireann i 1983. Holds All-Ireland Senior, Minor, Senior National League and Gael Linn medals.

16. Miriam Deasey, Kilbritton. Óg-imreoir i Miriam. She is the holder of Munster under-16 and 18 medals. Miriam has also won honours at Colleges level.

CILL CHAINNIGH



Ar chúl (ó chlé) Shéan O'Grada, Tráimh, Caitríona Ní Dúla, Gillian Ní Dúla, Profúseas Shora, Sinéad Ní Gillaí, Bhríghde Ní Caonáin, Aine Ní Dúlaigh, Eilís Ní Chinnéide, Máire Ní Bheanáin, Bríd Ní Thomáin, Sinéad Ní Costelloe, Tracy Ní Mhaoláidh, Imelda Ní Chinnéide. Chomharthaigh (a chlé) Deirdre Ní Dúlaigh, Deirdre Ní Shuilleabháin, Caitríona Ní Chinnéide, Máire Ní Crailb, Aine Ní Dúlaigh, Captaen, Bríd Bheanáin, Máire Ní Fé, Michelle Ní Dúlaigh, Deirdre Ní Mhaoláin, Sinéad Ní Mhaoláidh, Marina Ní Dúlaigh, Gail de Brún, Aisling Ní Ráin.

1. Michelle Fennelly, Carrickshock. An dara bliain ar fhoireann na sinsear di. A cousin of the famous Fennelly family of which Kevin played in goal for the senior hurlers. Niece of Mary, a former winning Captain of the Senior Camogie team and a former Uachtarán. Carn bonn buaite aici: 1 All-Ireland Senior and 1 All-Ireland Minor medal, also holds Leinster Minor and Colleges, County Championship u-14 and County Primary schools medals.

2. Deirdre Malone, St. Brigid's. Sí seo an ceathrú bliain déag ar fhoireann na sinsear di. One of the most experienced of the team, Deirdre holds 9 Senior All-Ireland Championship medals, 7 Senior National League and 2 Senior Gael Linn medals, together with a host of Colleges and County Championship medals at several levels. Ba mhór aici é an deichiú bonn a bhuaicint inniu.

3. Margaret Hickey, St. Lachtain's. An dara bliain ag imirt le foireann na sinsear di, tá stór mór de bhoinn cheana féin aici. Holds 1 Senior All-Ireland Championship medal, 1 All-Ireland Minor Championship and 1 Féile na nGael medal, Leinster Junior, Minor, u-14 and Colleges medals, 1 Corn Phuirseil medal at third level, and several County Championship medals at Bunscoileanna, u-14, u-18, u-21 and Senior B levels.

4. Sinéad Costelloe, St. Lachtain's. d'imir sí le Mionúir agus le Sóisir Chill Chainnigh agus bhain sí

foireann na Sinsear amach i 1993. Has played at u-14, u-18 and u-21 within the County and holds County Championship medals in each grade. Bhuaidh sí bonn ag leibhéal na mBunscoileanna ina contae féin. Holds 1 Senior All-Ireland Championship and Senior National League medal and Minor Championship medal. Her mother, Maura Cassin, played with Cill Chainnigh in its first two Senior Finals in 1970 and 1972.

5. Bridget Barnaville, Lisdowney. d'imir sí leis na Sinsear don chéad uair i 1990 taréis di imirt leis na Sóisir agus na Mionúir. Holds u-14, u-18, u-21, Senior and Junior County Championship medals, with pride of place going to her 2 Senior All-Ireland Championship, 2 National League, 1 All-Ireland Club Championship, 2 All-Ireland Minor medals and Leinster Club Championship medals.

6. Marina Downey, Lisdowney. Ag imirt le foireann na Sinsear ó 1987 i leith, is iar-imreoir de chuid na Mionúir i. Another player with several Leinster Championship, County Championship and Leinster Colleges medals to her credit, she holds 5 Senior All-Ireland Championship, 6 Senior National League, 2 Senior Gael Linn medals and 1 All-Ireland Club Championship medal.

7. Ann Downey, Lisdowney. Ní raibh inti ach cailín óg scoile nuair a chéad-imir sí le Cill Chainnigh i 1973. Twenty-two years have brought Ann many deserved honours including 12 Senior All-Ireland

Championship, 8 Senior National League and 10 Senior Gael Linn medals. She won her first Senior All-Ireland medal on her first appearance in an All-Ireland Final in 1974 when Cill Chainnigh won its first All-Ireland title. She won 6 All-Ireland Club Championship medals with St. Paul's and 1 All-Ireland Club Championship medal with Lisdowney. Bhí sí ag imirt le Coláiste Bhríde, Callain, nuair a bhuaidh an scoil Craobhchomórtas an n-Iarbhunscoileanna, Sinsear agus Sóisear. To add to her vast collection of medals, with her twin sister, Angela, she was the joint winner of the B&I Award in 1986 and 1989. She was the first winner of the National Irish Bank Award in 1991. Together with Angela, Ann was the joint winner of the National Irish Bank Award in 1994, thus, becoming the first player to receive 2 National Irish Bank Awards. Ann is also the holder of International Squash Caps and Inter-Provincial Hockey Cup Winners medal.

8. Maria Maher, Tullaroan. Óg-imreoir eile a thosaigh ag imirt leis na Sinsear i 1993. Another to carry on the family Camogie tradition as her mother Breda Cassin, twin sister of Maura Cassin and aunt of Sinéad Costelloe, played with Cill Chainnigh in its first two All-Ireland Finals of 1970 and 1972. She holds 1 All-Ireland Senior Championship and 1 National League and 1 Minor All-Ireland Championship, Bunscoileanna, u-14 medals. d'imir sí le Coláiste Bhríde, Callain, lena bhuaidh sí Craobhchomórtas na n-Iarbhunscoileanna, Sinsear agus Sóisear.

9. Sinéad Millea, St. Brigid's. d'imir sí le foireann na Sinsear don chéad uair i 1991. Another Coláiste Bhríde, Callain, player, she captained her school to All-Ireland Junior Colleges victory in 1990 and, in all, won 2 Junior and 2 Senior All-Ireland Colleges medals. Also holds 2 All-Ireland Senior Championship, 1 Senior Gael Linn, 2 Senior National League, 3 All-Ireland Minor, and Bunscoileanna, u-14, u-18, u-21 and Senior County Championship medals.

10. Breda Holmes, Tullaroan. Bhuaidh sí Gradam B&I in 1987. Former captain of Carysfort Training College team, she holds 6 All-Ireland, 5 Senior National League, Club Championship and Senior Gael Linn medals.

11. Angela Downey, Lisdowney. Captaen.

12. Gillian Dillon, St. Lachtain's. Sí seo an séú bliain ag imirt leis na Sinsear di agus, cosúil lena lán dá comhimreoir, tá bonn buaite ag gach leibhéal ó an Bunscoileanna aníos aici laistigh dá contae féin. Is the holder of 3 Senior and 2 Minor All-Ireland Championship medals, 3 National League and 2 Senior Gael Linn medals, as well as numerous Colleges and County Championship medals.

