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SEPT 1999

Scorers: Bishopstown: C. Healy 1-12, L. O'Neill 2-5, B. O'Callaghan 0-10, S. Morley 2-0, V. Harris 1-2, C. Kenny 0-3, R. Cahalane, A. White 0-1 each.
Butlerstown: K. Kelly 0-1.
Bishopstown: R. Desmond: O. Quigley, M. Treacy, S. White, C. Enright, E. Duggan, T. Doyle, V. Harris, N. Cahalane (in) Falvey 1-1, S. Morley, S. O'Callaghan, A. White (scorers); C. Kenny, C. Healy, L. O'Neill.
Butlerstown: E. O'Connor, M. Ryan, L. Kelly, B. Kennedy, A. Kelly, T. Keenan, N. O'Regan, B. O'Neill, E. Brennan, R. Matthews, K. Kelly, V. O'Keefe, M. Murphy, C. Delaney (T. Foley, C. Hennessy, M. O'Brien, B. Walsh).
Referee: B. Phillips (Tipperary).

O'Regan tried valiantly in a very hard-pressed defence.
 Up front Karen Kelly, who got her side's only score in the 51st minute, Aoife Murphy and Margaret O'Brien were prominent in a forward line starved of possession.
 Bishopstown now go on to meet the All-Ireland champions, Granagh-Ballinagarry in the semi-final on Saturday, September 11.

day picking off the score. In the second half Bishopstown continued where they had let off at the interval and did not have to exert themselves against a very inexperienced side whose enthusiasm was not sufficient to trouble the Cork side.
 Still, Eileen O'Connor in goal brought off some excellent saves, particularly in the first half, while Laura Kelly, Tanya Kirwan and Niamh

Desmond was called upon to make only one save, and Butlerstown failed to shoot a wide in this period.
 The home side were very strong in defence with Dearbhla Quigney, Eithne Duggan and Trish Doyle in excellent form.
 And with Vivienne Harris at centre field giving her forwards a plentiful supply of the ball, Sinead O'Callaghan, Ciara Healy and Liz O'Neill had a field

The game was over as a contest after 12 minutes when Bishopstown, very much in control in all departments, led by 2-8 to 0-0 and they turned over with a 4-19 to 0-0 lead.
 In fact, they could afford 14 wides in this period, mainly due to trying to pick off long-range points in the cross wind.
 Such was the dominance that Bishopstown goalkeeper Rose

6-36
 0-1
by Tom Higgins
 THE scoreline tells its own tale of this Munster Club Senior camogie championship tie at Bishopstown, Cork, yesterday where the Cork champions were much too good for a young but enthusiastic Waterford side.

Courcey girls through to the final



Show time: Through to the final are the Courcey Rovers camogie side who defeated Valley Rovers in the Cork County Junior B Camogie semi-final which was played in Riverstick.
 Picture: Howard Crowdy

Courcey Rovers side in final for first time

Courcey Rovers 2-13
 Valley Rovers 2-5

By NOEL HORGAN

COURCEY Rovers booked a place in the county senior 'B' camogie final for the first time by virtue of a convincing victory over Valley Rovers at Riverstick last week. A power-packed first half performance paved the way for Courcey's historic success, with Rachel Moloney and Sarah Hayes proving Valley Rovers' chief tormentors during the opening period.

Moloney was a constant threat at full forward, but arguably it was Hayes' commanding play at centre back which was the key factor in allowing Courceys to lay firm foundations for victory before the break.

As well as ensuring a generous service to the forwards with some mighty clearances, Hayes dominated at the heart of the defence to such an extent that Valley Rovers' inside line of attack, where both Elaine Burke and Sarah O'Donovan showed definite promise early on, was virtually starved of possession during the first half.

ON TERMS

Fittingly, it was Hayes who had the satisfaction of bagging the game's opening goal from a long-range free in the 19th minute which put Courceys 1-7

to 0-3 ahead and effectively marked the beginning of the end for their South East rivals. Rachel Moloney drew first blood for Courceys from a free, but Elaine Burke collected a good cross from Sarah O'Donovan to bring Valley Rovers back on terms inside four minutes.

Three minutes later, however, Sarah Hayes produced a strong run to earn a free which Rachel Moloney converted and, as things turned out, Courceys managed to maintain an advantage until the finish.

Further points from Aine O'Regan and Sarah Hayes, a marvellous effort from long range, followed before Sarah O'Donovan replied for Valley Rovers, who, showing admirable determination, did well to remain in touch during the first quarter, at the end of which Courceys led by just two points, 0-4 to 0-2.

Then came an exchange of points between Aine O'Regan, who had a fine game at centre forward for the winners, and Valley Rovers' Marie Hurley, from a free, before the better-balanced and more-accomplished Courceys' side steadily raised the tempo as the first half drew to a close.