13. Tracy Millea, St. Brigid's. Is deirfiúr le Sinéad i agus d'imir sí le foireann na Sinsear don chéad uair i 1991. Tá bonn buaite aici ag gach leibhéal laistigh dá contae - faoi 14, 18, 21 agus Bunscoileanna. Holds Leinster Colleges medals, as well as 2 All-Ireland Minor and 2 All-Ireland Senior Championship medals, 1 Gael Linn Championship, and 1 Senior National League



11. Ainegeal Ní Dhúnaigh, Lios Dúnaigh. Captaen. Gan amhras, beidh buan-áit i stair na Camógaloichta aici. She first donned the black and amber in 1972 as a very young schoolgirl, has played in thirteen of the fourteen Finals which Cill Chainnigh has contested and has won twelve Senior All-Ireland Championship medals. Bhuaidh sí Gradam Texaco i 1986, Gradam an B&I i 1977, 1986 and 1989, agus Gradam Taitte i 1984, '85, '86. She was the co-recipient, with her sister, Ann, of the National Irish Bank Award in 1994. Her enormous collection of medals include 8 Senior National League, 10 Senior Gael Linn, 6 All-Ireland Club Championship, All-Ireland Senior and Junior Colleges medals with Coláiste Bhríde, Callain, a Dúthracht medal with Coláiste Phádraigh, Má Nuadhat, and 22 Senior County Championship medals, 20 of which she won with Naomh Pól. Like her twin sister, Ann, she won an All-Ireland Senior Club Championship medal with her present club, Lisdowney. Ba mhór aici é Corn Ua Dubhthaigh a bhreith abhaile go Cill Chainnigh lei mar a dhein agus i ina Captaen i 1991.

medal. Bhí sí ina Captaen ar fhoireann na Mionúir i 1989.

14. Ester Kennedy, St. Lachtain's. Sí seo an ceathrú bliain ag imirt le foireann na Sinsear di. Tá carn mór bonn buate laistigh agus lasmuigh dá contae aici. Holds 1 All-Ireland Senior Championship and National League medals, and numerous County Championship medals at Bunscoileanna, faoi 14, 18, 21 and Minor levels.

15. Catherine Dunne, Lisdowney. Is í seo an dara bliain ar fhoireann na sinsear di, agus bhuaidh sí Craobhchomórtas na Sinsear lena contae anuraidh. Captained her club to win the All-Ireland Club Championship in 1994. Also holds Senior, Junior and u-21 County Championship medals, and 1 Combined medal at Third Level.

16. Caitríona Carey, Young Irelands. Is deirfiúr le D.J. i. Although a newcomer to the Senior panel, Caitríona has numerous medals. She holds All-Ireland Minor Championship, Féile na nGael, All-Ireland Community Games medals, and medals with her school and club at underage and Junior level.

CILL CHAINNIGH agus CORCAIGH

Sean-chairde in iomaíocht lena chéile arís

Le cúig is fiche bliain anuas tá Cill Chainnigh nó Corcaigh, nó an dá Chontae le chéile, ag triall ar Pháirc an Chrócaigh go rialta ar lá na gCluichí Ceannais. Casadh ar a chéile don chéad uair i gCluiche Ceannais na hÉireann iad i 1970, nuair a bhain Cill Chainnigh an Cluiche Ceannais amach don chéad uair ariamh. This is their ninth meeting in a Final since then, while between them, they have contested twenty three of the twenty five Finals from 1970 to 1994.

Cill Chainnigh lost to Corcaigh in its first two All-Ireland Finals in 1970 and 1972. Corcaigh having its marvellous four-in-a-row winning side. Subsequently, Cill Chainnigh won all of the other twelve Finals which it has since contested, defeating Corcaigh on six occasions. Corcaigh won ten titles in all since that first meeting but, in the twenty one years since Cill Chainnigh won its first ever All-Ireland title. Corcaigh has not succeeded in defeating Cill Chainnigh in a Final. Ba mhór ag Corcaigh é an bob a bhualadh ar a sean-chairde inniu.

Chun cur le scéal na gContaetha seo, chríochnaíodas ar chomhscór i 1974 agus arís i 1981. Sé iomlán na scóranna a ghnóthaíodas in ocht gCluiche Ceannais ná Cúil: 48; Cúilíní: 143.

Of that total, Cill Chainnigh scored 27-74, and Corcaigh 21-69.

Corcaigh atá chun tosaigh i leith Cluichí Ceannais a bhaint amach. Corcaigh contested and won its first Senior All-Ireland Final in 1934, forty years before Cill Chainnigh won its first and, indeed, thirty six years before the Noreiders reached a Final. Corcaigh has been in twenty eight Finals in all, and has sixteen titles.

Both Cill Chainnigh and Corcaigh come to this Final as champions, Cill Chainnigh being the holders of the Senior Championship, and Corcaigh of the Senior National League. Bhuaigh Corcaigh ar Chill Chainnigh le déanaí sa Chluiche Leath-Ceannais den Sraithchomórtas. Cill Chainnigh holds nine National League titles and Corcaigh holds four. Their four meetings in League Finals were in the usual tradition of meetings between these Contaetha, with excellent skills, a high standard of play, excitement and great rivalry.

Mar an gcéanna a bheidh an cluiche inniu, gan amhras ar bith. Pé toradh a bhéas air, lá stairiúil a bheidh ann don dá fhoireann agus do mhuinntir na Camógachta i gcoitinne. Si seo an chéad uair go bhfuil urraíocht déanta ar Chraobhchomtas na Sinsear, a bhuíochas sin ar Bhord na Gaeilge.

Craobhchomórtas na Sinsear, 1995 faoi urraíocht ag Bord na Gaeilge

Na Cluichí Leathcheannais

| | | | |
|----------------|------|--------------|------|
| Cill Chainnigh | 1-14 | An Ghaillimh | 1-09 |
| Corcaigh | 5-13 | Loch Garman | 1-06 |

Giotaí Eolais

Cúpla den Chéad Scoth

It is highly unlikely that the records set by twin, Angela and Ann Downey, Cill Chainnigh, will ever be equalled. With twelve Senior All-Ireland medals each, they are joint third in the roll of Senior All-Ireland medal holders. Kathleen Mills (15) and Una O'Connor (13), both Áth Cliath, head the list.

Ó Ghlúin go Glúin

Ann and Angela are daughters of Shem Downey who won All-Ireland Hurling medals with Cill Chainnigh.

d'Imir cúpla eile le Cill Chainnigh cheana féin, Maura agus Breda Cassin. Their daughters, Sinéad Costelloe and Marie Maher, carry on the tradition.

Eamonn Cregan of Luimneach hurling fame has a daughter, Niamh, playing for Luimneach today. Sé Eamonn traenálaí na foirne.

Ba thógáil croi do Chaitlín Nic Oistin, cúlbaire Corcaigh, é gur bhuaigh nia lei bonn i mbliana. Kathleen's nephew, Dónal Óg Cusack, was the goalkeeper on the victorious Corcaigh Minor Hurling team two weeks ago.

Former Cill Chainnigh hurling medal winners, Pa Dillon and Joe Millea, have daughters Gillian Dillon and Tracy

and Sinéad Millea in the black and amber today.

Michelle Fennelly, an cúlbaire, is a niece of Máire Ní Fhionnalaigh, captain of the history making team of 1974.

Ide Nic Uaid, Luimneach, is a cousin of hurler, Mike Houlihan.

Le chéile lá agus in iomaíocht lena chéile lá

Miriam Uí Mhurchú and Noelle Ní Dhrisceoil, selectors with Corcaigh agus Cill Chainnigh, respectively, both won All-Ireland Senior medals with Corcaigh. Bhuaigh Noelle boinn eile le Cill Chainnigh chomh maith.

Bhuaigh Fiona Ní Dhrisceoil, Corcaigh, agus Sinéad Ní Mhaolaidh, Cill Chainnigh, Corn Mhic Giolla Bhride le Coláiste na hOllscoile Luimni i mbliana. This was an historic first Ashbourne Cup win for Ollscoil Luimni.

Gradam faoi Leith

Pauline McCarthy is the only Luimneach player who has played in each All-Ireland Championship Final which her County has contested. d'Imir sí leis na Sóisir i 1977, '88, agus '94, agus leis na Sinsir i 1980. Bhuaigh sí bonn i 1977.

Aine Ní Dhúnaigh, Cill Chainnigh, has been on the team for all twelve of her County's All-Ireland victories. She has never been on the losing side in an All-Ireland Senior Final.

Caitriona de hÓra, Roscomáin, was a member of the Clochar na Trócaire team which brought a first All-Ireland title to Roscomáin, the All-Ireland Junior Colleges title in 1979.

Only one Roscomáin player has an All-Ireland Junior Championship medal. Mairéad Coyle won with An Ghaillimh in 1985. Sandie Nic Giobúin, Corcaigh, was the first player to win three All-Ireland Minor medals. Tá curtha leo siúd aici leis na blianta ag leibhéal na n-Iarbhuinscoileanna, Idir-Chlub, Sinsear agus Idir-Chúige.

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Chuireadar na Bláthanna ar fáil dúinn inniu

MÍLE BUÍOCHAS

Cork snatch glory

By **BRENDAN LARKIN**

Cork 4-8 Kilkenny 2-10

CORK senior camogie team wrote another glorious chapter in their long and illustrious career when they snatched the O'Duffy Cup, silver symbol of the All-Ireland championship, from the hands of the defending champions Kilkenny at Croke Park yesterday in a final that will go down in the annals of the game as one of the very best.

It's been 21 years since the Leesiders had beaten Kilkenny in the final, but the manner in which they finally bridged that gap will long live in the memory.

After playing second fiddle to the defending champions for the entire first half, they picked themselves up superbly in the second period and even though they were still three points in arrears after 50 minutes, their unrelenting pressure finally grounded Kilkenny into submission in those dramatic action-packed last 10 minutes to lift the title for the 17th time.

When Cork look back on this final, their forwards, and in particular Lynn Dunlea will have nightmares about that opening half. Nothing went right for the usually reliable free-taker, and another player would have handed over that job after missing at least eight scoreable frees.

But not Lynn. She stuck with the task, and after she finally began to find the target, particularly in the second half, there was no stopping her.

Backed by the wind in the opening half Kilkenny made all the running and with Sinéad Millea punishing the Cork defence for every indiscretion, the defending champions were 0-5 to 0-1 in front after 15 minutes.

Kilkenny looked a class side in the opening half but for all their territorial advantage, should have had more on the scoreboard. Credit for that must go to the Cork defence where goalkeeper Kathleen Costine, Eithne Duggan, playing in her first All-Ireland senior final, Margaret Finn, Paula Goggins and Sandie Fitzgibbon were magnificent.

Up at the other end the Kilkenny defence were also conceding little.

In fact so dominant were both defences that only one point, to Cork, was scored in the second quarter of the first half which left Kilkenny 0-5 to 0-2 in front at the interval.

Cork came out full of fire for the restart, and after the sides had exchanged points, Lynn Dunlea showed her prowess with a cracking goal to tie the game for the second time.

By now the game had developed into a thrill-a-minute contest, and with both sets of forwards finally shaking off the attentions of their markers, the scores, and in particular the goals came thick and fast.

In the 35th minute Kilkenny captain Angela Downey crashed home a goal from the 13 metre line to restore her side's three point advantage, and they held it up to the 50th minute when she again found the net from the same distance, and Cork's goose looked well and truly cooked.

By now Cork had introduced 17-year-old Vivienne Harris to a flagging midfield, and moved Fiona O'Driscoll out to centre-forward, and both moves were to have an enormous influence.

The Bishopstown youngster began to win a lot of possession, and how her forward colleagues took full advantage. Fiona lofted a 40-metre free goalwards in the 52nd which went all the way to the net, and the flood gates finally opened.

Stunning goals

Urged on by their fanatical supporters in the 9,873 attendance, they ripped the heart out of the Kilkenny challenge with two of the best goals ever seen at G.A.A. headquarters.

Winning possession at midfield, Cork's captain Denise Cronin went off on a run which took her past at least four defenders, before unleashing an unstoppable shot to the Kilkenny net.

That goal tied the game for the third time, and with Cork now in full flight, the Cats were powerless to stop them. A temporary respite for Kilkenny came in the 56th minute when Angela Downey opted for a point from a 13-metre free, but Linda Mellerick wrote herself into the history books with the clinching goal after another great run.

A point was definitely on to tie the game, but her effort from 30-metres dipped at the last minute into the back of the Kilkenny net and with the game now in injury time, insurance points from Lynn Dunlea and Fiona O'Driscoll set in train scenes of incredible jubilation at the final whistle.

Scorers — Cork: L. Dunlea 1-6 (0-6 frees); F. O'Driscoll 1-2; D. Cronin, L. Mellerick 1-0 each. Kilkenny: A. Downey 2-6 (2-4 frees); S. Millea 0-4 (frees);

Cork — K. Costine; E. Duggan, P. Goggins, S. Fitzgibbon, M. Finn; L. Mellerick, D. Cronin, S. Dunlea; F. O'Driscoll, T. O'Callaghan, I. O'Keeffe, L. Dunlea. Sub. V. Harris for S. Dunlea.

Kilkenny — M. Fennelly; D. Malone, M. Hickey, S. Costelloe, B. Barnaville; M. Downey, A. Downey, M. Maher; S. Millea, B. Holmes, Angela Downey, G. Dillon. Ref. A. Derham (Dublin).

Limerick 3-7 Roscommon 4-3

LIMERICK are All-Ireland junior camogie champions again after an absence of 18 years following a dramatic one-point victory over Roscommon which was played as a curtain-raiser to the senior final at Croke Park yesterday.

They looked well on their way to their second title when they led 2-5 to 0-2 at half-time, but in an action-packed second half during which they lost that three goal advantage, Kay Burke became the hero for the Shannonsiders when she scored the match-winning goal in injury time to complete a remarkable hat-trick.

Scorers — Limerick: K. Burke 3 goals; P. McCarthy 0-6 (0-3 frees, 0-2 30s); A. M. Stack 0-1. Roscommon: M. Coyle 2-1 (1-1 frees); C. Cooney, M. Gannon 1-0; M. Healy, K. Jones 0-1 each.

Cregan jig as Limerick win

ELATED Eamonn Cregan danced a jig of delight following an All-Ireland junior camogie final which went right to the wire at Croke Park yesterday.

Cregan's Limerick ladies won their first title in 18 years — but outsiders Roscommon almost snatched an historic victory against the odds.

The Connacht hopefuls, appearing in their first-ever All-Ireland decider, struck what seemed the winning goal when Charmaine Cooney volleyed home in injury time.

It was the first time Roscommon had led, but they were stunned 30 seconds later when hat-trick heroine Kay Burke goaled with a ground shot to turn the game on its head.

Really, it was a cruel twist of fate for Roscommon who had fashioned a remarkable second half fight-back.

Two first half goals from Burke left Limerick 2-5 to 0-2 clear at the interval.

But Roscommon sub Mairead Coyle launched a revival with a goal three minutes after the restart.

Limerick finally got off the mark 18 minutes into the half when

DERMOT CROWE
Limerick 3-7
Roscommon 4-3

Pauline McCarthy pointed and that left them six points clear entering the final 10 minutes.

LIMERICK: B. O'Brien, H. Cillford-McCarthy, A. Sheehy, A. Lanihan, E. Leonard, E. O'Riordan, M. Cagney, M. Burke, AM Stack (0-1), K. Burke (3-0), P. McCarthy (0-6). Sub — C. Murphy for Stack (58 mins).

ROSCOMMON: U. Hussey, C. Connaughton, E. Farrell, M. Graham, T. Carty, C. Cooney (1-0), H. Hussey (0-1), K. Jones, E. Henley, M. Gannon (1-0), G. Carr, M. Healy (0-1). Sub — M. Coyle (2-1) for Henley (half-time). Referee: M. Pollard (Waterford).