ONE-WAY

In truth, it was very much a case of one-way traffic in the last ten minutes before half time when the switch of Valley

Rovers' Elaine Burke from full-forward to the 40 failed to curb the influence of Courceys' outstanding pivot, Sarah Hayes.

Meanwhile, the classy Rachel Moloney really began to blossom up front for Courceys, who added a second goal per Aine O'Regan after Valley Rovers' corner back, Sinead Deasy had initially made a good interception to foil corner forward Mary O'Leary in the 23rd minute.
 Courceys' dynamic duo, Sarah Hayes and Rachel Moloney quickly slipped over a couple of splendid points to make it 2-10 to 0-3 at the interval, and it was obvious that Valley Rovers' cause was beyond redemption.

To their credit, the Innishannon girls tried hard to get back into contention after the break when the switch of Marie Hurley from midfield to centre back brought badly-needed stability to their defence.

Sinead Deasy and Dolores Crowley also had their moments at the back with Liz Bugler and Sarah O'Donovan caught the eye most often up front as Valley Rovers, aided by an opportunist goal from wing-forward Catherine O'Mahony, cut the deficit to eight points, 2-10 to 1-5, within nine minutes of the resumption. Courceys were quick to respond when danger threatened, however, and two points from the irre-

pressible Rachel Moloney put them firmly back on course.

Marie Hurley had a consolation goal for Valley Rovers from a free near the end, but Sarah Hayes put the finishing touch to a decisive Courceys' win with another marvellous point in the dying seconds.

Besides Hayes and Rachel Moloney, Sinead O'Regan, Marie O'Donoghue, Aine O'Regan and Rosemary Moloney were particularly impressive for the Ballinspittle side.

HARDEST

Marie Hurley, Sinead Deasy, Dolores Crowley, Sarah O'Donovan and Liz Bugler tried hardest for Valley Rovers, who sadly missed the services of the experienced Bernie Shields, unable to line out due to injury on this occasion.

Scorers: Courcey Rovers: Rachel Moloney 0-8; S. Hayes 1-3; A. O'Regan 1-2. Valley Rovers: M. Hurley 1-2; C. O'Mahony 1-0; E. Burke, S. O'Donovan and L. Bugler 0-1 each.

Courcey Rovers: J. Murphy, M. Murphy, C. Hannon, S. O'Regan, M. O'Regan, S. Hayes, M. O'Donoghue, T. Moloney, Rosemary Moloney, S. Quinn, A. O'Regan, M. O'Donovan, M. O'Leary, Rachel Moloney, N. Collins.

Valley Rovers: E. Foley, A. Murphy, D. Crowley, S. Deasy, L. Quirke, S. Burke, C. O'Riordan, H. Bugler, M. Hurley, M. McCarthy, L. Bugler, C. O'Mahony, G. Murphy, E. Burke, S. O'Donovan.

Referee O. Webb, Tracton.

Aug 1999

● **ulster camogie**

THE CAMOGIE YEAR THUS FAR WITH 15-A-SIDE

Has 15-a-side changed the face of camogie? Has it made the strong stronger, the weak weaker? Has it been a good change? Should we go back to 12-a-side? These are all questions which have given rise to fierce debate this year. It is worth taking a look at the situation more than halfway through the season.

There are many ways of looking at the situation. One way is the external. Many fiercely loyal GAA people do not go to camogie games. Some go only when relatives are playing. Many have a look at the standard at a training session in their own club, while they themselves are there for another reason, and judge the whole game on the efforts, good or bad, of those players.

The same to an extent could have been said of Ladies' GAA. However the latter has over the past few years provided a spectacle on TV in their All-Ireland final. Closely fought games have helped but it is the visual impact of football that has been appealing plus the pragmatism of their administrators.

There was criticism levelled in football circles over the amount of injury time played in the 1997 final. The Ladies' GAA responded with the countdown clock, which incidentally vindicated the referee of 1997.

But more importantly this had a big impact in front of the TV audience. As far as I know it is not used at all the football games, perhaps only in the All-Ireland final. This may not seem logical to participating teams, it probably is not practical, but even if it was only a marketing tool, it impressed and could well be as much of Final's Day in the future as the Artane Boy's Band. On such a point Ladies' football have gained much and lost little.

Such small things impress upon those outside the game that it has a vibrancy and it will attract major sponsorship, as opposed to sympathetic sponsorship. In the nineties and in the new millenium image is everything, and sponsorship vital for media exposure and development.