EVASION: Cork's O'Keeffe goes past Kilkenny defender Hickey during yesterday's final

Kilkenny lose to Cork's late fightback

SHELL-SHOCKED Kilkenny lost their All-Ireland senior camogie title in a late Rebel raid yesterday.

Rivals Cork pilfered the Cats' crown thanks to a blistering final flurry which saw a six-point deficit wiped away.

Kilkenny, inspired by 38-year-old Angela Downey, seemed poised to carry away their 13th title since 1974. Downey's second of a two-goal salvo 12 minutes from time left the champions six points clear.

But Cork refused to wilt. A minute later, they grabbed a lifeline when Fiona O'Driscoll managed to goal direct from a free.

And a penetrating solo run from skipper Denise Cronin on 54 minutes ended with a low, bouncing shot which deceived keeper Fennelly for Cork's third goal.

That levelled the sides, but Downey struck again with a point.

The champions were still a point clear with just a minute left when Linda Mellerick drove forward and unleashed a dropping shot which again fooled Fennelly.

Suddenly, the Rebels were rampant and two more points from free-taker Dunlea and O'Driscoll sealed their win.

Cork's 17th All-Ireland Senior title success saw them complete a famous double — they landed the League title earlier in the season.

Spoiled

The game, watched by a crowd of 9,874, sprung to life after a listless first half spoiled by poor shooting and a total of 15 wides.

Kilkenny enjoyed the half-time advantage, however, with a 0-5 to 0-2 lead. Downey stretched that to four points on the restart, but Cork hit back.

Dunlea pointed a free and then Cronin's delivery was fielded by Dunlea who hand-passed to the net to level the sides.

Moments later, Downey

DERMOT CROWE
Cork 4-8
Kilkenny 2-10

pointed another free before she claimed her first goal five minutes into the second half.

The ref whistled for a foul on the Lisdowney veteran after she had scored a stunning goal.

But Downey made no mistake from the resulting 20-metre free, rifling the ball past a forest of Cork defenders.

Cork responded bravely with two points, but they had a real let-off at the end of the third quarter when Marina Downey's shot struck an upright.

When her cousin Angela goaled again from a free, this time on the 13-metre line, it looked curtains for Cork. But sheer stubbornness kept them in the match.

"There's great character in this team and we never gave up. It's unbelievable," commented Cork skipper Cronin afterwards.

CORK: K Costello, E Duggan, P Goggin, S Fitzgibbon, M Finn, L Mellerick (1-0), D Cronin (1-0), S Dunlea, F O'Driscoll (1-2), T O'Callaghan, I O'Keefe, L Dunlea (1-0). Sub — V Harris for S Dunlea (39 mins).

KILKENNY: M Fennelly, D Malone, M Hickey, S Costello, B Barnaville, M Downey, Ann Downey, M Maher, S Miles (0-6), B Holmes, Angela Downey (2-5), G Dillon.

Referee: Aine Derham (Dublin).

CHAMPIONS: Cork skipper Denise Cronin celebrates



Cork and Kilkenny players tussle for possession in the All-Ireland Camogie Final at Croke Park yesterday. (Picture: Billy Higgins)



Sandie Fitzgibbon of Cork tries to hook the peerless Angela Downey during the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park yesterday. — (Photograph: Alan Betson).

Cork lay Kilkenny ghost to rest

PUTTING ghosts to rest is a regular pastime in Croke Park, and another was laid to rest yesterday when Cork defeated Kilkenny for the first time in six final meetings over the last 20 years to win camogie's O'Duffy Cup.

A goal by Linda Mellerick with only 30 seconds of normal time remaining saw Cork take the trophy for the 17th time in a competition sponsored for the first time by Bord na Gaerle and which attracted a crowd of 9,874.

Right wing Mellerick gathered a clearance by Kilkenny goalkeeper Michelle Fennelly and after a weaving crossfield run she lobbed in a speculative high ball, which deceived all and crossed the line to put Cork in front for the first time in the game.

"I knew we were a point down at that stage, so when I caught the ball I kept going and just hit it. I was not certain whether I had scored as they were a bit slow in putting up the flag, but the crowd were cheering and then I realised that it was a

CORK 4-8
KILKENNY 2-10

Kathryn Davis

goal," a naturally delighted Mellerick reflected afterwards. "Words cannot describe what it feels like defeating Kilkenny in a final. With 10 minutes to go we were dead and buried, but God must have had a hand in it."

This was not a final for the purist, but for sheer tension it matched the best. The opening period, during which the strong breeze favoured Kilkenny, was a free-ridden affair. Sinead Millea punishing indiscretions with three points from placed balls as well as one from play, while Angela Downey also chipped in from a narrow angle to leave Kilkenny ahead at the interval by five points to two from placed balls by Lynn Dunlea.

The winners' ploy of Paula Goggins marking Angela Downey — the main threat to Cork hopes of overturning a losing sequence —

worked to perfection, while her fellow defenders Eithne Duggan and Sandie Fitzgibbon moved across to close Downey down if she should slip her marker.

Kilkenny made several positional changes throughout the game, some of these were necessitated by illness. Marina Downey was uncertain up to the start as to whether she would actually take part because of a stomach upset. And as a result she was not the dominant force of other years.

Within two minutes of the resumption, Lynn Dunlea narrowed the margin to a point, 0-7 to 1-3. The Kilkenny defence tried hard to hinder her by holding her stick, but the full forward calmly palmed the ball and watched it trickle over the line.

The response from the champions came two minutes later. Angela Downey was fouled in the square and from the resulting 15-metre free she drove low and hard past a stunned defence to put Kilkenny 1-7 to 1-3 ahead.

But if they were behind on the scoreboard Cork were gaining the

upperhand elsewhere. The introduction of 17-year-old Vivienne Harris to centrefield brought a new sense of urgency to Cork and Ann Downey was forced back to help an increasingly pressurised defence.

Angela Downey, from another 15 metre free, extended the lead to 2-8 to 1-5 as the game entered the final 10 minutes. But Cork bounced back when Fiona O'Driscoll took a free just inside the 30-metre line and again the dropping ball deceived the defence to leave the scores 2-8 to 2-5.

Two minutes later skipper Denise Cronin went on a run, and despite the best efforts of Ann Downey she pierced the defence and the teams were level, 2-9 to 3-6, with six minutes remaining.

Angela Downey, with a free, edged Kilkenny in front before Mellerick struck and on the stroke of normal time Lynn Dunlea pointed. But Kilkenny displayed their never-say-die spirit as Angela Downey again stepped up to the 15-metre line in the first minute of injury time. She again drove low and hard but twice bitten Cork had a

wall mounted and the ball bounced and was cleared for O'Driscoll to increase the victory the winning tally to four points.

"After Linda scored I kept saying to the referee to blow, blow, but she said no," skipper Cronin said afterwards, but finally Ann Derham did the needful and Cork rejoiced.

CORK: K. Costello, E. Duggan, P. Goggins, S. Fitzgibbon, M. Finn, L. Mellerick (1-6), D. Cronin (1-6) capt., S. Dunlea, F. O'Driscoll (1-1), T. O'Callaghan, I. O'Keefe, L. Dunlea (1-7, 0-4 from frees, 0-2 from 30s) Subs: V. Harris for S. Dunlea (39 mins).

KILKENNY: M. Fennelly, D. Malone, M. Hickey, S. Costelloe, B. Barnaville, M. Downey, A. Downey, M. Maher, S. Millea (0-5, 0-2 from frees, 0-2 from 30s), B. Holmes, A. Downey-Browne (2-5, 0-3 from frees) capt., G. Dillon. Subs: T. Millea for Maher (half time).