The All-Ireland camogie semi-finals at the start of August gave the Sunday Game viewers their first real chance to see 15-a-side. Judging by the reactions received by this writer, it has worked. Many saw it and were impressed by the whole package. Again it helped that one of the games was close, exciting and only decided by a free in the final seconds which went all the way to the net. That in itself markets the game, as people who have watched closely fought All-Ireland finals in the past from the armchair, have been roused enough to get out of their chair and go

to the next "big match". Long may that continue.

Internally has much changed? At the top level there have been some remarkably high-scoring one-way traffic games - a point unfortunately illustrated by Tipperary over Down in the Senior semi-final. But the Premier county themselves shipped a 9-19 to 2-8 League final defeat to Cork in May. Now they stand one game away from the All-Ireland title! How is this explained?

Talk to the players and they will point to their individual and collective uncertainty of the positions on the pitch as opposed to 12-a-side. A full-back last year did not have to be as mobile, but with full-forwards learning that they have more space in front of them, they are exploiting the slower defender. Some managers are also putting their best forward on the edge of the square instead of the traditional centre-forward slot. Now the



Drumurn - Derry Intermediate Camogie Champions.

AUG. 1999

former centre-forward finds herself further from the posts and with more players to beat before she gets to a goal-scoring position.

It looks as if those quickest to adapt are exploiting the others. Cork with a strong panel of players adapted early - in the league - then came up against a couple of the weaker sides in the championship and destroyed them.

Kilkenny were slower to adapt but learned from a close quarter-final with Galway and were as far advanced as Cork when they met. What developed was a traditional Cork v Kilkenny battle of wits.

Down thought they were changing but found Tipperary were further up the learning curve. That the Ulster side had internal difficulties going into the game only accentuated the difference between the teams on the day.

Tipperary have won 3 minor All Irelands and lost 3 further finals in the 1990's. They had players coming through. 15-a-side has neither helped nor hindered that progress.

At Intermediate level, there have been surprise results, culminating in next weekend's semi finals (August 28-29) between Antrim and Armagh, Cork and Clare. At this level, there has been plenty of upheavals in certain teams over the past twelve months. That can explain Limerick's demise, but what happened to a strong Galway against Armagh?

At Junior level, the teams expected to progress have - and by the expected scorelines. Same at Minor level.

The club championships have thrown up a mixture of the old reliables and the surprise packets. Last year's finalists Liatroim Fontenoy's and Dunloy progressed as expected with perhaps the extent of their victories in a couple of games being the only surprise.

Liatroim kept Lavey scoreless from play in winning the Ulster quarter final 4-12 to 0-7, while Dunloy ran up 5-15 to 1-6 in cleaning out neighbours Loughgiel in the Antrim final. However, is this caused by the change to 15 a side?



Erin's Own Lavey celebrate having won the Derry Senior Camogie title.

Did Liatroim not destroy a strong Eglisish team a few years ago, having squeezed past them the previous year by a point?

The fall of Eglisish was completed this season when they failed to take the Tyrone title for the first time in 26 years. Clonoe defeated them in the semi final and Ardboe then caught Clonoe in the final. That certainly opens up the championship for the future.

In Armagh, there was a repeat of last year's final and the same result. However, if Crossmaglen had taken their chances they would have gone through to the Ulster Series. There was no indication though that Ballymacnab had improved so much from last year to hand out a drubbing to Ardboe in the Ulster quarter final.

Nor was there any indication that Crosserlough

could win through in Cavan and subsequently overrun regular Ulster competitors Castleblayney.

Yes there have been some unexpectedly strange one-sided scorelines coming through the various competitions. There have been one or two of those in the past as well. What makes it different this term is the lack of confidence in their positional sense experienced by the team falling behind and that uncertainty has resulted in these massive defeats at all levels.

It is too easy to blame the change for the results. I believe that the greater experience coaches and players gain from the new game, the sooner the comfort in playing in it.

Of course there will be difficulties at under-age club level. The GAA has experienced the same socio-economic

problems and responded with 9,11 and 13-a-side for the smaller club. Therein lies the solution for camogie - not the condemnation of what does not look like the "traditional" game at the top level.

The show-piece game of the year is the All-Ireland Senior final on September 5th between Tipperary and Kilkenny. Judge 15-a-side for yourself. If you cannot make Croke Park watch it on TV, or set your video as you would for any other live match this summer.

Watch the game in its entirety. Just see if you and your children will not fail to be as impressed by names like Sinéad Millea, Jillian Maher/Dillon, Martina Downey, Noelle Kennedy or Deirdre Hughes as they have been by Jamesie, John Troy, DJ or Joe Deane.



Emmet's Slaughtneil - Derry Senior Camogie Finalists (lost to Lavey).

SEPT 1999

Cork camogie has taken great strides since the foundation of



Cork captain Vivienne Harris lifts the National League Trophy earlier this year.