Referee: A. Derham (Dublin)

LIMERICK 3-7
ROSCOMMON 4-3

Kathryn Davis

ROSCOMMON brought the hopes and dreams of generations but sadly no one told Limerick as the southerners gained a measure of consola-

tion for their narrow defeat last year when they won the New Ireland Trophy by the same one point margin as which they had succumbed but Roscommon made them fight all the way for the Junior title.

Few will deny that Limerick were worthy winners but the Westerners will be left to curse their luck that Hilary Hussey's effort to equalise in the fifth minute of injury time hit the upright and bounced wide.

Two goals by the diminutive Kay Burke in as many minutes after twenty minutes appeared to put the nail in the Roscommon coffin as the winners led by 2-5 to 0-2 at that point and that remained the margin at the break.

LIMERICK: B. O'Brien, U. Clifford-McCarthy, Capt. U. Sheehy, A. Lennihan, E. Leonard, E. O'Riordan, M. Cagney, M. Burke, A. M. Stack (0-1 from free), K. Burke (3-0), P. McCarthy (0-6, 0-3 from 30s, 0-1 from free), V. Sheehan. Subs: D. Sheehan for O'Riordan in 52nd minute.

ROSCOMMON: U. Hussey, C. Connaghton, E. Farrell, M. Grehan, T. Carly, C. Cooney (1-0), H. Hussey (1-1, 0-1 from free), K. Jones Capt., E. Hanley, M. Gannon, G. Carr, M. Healy (1-1). Subs: M. Coyle (1-1, 0-1 from free) for Hanley at half time, M. Nagle for Farrell in 52nd minute.

Referee: M. N. Polard (Waterford)

Limerick snatch glory

LIMERICK 3-7
ROSCOMMON 4-3

LAST year, Limerick knew the agony of losing an All Ireland final by a single point.

Yesterday, it was the turn of Roscommon, deprived of glory almost two minutes into injury time in the Junior Camogie final at Croke Park.

It was a match Limerick should have run away with. They were by far the more experienced side and after losing to Galway last year, they had fire in their belly.

SPECTACULAR GOALS

Initially at least, they didn't disappoint. Halfway through the first half, centre forward Kay Burke scored a couple of spectacular goals, completely eluding her marker.

By contrast, Roscommon had taken until the 14th minute to notch up their first point and by half-time, the final result looked a foregone conclusion with the score at 2-5 to 0-2 in Limerick's favour.

LINDIE NAUGHTON REPORTS

Not that either side was playing particularly good camogie — right from the start, the rate of attrition was high, with players from both sides needing frequent attention.

But if anything, for pure drama, the second half was as thrilling as the final moments of the senior match. Mairead Coyle came on for Roscommon and immediately made her presence felt by scoring a goal within three minutes.

Roscommon continued to attack and only some great saving from Breda O'Brien saved Limerick's blushes. They were still trailing, but after 20 minutes, a second goal for Roscommon from Hilary Hussey brought them to within two points of their opponents.

Unbelievably, Maeve Hanley then added a third with just two minutes left of play and the scores were equal.

A match which had looked there for Limerick's taking was now slipping away from them — as the presence of coach Eamonn Cregan running up and down the pitch long before the final whistle proved.

The agony continued. The next score, a point, went to Limerick. But hardly was the ball back in play but Charmaine Cooney looked to have won the match for the underdogs with an unbelievable fourth goal.

INJURY TIME

With three minutes of injury time on the clock, Limerick desperately needed a goal — and it was then that Kay Burke pushed through the defence for her third and most vital goal of the game.

SCORERS — Limerick: K. Burke 3-0, P. McCarthy 0-6, A.M. Stack 0-1. Roscommon: M. Coyle 1-1, H. Hussey 1-1, M. Healy 1-1, C. Cooney 1-0.

LIMERICK — B. O'Brien, H. Clifford-McCarthy, A. Sheehy, A. Lennihan, E. Leonard, E. O'Riordan, M. Cagney, M. Burke, A.M. Stack, K. Burke, P. McCarthy, V. Sheehan. Subs: S. Sheehan, C. Murphy.

ROSCOMMON — U. Hussey, C. Connaghton, E. Farrell, M. Grehan, T. Carly, C. Cooney, H. Hussey, K. Jones (capt.), E. Hanley, M. Gannon, G. Carr, M. Hanley. Subs: M. Nagle, M. Coyle.



DELIGHT ... Limerick captain Helen Clifford-McCarthy holds the cup aloft as her daughter Laura peeps over the parapet at Croke Park yesterday

Cork catch Cats

CORK.....4-8
KILKENNY.....2-10
WHEN you break a 23-year-old jinx, you can expect a little jubilation.

And so it proved at Croke Park yesterday when Cork finally beat Kilkenny to take the O'Duffy Cup.

Since Cork's last victory against their perennial rivals in 1972, they've played in six finals - and always ended up losers.

Yesterday, at last, the losing streak ended - and with all the style appropriate to the occasion. For this was a true cliff hanger of a match, with Cork only taking the lead with a minute to go.

Five minutes earlier, it looked like a draw. A few minutes before that and even the most sceptical of punters would have been putting their money on a 13th win for Kilkenny.

But then came a lobbing ball from Linda Mellerick, struck about 40 yards from the Kilkenny goal. As it floated in the air for what seemed an eternity, it looked like it might produce a lucky point. But then, miracle of miracles, it stayed alive just long enough to float over the heads of the Kilkenny defence and into the net.

The Leesiders were in the lead by 18 points to 16. Another couple of points from Lynn Dunlea and Fiona O'Driscoll and the issue was put beyond all question.

But for all the emotion at the end, this was a match that took some time to come alive. Both sides were clearly nervous in the first half and a swirling wind made matters difficult.

Kilkenny, mindful of their less than convincing semi-final performance against Galway and also hit by illness, attempted a number of positional changes with varying degrees of success.

To bolster up the defence, the normally prolific point scorer Gillian Dillon moved back to the full back position while Ann Downey switched from midfield to the left wing.

As the match began, the first of many frees was given away by Cork and Sinead Millea took full advantage. This was the story of the first half - a lot of stoppages and too many frees.

Cork appeared determined to hit for goals rather than points, but it was the Kilkenny policy of trying for anything inside their rival's half that proved the most fruitful.

Thanks to the accuracy of Millea and 38-year-old maestro Angela Downey, they ended the first half with the score at 0-5 to 0-2 in their favour.

Mellerick is a miracle worker for Leesiders

ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE FINAL



Lindie Naughton Reports



First blood in the second half again went to Downey before Cork's Linda Dunlea went on the rampage scoring a point and then a goal to bring the two sides level for the first time in the match.

It didn't last long. In the next few minutes, Angela Downey underlined just why she is regarded as one of the best hurlers of either sex ever to have graced Croke Park.

A solo run though the middle of the pitch resulted in what looked like a stunning goal. But this was disallowed and a free awarded. Downey stepped up to the ball, glared at the wall of white jerseys in front of her and then rifled the ball past the lot of them into the back of the net.

Ten minutes later, she did it again, sending another low hard ball scorching through a sea of Leaside backs. So with 12 minutes left of the game, it looked as if this would be lucky 13 for the defending champions and a fitting finale to the career of the greatest camogie player of them all.

SOLO RUN

Then with six minutes left, Cork captain Denise Cronin set off on a solo run. She caught the Kilkenny defence napping and flicked the ball into the net behind Michelle Fennelly. The score was now equal at 3-6 to 2-9.

Cork, boosted by the arrival of 17 year old Vivienne Harris in midfield, pushed forward and twice had scoring chances. Then came that miracle goal from Linda Mellerick - and that was it.