Camogie girls can take a bow also

Therese O'Callaghan
on camogie

THE Camogie Association dates back to 1904 and 28 years later the first All-Ireland Senior Championship was played.

The uniform was gym-frocks down below the knee, long black stockings, black boots, white blouses, and a belt. Berets were often worn.

As the years went by more knee became apparent, stockings changed to tights, and different colours were introduced.

Congress adopted the new style in 1972, launched by Kilkenny in the All-Ireland camogie final of that year.

There have been more welcome changes since then.

Cork's camogie tradition began with their first appearance in a senior final in 1934. Kate Dunlea, a grandaunt of current inter-county stars Lynn and Stephanie, was the first lady to bring the O'Duffy Cup Leaside.

It also signalled the beginning of three-in-a-row. The same feat was mirrored in '39, '40 and '41.

Twenty-nine years elapsed before Cork faces were smiling again. Anne Comerford's side started a victory run that was to last four years.

Flying

A few seasons passed before the Rebels fought their way back to the top in '78. They lost in '79, but were victorious once more in '80, '82, and '83.

The famous Kilkenny seven-in-a-row took over until the early nineties, and it wasn't until 1992 that the red and white was flying high again, led by Sandie Fitzgibbon. The Leesiders have taken four All-Irelands since, losing out to Kilkenny in '94, and Galway in '96.

Dublin top the leader-board with 26 All-Ireland senior titles, while Cork lie second with 19. They also boast 48 Munster Senior Championships.

The All-Ireland Junior Championship was inaugurated in 1968. Cork contested three finals before eventually taking the honours in 1973 - a side captained by Nancy O'Driscoll.

Again, the Rebel County had to lose two deciders before a second title came their way in 1980 led by Betty Joyce.

Back to back victories came in '83 and '84; the respective captains years were Bernie Murphy and Irene O'Leary.

There was a lean period of 12 years before Cork's return to Croke Park in 1996. The wait was ended when Antoinette O'Connell brought the New Ireland Cup Leaside for the fifth time. Cork have five All-Ireland Junior titles and 16 Munster championships.

The minor championship celebrated its 25th season this year. Claire Harris and Kathleen Costine were the first

two players to bring Corn Tailteann to Cork in '75 and '76.

The treble was achieved in '83, '84, and '85 with the Barrs providing all three captains - Collette O'Mahony, Deirdre Christie and Paula Carey.

The Rebel County is once more in the limelight at this level, with back to back titles. Sarah Hayes captained last year's side to victory, while a few short weeks ago Niamh Bowles led Cork to a tenth All-Ireland title to add to their 17 Munsters.

Locally, there is great pride in playing in the county senior championship. The quality of teams that have gone on to contest the Munster and All-Ireland club titles epitomises this fact.

Since 1932, the first year that the Science Cup was played for, 14 clubs have won it.

The longest reign belongs to Glen Rovers, who between the years of '62 and '68, and '90 and '96 won seven titles.

The club leads the way with 22 titles - the first of these won in 1950. Ardchomhairle introduced an All-Ireland club championship as part of its Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in 1964.

The Glen took Munster honours in its inaugural year, and since has secured eight more provincials. The club's first All-Ireland title arrived in 1985 captained by Mary Ring.

Three more were to follow in '90, '92, and '93. Old Aloysians are second with 15 wins between 1938 and 1961.

Imokilly have six to, the first in 1947, and in recent times, they claimed a famous five-in-a-row from '72 to '76. Killeagh, a club formed in 1973, won five county championships between 1980 and 1988. They hold the distinction of being the first club to bring All-Ireland honours to Cork, and also won the Munster Championship on those five occasions. Eire Og were promoted to the Senior Grade in 1977, and celebrated this move with their first title.

Two more counties followed in '78 and '79. A fourth was won in '85, with

provincial honours too in that year.

South Pres Past Pupils made the breakthrough in 1969, and stayed on course for three-in-a-row.

St. Aloysius School, Lee Hosiery, and Blackrock have two counties, which were won in the earlier years of the competition.

Muskerry, Mayfield, and UCC won in '33, '35, and '36. Sarsfield had their hour of glory in 1969.

The most recent county finals have seen another new name added to the list - Bishopstown won their third title this year, and presently are contesting the Munster Club Championship.

SEPT. 1999

Meet all the Cork players

● **Helen Walsh**, Eire Og: Helen captains the side this year. She holds Munster junior and intermediate honours as well as senior national league. She captained her club to senior B county championship in 1997.

● **Rosalee Holland**, Barryroe: A member of last year's winning minor team, Rosalee also won an All-Ireland colleges senior B medal with Sacred Heart, Clonakilty earlier this year.

● **Ruth Cahalan**, Bishopstown: A native of Galway, Ruth is a student at UCC and plays with the Bishopstown club in Cork with whom she won a senior championship medal this year.

● **Sheenagh Morley-Olden**, Bishopstown: Sheenagh holds senior and junior championship medals with the Bishopstown club and won a minor All-Ireland medal in 1985. She is a sister of Cork City soccer player Pat Morley.

● **Rachel Maloney**, Courcy Rovers: Rachel won an All-Ireland minor medal last year and was also a member of the Cork Senior panel that won the National League. She holds Munster honours at Minor, Junior and senior level.

● **Aoife Murray**, Cloughduv: Aoife was the goalie on the minor team that took the All-Ireland title last weekend. A sister of Cork senior hurler Kevin and intermediate hurler Paudie, she won Munster and All-Ireland minor honours last year.

● **Elaine Burke**, Daine: Elaine holds minor and junior Munster championship medals as well as Junior A and B county championship honours with her club.

● **Clara Healy**, Bishopstown: Clara won an All-Ireland minor medal last year. She has also won senior county championship honours as well as Munster senior, junior and minor medals. She has also represented her country in squash.

● **Jill Hannoo**, Glen Rovers: Jill holds Munster minor, U-18, intermediate and junior honours. She captained Cork to win a Munster U-18 championship title.

● **Linda O'Connell**, St. Finbarrs: Linda won a Cork colleges championship medal this year under the guidance of Kilkenny intercounty star Sinead Miles. Linda holds intermediate and junior Munster Championship medals as well as Sciath Na Scoil honours.

● **Orla O'Sullivan**, St. Finbarrs: A student at the Cork College of Commerce, Orla is the holder of Munster intermediate and junior championship honours.

● **Marie Corkery**, Cloughduv: Marie holds Munster junior and intermediate honours as well as championship honours at club level. She is a sister of Catherine Corkery who won an All-Ireland minor medal last year.

● **Trisha Murphy**, Inniscarra: A trainee accountant, Trisha is a past pupil of famous camogie nursery St. Als. She holds senior B county championship as well as Munster junior honours. She also represented Munster in squash.

● **Criona Harte**, Inniscarra: Criona holds a Senior B championship medal with Inniscarra. She also has amongst her collection Munster junior, intermediate and U-18, and Gael Linn honours. She won two Sciath na Scoil camogie medals with Cloughduv national school.

● **Maireann Harrington**, Newtownshandrum: A sister of senior player Caoimhe, Maireann is a student at UCC. She holds All-Ireland seven-a-side, two All-Ireland senior colleges, junior All-Ireland colleges, Munster senior colleges, Munster junior championship and Cork Colleges championship honours.

● **Emer O'Sullivan**, Kibrittain: Emer was a member of the senior panel that took All-Ireland honours in 1997. She holds senior, intermediate, U-18 and junior Munster championship medals and intermediate county championship honours with Kibrittain.

● **Sinead Buckley**, Aghabullogue: Sinead holds Munster minor and junior honours, as well as Cork Féile na nGael medals. She is also a keen badminton player with the Coachford club.

● **Val O'Sullivan**, Fr. O'Neill: Val has a Munster intermediate colleges medal and has also played in an All-Ireland volleyball final with her school. She is a cousin of Cork senior hurling full-back Diarmuid O'Sullivan.

● **Geraldine Casey**, Inniscarra: Geraldine won an All-Ireland colleges medal with Sacred Heart Clonakilty this year. She also holds Munster junior and minor medals and Sciath na Scoil honours with Clonakilty N.S. She has also represented Munster in hockey.

● **Cliona Meaney**, Inniscarra: Cliona's mother Ann won a junior All-Ireland medal in 1977 with Limerick. Her brother Liam Meaney has also won the Cork colours, while her uncle Bob Honohan is a well known Cork GAA official. She is a cousin of Cork senior footballer Liam Honohan. Cliona holds Munster junior championship honours.

● **Caroline Giltinan**, Newtownshandrum: Caroline holds All-Ireland colleges medals as well as All-Ireland sevens with St. Marys Charleville. She was a member of the Cork minor team in 1997 that lost out to Galway.

● **Eileen O'Halloran**, Eire Og: A member of last year's All-Ireland minor team, Eileen also holds Munster honours at minor and junior level as well as Senior B county championship honours with her club.

● **Aine O'Regan**, Courcy Rovers: Aine holds a Cork Colleges championship with Kinsale Community School where she is a fifth-year pupil. She also holds a Munster Colleges U-16 medal as well as county junior and under-age honours with her club.

● **Geraldine Collins**, Barryroe: Geraldine captained the victorious Sacred Heart, Clonakilty, side who took the All-Ireland Colleges senior B title earlier this year. She holds Munster colleges, junior and intermediate Munster medals, as well as championship honours with her club.