SCORERS - Cork: L Dunlea 1-6, F O'Driscoll 1-1, D Cronin 1-0, L Mellerick 1-0, S Dunlea 0-1. Kilkenny: A Downey 2-4, S Millea 0-6.

CORK - K Costello, E Duggan, P Goggins, S Fitzgibbon, M Finn, L Mellerick, D Cronin (capt), S Dunlea, F O'Driscoll, T O'Callaghan, I O'Keefe, L Dunlea. Sub: V Harris for S Dunlea.

KILKENNY - M Fennelly, D Malone, M Hickey, S Costello, B Barnville, M Downey, A Downey, M Maher, S Millea, B Holmes, A Downey-Browne (capt), G Dillon. Sub: T Millea for Maher.

Kilkenny legend Downey retires

LINDA MELLERICK had a confession to make after yesterday's All-Ireland Final.

The scorer of the last minute "wonder goal" that gave Cork victory did not go for a goal with her long range free.

Indeed, she was surprised as anyone when it ended up in the net. "I didn't think it was a goal - only when I looked at the scoreboard and saw 16-18 did I realise it had gone in," said the elated Mellerick.

Having lost the last six final meetings between the counties, it was a victory to savour for the Cork camp. "Words can't describe how we feel. We needed to beat Kilkenny in Croke Park to bury the old jinx. But with ten minutes left, we thought it was gone," said the goal scorer.

Kilkenny's Angela Downey who announced her retirement after the game was philosophical about the goal that decided the thrilling final. "It was a lobbing ball and they're fierce hard to judge," said the Kilkenny captain.

"However, I'm disappointed more in the manner in which we lost. We had a lot of wides," she added.

"That's it. No more. I'll be taking out the golf clubs I bought six years ago. After 24 years, it's time to do something different," she said announcing her retirement.

"I have no regrets. I had a great innings and some great memories such as the club title Lisdowney won last year - it's not everyday you beat Glen Rovers. And the 1991 All Ireland final against Cork. That was a good match," she added.

Such has been the impact of Downey on camogie, even her rivals were quick to sing the praises of the Kilkenny camogie legend.

Acknowledging her brilliance, Cork captain Denise Cronin said: "Our main job was to keep Angela from scoring, she is such a good player."

And Paula Goggins who had the job of marking Downey yesterday said: "She's still a great player, but it was a great display from our back line - all four players. We kept down her scoring rate at least in the first half."

While Downey may be retiring, another camogie star has been born down Leaside way, 17-year-old Vivienne Harris who made a huge impression when introduced in the second half.

"When Vivienne came on with 15 minutes to go, she made a big difference. We've been using her in the championships. She's only 17, but she's a great talent for the future," said Cork coach Tom Nott.



Cork's Irene O'Keeffe tries to control the ball despite an attempt by Kilkenny's Margaret Hickey to block her in the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park yesterday. Report page 8. — (Photograph: Alan Betson)



SWING OUT SISTER . . . Cork's Sinead Costelloe blocks Angela Downey's shot during yesterday's senior camogie final.



EYE ON THE BALL . . . Cork's Sandie Fitzgibbon controls the ball as Killkenny's Sinead Millean closes in during the Bord Na Gaelge All-Ireland Senior Camogie final in Croke Park yesterday *Pic by Frank McGrath Jr*



CHAMPIONS . . . Cork captain Denise Cronin raises the O'Duffy Cup aloft while (right) Therese O'Callaghan gets to the sliotar ahead of Killkenny's Sinead Costelloe during yesterday's thrilling senior camogie final *Pic: Frank McGrath Jr*



CONGRATULATIONS TO CORK

■ Home are the heroines: the victorious Cork camogie team on their open-top bus journey through the city centre last night.

Picture: Ted McCarthy

Celebrating the dream result

By T.P. O'MAHONY

THE Lord Mayor of Cork said last night that grit, determination and pride had carried Cork to victory in Sunday's All-Ireland Senior Camogie final in Croke Park.

Welcoming home the team, Cllr Joe O'Callaghan said the people of Cork were proud of them.

"Once again the red-and-white flags are flying high over City Hall," said the Lord Mayor, before leading the crowd who turned out in a verse of *The Banks*.

The Auxiliary Bishop of Cork and Ross, Dr John Buckley, said he was in Páirc Uí Chaoimh at the county final when word came through that Cork were trailing Kilkenny.

"Our hearts were heavy, and all we could do was offer prayers, but our prayers were answered and the result was a magnificent one.

"I saw this Cork team playing Wexford in the semi-final, and I said then that there was not a team in the country that could beat them."

Addressing a crowd of over 1,000 in the South Mall, Ms Sheila Golden, chairwoman of the Cork County Camogie Board, said the win over Kilkenny had been the sweetest in a very long time.

She said the present Cork team was a very special one, and added: "Only the very best is good enough for these girls."

Mr Christy Cooney, chairman of the Cork County Board, praised their dedication and said their achievement had been a very remarkable one.

Mr Liam Harte of ACC Bank, who sponsored

this year's team, said it was their intention to continue to sponsor camogie in Cork.

The team captain, Ms Denise Cronin, said the victory on Sunday had shattered the myth that Kilkenny were somehow "invincible" in Croke Park on All-Ireland day.

It was a "dream result" from Cork's point of view, she added.

The Ballyphehane and District Pipe Band and St Mary's Pipe Band played the team, who travelled in an open-top bus, through the centre of the city to a formal reception at the ACC Bank in the South Mall.

Afterwards, the team and officials attended a reception in their honour at the offices of *The Cork Examiner*, where a message of congratulations from the Minister of Sport, Mr Bernard Allen TD, was conveyed to them.

Cork camogie team greeted at Kent Station by Lord Mayor, Cllr. Joe O'Callaghan.
Picture: Ted McCarthy



CUP THAT CHEERS . . . Limerick Junior camogie captain Helen Clifford (L) and her daughter Laura, 3½ and senior duo, Denise Cronin (L), victorious captain of the Cork team, and Kilkenny legend Angela Downey-Browne at yesterday's Bord Na Gaeilge for Sunday's All-Ireland finalists Pic by Tom Burke

Cats are caught on the line

By Enda McEvoy

CORK 4-8
KILKENNY 2-10

WHAT a game! What a struggle! What a horribly heart-breaking finish!

For once the boot was on the other foot. For once Kilkenny, so long the curse of Cork on the big day, had to bow the knee to their old rivals in an All-Ireland senior camogie decider. For once it was the Noreiders who were overhauled by the Leesiders in the final furlong, instead of the other way around.

The sad part of it from the loser's perspective was that this Bord na Gaeilge-sponsored showdown at Croke Park on Sunday was one match that certainly could have been won, and equally definitely should not have been lost.

The champions led by six points with 10 minutes remaining, by three points with seven left and by the minimum margin entering the closing 60 seconds. Yet they ended up surrendering their crown by no fewer than four points.

How ironic such a fate should befall the same ladies who down the years have practically made a career out of pipping opponents at the post. How apt that a month which began in a blaze of promise for the county, with three teams contesting All Irelands, has closed on such a downer. The downfall of the minors, then the under-21s and now the camogie girls brings a whole new meaning to the words Black September.

Credit where it's due! Cork were thoroughly deserving winners of their 17th title, as indeed the Cats would have been of their 13th had they managed to hang on for a couple of minutes more. Having squandered a dishearteningly large string of scoring opportunities in the first half, the challengers spent most of the second period on the back foot, overpowered by 20 minutes of splendid hurling from Kilkenny.