Day of truth as the girls head for Croke for All Ireland



The Cork junior team who will be hoping to win the All Ireland when they meet Derry at Croke Park next Sunday.

Derry stand in the way of final glory

Sunday next is an important one for the Cork junior team who contest the All-Ireland final in Croke Park.

It's the county's first appearance in a junior final since 1997 when Cork had to give way to a superb Antrim side.

Last year they went out, rather surprisingly, in the Munster semi-final to a Tipperary side who went on to reach the final, losing out to Galway.

Qualifying easily from their section in the National League, Cork defeated Offaly to reach the semi-final and here their opponents were none other than Derry.

Travelling north, Cork lost out with Derry going on to take the title.

Holders

In the championship campaign, making no mistakes they recorded a good victory over the holders Tipperary in the Munster final.

The Offaly side they faced in the semi-final was far superior to the one which they faced in the league campaign but they ran out winners after a tough game of hurling.

This game was what the side needed in preparation for the final.

In the Ulster final Derry had a resounding 6-15 to 1-7 victory over Tyrone, while they totally outplayed Roscommon in their semi-final outing.

It's the county's first trip to Croke Park since 1978 when they



Cork captain Helen Walsh is ready to lead the troops at Croke Park.

took the second of the county's All Ireland junior titles, defeating Cork.

Full-back on that team was Mary Lee, whose daughters Eimear and Karen are members of the present team.

Interestingly the only other title won in 1969 was also won at the expense of Cork.

The side is coached by former Antrim Hurler Dominic McKinley who also coached the Antrim side.

Amongst the stars of the side are captain Mary O'Kane whose

prowess around goal has resulted in some great scores through the campaign, while Aileen Toal, a sister of All Star footballer Anthony, and Orla Downey a sister of Henry and Seamus are key players as well.

Thirteen of the side are past pupils of St. Patrick's College Maghera whilst Paula McKenna and Paula McAtamney are present pupils at the college and the remainder of the side are past pupils of St. Mary's Magherafelt.

Both these sides have taken numerous Ulster colleges titles

MAGIC MOMENTS

● **MARY RING**, daughter of the legendary Christy, led her club Glen Rovers to senior county, Munster club and All-Ireland club championship honours in 1986 and 1992.

She also had the honour of winning an All-Ireland junior medal with Cork in 1983.

RESULTS & FIXTURES

RESULTS
Munster Club Championship: Bishopstown 6-36, Butlerstown 0-1.
Junior A League Final: Milford 0-11, Sarsfields 2-3.
JB League Semi Final: Youghal 5-6, St. Finbarrs 2-5.

FIXTURE
TONIGHT
Junior B League Semi Final: Bandon v Carrigaline, Carrigaline 7pm.

down the years and the side are not lacking in experience, with three players having also won Ashbourne Cup medals with UUJ.

The Cork side is coached by Pat Murray, ably assisted by selectors Kay Dunne of Ballincollig, Mairead O'Callaghan of Watergrasshill and Lillian Zincent, Sarsfields, holder of three medals.

SEPT 1999

Teenage star Lyng earns nod

KILKENNY have made two personnel changes and several switches for Sunday's new-look All-Ireland senior camogie final against Tipperary in Croke Park (3.30).

Lizzie Lyng, the rising 16-year-old from the Row-er-Inistolge club and Sandra Gleeson — who both came on as substitutes during their shock win over reigning champions Cork — come in at the expense of Catherine Dunne and Mary Ellen Butler.

Gleeson is named at right half-forward, while Lyng goes top of the left in a Kilkenny team which also shows several notable switches at midfield and in the half-forward line.

Chief scorer and free-taker Sinead Millea, who started at centre-forward last time out when she racked 1-9 returns to mid-field with Kelly Long, and Marina Downey returns to left wing-forward with Brigid Mullaly taking the centre-forward role.

By CLIONA FOLEY

There is a slight injury worry over Mullaly, whose training has been hampered by a hamstring problem, but Kilkenny are hopeful she will feature. And in any case, they have a strong bench which includes the inimitable Ann Downey.

In contrast Tipperary, who beat them earlier this year in the League, have made no changes to the side which trounced Down in the semis to reach their first final in 15 years.

Tipperary, who are still chasing that elusive first senior title, have never met Kilkenny in their seven previous finals.

The Cats will be participating in their 16th final and have twelve titles to their credit. Eleven of Sunday's side have already won senior medals.

History will be made this Sunday when the Bord na Gaelge All Ireland Senior championship final becomes the first to be played with 15 players a-side on a full size pitch.

ROASTING

Tipperary most certainly did not look as if they were potential All-Ireland winners when they were given an almighty roasting by Cork in the National Senior League final earlier this year.