But they never lost their shape - not too badly, anyway - and they never dropped their heads. And if it can be argued that luck went the Rebel's way at the crunch in the shape of one deflected goal and attempted point that dropped short and wound up in the back of the opposition net, the simple reply is that they made their own luck. True champions, alright.

Ann Derham, the lady in charge, applied the letter of the law and awarded 41 frees during the course of the hour, or two frees every three minutes. Add in wides (of which Cork had 12 and the Noreiders 10), puckouts, 30's and lineballs and the result is a game in which literally no minute went

by without stoppage.

The players were frustrated. The supporters in the 10,000 attendance were frustrated. One imagines that the guest of honour, President Mary Robinson can't have been too impressed either.

If camogie is to hold and improve on its appeal, not drive participants and spectators demented, an urgent review of the rules by the powers-that-be is essential. As for Ms Derham, it might be respectfully suggested that a convenient blind eye on her part to many of the more harmless offences would have been of enormous assistance in allowing the game to flow.

Why did Kilkenny lose their stewardship of the O'Duffy Cup? Partly because they failed to build up a big enough lead when they enjoyed the dubious advantage of the stiff, swirling wind in the first half. Partly because all but two of the team made the scoresheet partly because of those four goals they conceded, at least two of which were distinctly avoidable.

Ultimately, however riposte, they failed for the reason, facile as it may appear to some, that this just wasn't their day. You can't legislate for goals like those scored by Denise Cronin and Linda Mellerick - and when you concede them so late in the game, there isn't much you can do by way of a riposte.

The statement in the previous paragraph about the losers not making as much use as of the elements as they might have should not be allowed to obscure the fact that Angela Downey and her colleagues were seriously flattered by their interval lead of 0-5 to 0-2. The Cat's scores all came in the opening quarter, three from placed balls converted by Sinead Millea, another from play by the same lady after excellent work under the new Cusack Stand by the captain, and the remaining point by Angela herself following good build-up play by Ann and Marina Downey.

From the 15th minute onwards the flow was very much in the direction of the Railway End. The Leesiders seized control at midfield and poured forward, forcing the tide holders into the concession of 14 frees during the half. In contrast to her opposite number Kathleen Costine, whose only way of working up a sweat was to take the puckouts, Michelle Fennelly was called into action on several occasions. But for the fact that Lynn Dunlea, who normally pops them over in her sleep, was completely off her striking, Cork could have retired for the interval in the lead.

Within two and a half minutes of the restart they were level when an exchange of frees by Angela Downey and Lynn Dunlea was followed by Denise Cronin taking advantage of Kilkenny's sloppiness in clearing their lines to drive a head-high pass inside to Dunlea on the edge of the square, the full-forward promptly rounded Gillian Dillon to handpass the sliotar to the net. Switched back up the field to mark the Cork dangerwoman, this was the Freshford girl's only aberration of the afternoon. Otherwise she was superb, the one pity being that she couldn't have been playing in defence and up front.

Facing the wind and the odds, the Noreiders didn't fold up. Far from it. Energised by the introduction of the strong-running Tracy Millea in the middle of the park and better able to control their approach play now by spraying low passes around and employing the width of the field, they hurled like champions. As well they might have, seeing the inspirational fashion in which they were led from the front by Angela Downey.

In the past Angela has been brilliant in victory. Here, in defeat, she was quite wonderful. Showed the way by example, harrying, hassling, shooting, scoring, driving terror into every Cork heart each time the ball came her way, even materialising in her own defence when the need was greatest in the dying seconds. The black and amber's most talented wielder of a caman this past 20 years - and yes, that includes the fellas! - did not deserve to finish her career on a losing note.

Her response was instantaneous. First a fine point to reward a smart crossfield ball from Tracy Millea; then a close-range free drilled home through a three woman "wall" to release her understandable displeasure after a coruscating run and rocket shot to the Rebel net was called back by the referee for a foul by a defender. Kilkenny 1-7, Cork 1-3.

Tom Nott's ladies answered with points by Fiona O'Driscoll and Lynn Dunlea (free). The reply to the reply was a Sinead Millea free, a Marina Downey ground shot that came back off an upright and then, 17 minutes from time, a second Angela goal from a free, this one penalising a foul on the younger Millea.

When 2-8 to 1-5 to the good, and with Sinead Costelloe and Ann Downey gobbling up and returning with interest every thoughtless high ball, the Cork defence obligingly ballooned down the centre of the field, the Cats seemed set to hold on to

what they had if not to downright pull away for a decisive victory.

The lead began to crumble in the 50th minute. Fiona O'Driscoll's long-range free sailed all the way to the Kilkenny net with Ms Derham ignoring two Leeside forwards in the square. Four minutes later, a Dunlea/Downey exchange of frees having occurred in the interim, Denise Cronin, another captain leading by example, levelled the scores (Kilkenny 2-9; Cork 3-6) with a gritty run from midfield and a shot which took a deflection off the covering Gillian Dillon, wrongfooted Michelle Fennelly and plopped over the line.

Pandemonium in the Hogan Stand. Where was the O'Duffy Cup bound for? Would we need another day to decide? Angela Downey said no with a 56th minute free. Fiona O'Driscoll said no with a bad wide at the other end.

The all action Linda Mellerick, fastening onto a weak puck-out, said yes, went for the equalising point. She could hardly believe it as the sliotar's flattening trajectory brought it shooting into the net above Michelle Fennelly's head. Lynn Dunlea from a free and Fiona O'Driscoll landed the insurance points in lost time.

It was no more than Mellerick, O'Driscoll, Dunlea in the second half, Denise Cronin and Sandie Fitzgibbon deserved. It was considerably less than Tracy Millea, Sinead Costelloe, Gillian Dillon, the illness-hit Marina Downey and the glorious Angela deserved. Such, alas, is life.

Happy retirement, Mrs Downey-Browne. Thanks for the memories.

The scorers:

Cork: L. Dunlea 1-6 (0-5 frees, 0-1 30'); F. O'Driscoll 1-2 (1-0 free); L. Mellerick and D. Cronin 1-0 each.

Kilkenny: Angela Downey 2-5 (2-3 frees); S. Millea 0-5 (0-3 frees, 0-1 30').

Cork: K. Costine, E. Duggan, P. Goggins, S. Fitzgibbon, M. Finn, L. Mellerick, D. Cronin (capt.), S. Dunlea, F. O'Driscoll, T. O'Callaghan, I. O'Keefe; L. Dunlea. Sub: V. Harris for S. Dunlea.

Kilkenny: M. Fennelly (Carrickshock); G. Dillon (St. Lachtain's); M. Hickey (St. Lachtain's); S. Costelloe (St. Lachtain's); B. Barnaville (Lisdowney); D. Malone (St. Brigid's); Ann Downey (Lisdowney); M. Maher (Tullaroan); M. Downey (Lisdowney); S. Millea (St. Brigid's); Angela Downey-Browne (Lisdowney, capt.); B. Holmes (Tullaroan). Sub: T. Millea (St. Brigid's) for Maher.

Referee: Ann Derham (Dublin)



Never say die ... Ann Downey who played well in defence and attack for Kilkenny at Croke Park. Photo: Tom Brown

It was the 17th title for Cork

SUNDAY'S victory in the Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior camogie final gave Cork their 17th title. They remain in second place in the roll of honour, while Kilkenny stay in third.

The full roll of honours reads:

Dublin (26): 1932-33, 1937-38, 1942-44, 1948-55, 1957-66, 1984.

Cork (17): 1934-36, 1939-41, 1970-73, 1978, 1980, 1982-83, 1992-93, 1995.

Kilkenny (12): 1974, 1976-77, 1981, 1985-91, 1994.

Antrim (6): 1945-47, 1956, 1967, 1979.

Wexford (3): 1968-69, 1975.

FIRST WIN SINCE '72 - This was Cork's first win against their old rivals in the final since 1972, when they scored a 2-5 to 1-4 success.

Kilkenny's All Ireland showdown debut two years earlier also ended in defeat at the hands of the Leesiders, 3-7 to 3-2. Since then the Cats have beaten Cork in the final of 1974 (3-3 to 1-5 in a replay), 1981 (1-9 to 0-7 in another replay), 1987 (3-10 to 1-7), 1988 (0-11 to 3-8), 1989 (3-10 to 1-7), 1988 (4-11 to 3-8), 1989 (3-10 to 2-6) and 1991 (3-8 to 0-10).

12 MEDALS - Angela Downey finishes her career with 12 All Ireland medals.

The record holder is Kathleen Mills of Dublin, who has 15.



Kilkenny - Leinster Champions and All-Ireland Senior Camogie finalists 1995. In front (from left): Sinead Millea, Deirdre Malone, Marina Downey, Ann Downey, Katie Downey-Browne, Angela Downey-Browne (Captain), Bridget Barnaville. Behind: Shem O'Grady (Trainer), Michelle Fennelly, Gillian Dillon, Sinead Costelloe, Breda Holmes, Margaret Hickey, Maria Maher. Photo: Tom Brett



Hard Worker Breda Holmes breaks past two Cork defenders to handpass the ball towards goal. Photo: Tom Brett



Enjoying themselves at the Cork Examiner reception are Sheelagh Morley, Vivienne Harris, Rose Desmond, and Cllr. Pat Murray. Picture: Norma Oudilley

Angela — walking proudly into camogie history



She's my mum...three-year-old Katie Downey proudly parades hand in hand with her mother Angela Downey around Croke Park on Sunday before the all-Ireland senior camogie final. Angela was captain and scored a total of two goals and five points. Photo: Tony Wright

End of era as Downey retires

By Kathryn Davis

THE first thing that strikes you is her size. For a girl who strode around camogie pitches like a colossus for the last 24 years, Angela Downey is surprisingly small. But if she is small in stature, she more than compensated for that in skill and determination.

Now that silken touch will be seen no more, for at 38 years of age, Downey has decided to call it a day following Kilkenny's defeat by Cork in yesterday's All-Ireland final.

Despite her own disappointment and after commiserating with her team-mates, she made her way to the Cork dressing room in Croke Park yesterday where there was a reverential silence when she said: 'You have waited a long time for this, to beat Kilkenny, enjoy your night.' The words were spoken with heartfelt honesty.

Twelve All-Ireland medals adorn her cabinet, but hopes of emulating the records of former Dublin players Una O'Connor and Kathleen Mills — who hold 13 and 15 respectively — are now gone.

Angela first broke into the Kilkenny senior team in 1972 and ironically, Cork defeated Kilkenny that year also. But in a glorious run, Kilkenny contested thirteen finals since then and were victorious in twelve up to yesterday, with her twin sister Ann also part of that great journey. All the honours that could be attained at club, county and inter-county level have been won by Angela, including the prestigious Texaco award in 1986.

She now plans to take to the golf fairways and concentrate on getting her handicap down from 36. Thanks for the memories, they are many and great.

BIG CROWD AT CAMOGIE FINALS

One of the most surprising aspects of the weekend action was the large crowd which attended the camogie All-Ireland finals at Croke Park. Ten thousand paying customers was a very respectable turn-out for what is fast becoming a major event in the G.A.A. calendar.

We all know camogie can be an entertaining game to watch and Sunday's contests between Limerick and Roscommon in the Junior and Cork and Kilkenny in the Senior underlined this. They provided drama, plenty of action and not a little skill.

R.T.E. gave almost an hour to the highlights so clearly they feel there is an audience out there. Our national station should be commended for their coverage but they could play a major role in promoting the game. Why not a weekly round-up during the Championship season. Croke Park could also work towards promoting the game more.

And on the subject of Croke Park and attendances, why not stage the camogie finals in a smaller ground where the crowd can create an atmosphere worthy of a final.

Cork Get The Breaks And Skin The Cats

Twenty three years ago, Cork defeated Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Senior camogie final by a score of 2-5 to 1-4.

Between then and last week the two counties had met on six occasions at the centrepiece of the camogie season. Every time, the Cats came out in top.

It appeared as if they would again in Croke Park last Sunday, but then Linda Mellerick intervened and the bogey was laid.

The aforementioned 1972 decider was significant for another reason, in that it was a first final appearance for the great Angela Downey. A few retirements later, she was still there in Croke on Sunday, taking her role as captain seriously, and even at 37 years of age, proving herself to be the class of the show.

In the aftermath of the game, the petite wearer of the No 11 black and amber "jersey" announced that she was giving up the game, insisting that this time was for keeps.

Let's hope not, as judging from her contribution of 2-5 yesterday, and the manner in which that tally was built up, she remains the best in the game.

It would have been a fitting finale to a glittering career if Downey-Browne had been accepting the O'Duffy Cup and her thirteenth All-Ireland medal. In the end it wasn't to be and the jubilation was Cork's.

This was not a classic by any stretch of the imagination, but for sheer excitement, it would take beating.

The opening score of the game came from a Sinead Millea free and she was to prosper from placed balls throughout. It was down to herself and Downey-Browne that Kilkenny led 0-5 to 0-2 at the interval.

The Great One raised a white flag soon after the restart, but The Great Pretender (to the throne) Lynn Dunlea struck back with a goal and a point.

Downey-Browne went on one of her trademark runs soon after. She promptly dispatched the sliotar to the back of the net, only for Dublin official Aine Derham to call play back for a transgression by a Cork defender. Undaunted, she drove the resulting free past a wall of white and red shirts.

Soon after, Downey-Browne repeated the dose from another free and it looked like the Leesiders would fail to shake the hoodoo.

Those of us who thought that, did not reckon on Cork's two healthy slices of luck and their own Captain Courageous Denise Cronin.

The first piece of fortune came via a 30 metre free from dual star Fiona O'Driscoll. The dropping ball seemed to catch the Kilkenny defence out and ended up nesting in the onion bag.

Two minutes later, Cronin embarked on a solo run of her own and ended it in Downey-esque style, by getting a goal, to bring the sides level at 2-9 to 3-6.

Downey-Browne pointed from a free to give the defending champions the lead once again, but they were struck a sever body blow immediately afterwards, when an innocuous looking ball from Linda Mellerick contrived to end up behind Michelle Fennelly.

Points from Dunlea and O'Driscoll left the Rebels with a flattering victory margin at the death. Final Score - Cork 4-8 Kilkenny 2-10.

To be fair to Cork, I do not wish to paint their victory as a lucky one, it's just that their vital scores had a bit in common with a lotto winner.

The Leesiders struggled to gain possession around the middle of the field, especially in the second half, when the queenpins to be introduced 17 year old Vivienne Harris to that sector. This latter move by Tom Nott was an inspirational one and had a huge bearing on the eventual outcome.

Another major factor was the control with which Cork's defensive unit played. Between them and their midfield colleagues, they kept Kilkenny's scoring opportunities to a minimum.

The fact that the losers could only notch two points from play throughout the hour is testament to this.

Another telling statistic is that the eventual victors had five scorers. Kilkenny, had just a pair. And at the end of the day that will never be good enough.

NOTA:

Cork captain Denise Cronin is willing to follow other pursuits now that the quest for O'Duffy has been successful.

She told Gaybo on the radio that the Cork girls hadn't time for boyfriends recently because of all the training they had been doing, but that they might just try one or two now. So I'm heading for 'de banks' immediately to beat the rush!



Denise Cronin receives the O'Duffy Cup from Belle O'Loughlin