But they got back on the winning trail with a 1-18 to 1-6 win over Clare in the championship quarter-final before hammering Down by 6-22 to 1-3 in the semi-final, with full-forward Deirdre Hughes scoring an incredible 3-4.

However, the Kilkenny defence where Tracey Millea, Margaret Hickey, Sinead Costelloe and team captain Gillian Maher, have been impressive present an entirely different proposition.

KILKENNY — M Holland, T Millea, M Hickey, U Murphy, S Costelloe, J Dillon-Maher, M Costelloe, K Long, S Millea, S Gleeson, B Mullaly, M Downey, M Comerford, M Maher, L Lyng.

TIPPERARY — J Dolan, S Kelly, U O'Dwyer, C Madden, M Stokes, C Gaynor, S Nason, E Hayden, A McDermott, N Kennedy, T Brophy, H Kelly, E McDonnell, D Hughes, N Harkin.

Kilkenny sister act



TRACY MILLEA: "I know from my own experience with Kilkenny Radio a few years ago that, if it hadn't been for the fact that I was camogie PRO, there would have been nothing done on some of the matches."

It was one of the most dramatic games of this year, and most of us missed it.

I suppose the dying seconds of an All-Ireland semi-final, down by a point to the hottest sporting favourite in the land, is just about the best time to make the mistake that wins the game for your own side. Underdogs Kilkenny had surprised even their most ardent supporters by staying within a point or two of reigning All-Ireland champions Cork, and had now won a free well within the compass of sharp-shooter Sinead Millea. Into stoppage time, a draw looked on, guaranteed point, as Cork lined the goal and Sinead bent over the ball, about 40 metres from goal. But, fate intervened.

"I didn't hit it as hard as I should have, underhit it", Sinead recalls. "But I think someone was saying a prayer for us up above. It was

probably going through their minds in the goals that this was going to be a replay, but it might also have been going through their minds, oh god, if this goes in now, we're beat! And when you start to think negatively, things happen. They all went for it, all got their hurleys up, but I don't think anyone got even a touch to it. That's what happens. And it was just total elation". A goal, Kilkenny two points ahead, final whistle immediately, and the shock of the sporting season.

"I was talking to someone recently, who had a bet on for Cork for the treble — the camogie, hurlers, and footballers. 250 to 1, and you would have thought the camogie was the safest bet of those. They were railroading everybody. What they did to Tipperary in the League final was unbelievable, beat them out of sight".

So, Cork were the hottest of favourites. "This year, they were going for three-in-a-row, but that game, unfortunately, put an end to that!", at which point, Sinead couldn't help a little self-conscious laugh. Nothing malicious, mind you, because malice isn't in the make-up of this honest daughter of Ballycallan. But, though still only 24, she's been around the sporting scene long enough to appreciate the irony of the situation. "I wasn't going for a goal, I was going for the point", she admits freely, no pretence. "But, it dropped in. And I think it was Babs Keating who once said, a few inches was the difference between a pat in the back and a kick in the backside". So, well might Sinead have a little laugh.

You get the impression however, that when it comes to camogie, little laughs are all that Sinead

SEPT 1999



SINEAD MILLEA: "I think it was Babs Keating who once said, a few inches was the difference between a pat in the back and a kick in the backside".

Picture: Des Barry

Millea sisters Sinead and Tracy are determined to take the camogie cream for the Cats. **Diarmuid O'Flynn** reports

Millea allows herself. A very serious player, a very dedicated player, she is utterly devoted to the sport, willingly sacrificing much of her spare time and her social life, to training and playing. Born into a hurling family, father Joe played corner-forward for Kilkenny in their All-Ireland victory over Cork, scoring a vital goal; older sister Tracy is also on this Kilkenny side; younger brothers Sean and Niall are talented stick-men in their own right. At the rear of the rural family home, a makeshift but full-size set of goalposts, one post doubling as practical support for the clothesline, bears physical testimony to the seriousness with which the game is approached. "Many a mini-All-Ireland was won out there", Sinead remembers now, with a smile. Many hours, days, weeks of pleasure, sharpening the skills with sister Tracy, coached by a devoted Dad.

It was time well-spent, and the range of skills developed by Sinead over those years of practice have to be seen now, to be believed. At a recent training session, in preparation for Sunday's All-Ireland final with Tipperary, the ball was controlled with one touch, in the air or on the ground, struck with equal efficiency and accuracy left and right, opponents left stuck to the ground by a quick change of direction. Should be seen, should be believed.

THE pity is, it's not seen often enough. "Sometimes, I resent it", says Sinead. "But, you know, it's not as if it's ever been any other way. The first round of the championship, against Galway, the game wasn't even in the fixtures, in the

Kilkenny People. A first round match for the hurlers, even in the league, and it would be all over it, a sports supplement dedicated to it. For a county like Kilkenny, that has been so successful in camogie in recent years, that's hard to understand. But it's sociology isn't it? It's not very fair, but it's a man's world".

There was no bitterness in any of that. Quite simply, in the sports media in this country, men dominate. A secondary teacher based in Ballyphehane, in Cork, Sinead Millea is a highly-intelligent and pragmatic young woman, knows the score. But whereas on the field, she is the one most likely to do something about it when that score is against her, off the field, Tracy is the one. Siblings, sisters, but chalk and cheese.

"We're completely different personalities", says the vivacious Tracy. "Totally different. From a social point of view, I would carry Sinead,

whereas when it comes to camogie, I would stand back, and let Sinead carry us".

On the field, Sinead is in the glamour position, the supremely-skilful, high-scoring forward. Off the field, the role is reversed. Where Sinead is quiet, serious, low-key, melts into the crowd, Tracy is in the glamour spot. TV pundit, former radio presenter, she is the confident, assertive, blonde, the one who will make the presentation speeches on behalf of the team, the one who will get, and hold, the attention of the men. The men who hold the media power.

And Tracy has no doubt what has to be done, to bring camogie out of the dark ages and into the national spotlight. "It's completely up to ourselves", she says. "If we want games highlighted, we have to start doing the work. It starts locally, with the local print media and radio, feeding information to them on a regular

basis. I know from my own experience with Kilkenny Radio a few years ago that, if it hadn't been for the fact that I was camogie PRO, there would have been nothing done on some of the matches. We have to do it ourselves - it's up to us to chase the media, not the other way around".

They are a formidable and talented duo, the Millea sisters, and this Sunday, some of that talent will be seen on live television, as they attempt to win the All-Ireland camogie senior final, against an up-and-coming Tipperary side. Onfield, camogie sees those talents in the full, Tracy's defensive spadework complementing Sinead's scoring heroics.

But off the field, however, camogie could do a lot more, to take advantage of their respective talents. Tracy, born to promote. Sinead, born for promotion.

SEPT 1999

CAMOGIE



Factfile

Tipperary Manager
Biddy Phillips

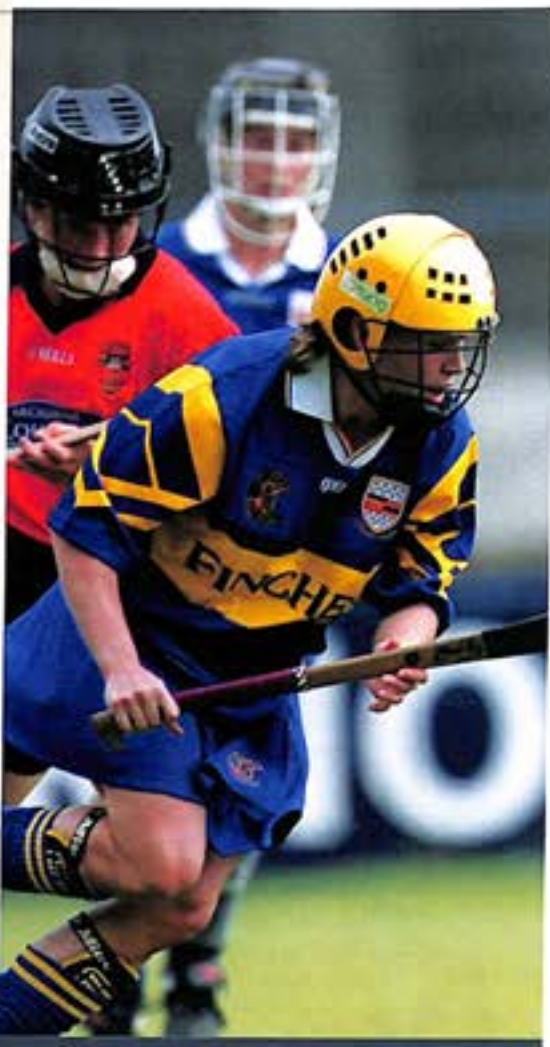
Role: Manager Tipperary Senior Camogie Team
Club: Thurles, Co Tipperary. Played camogie with Thurles. Unique distinction of being the first Irish club to tour America in 1972.

Family: Husband: Jimmy
Children: Sinead, Carol, Leonard and Barry.

Hurling: Son Leonard plays hurling with Thurles/Sarsfield club.

Involvement with Tipperary:
1987 started as a Junior Selector with Tipperary. Won the Junior All Ireland in 1992. Won Intermediate All Ireland in 1997 (manager/coach). Brought Tipperary to the All Ireland Senior semi-final in 1998 (manager). In All Ireland Senior Final of 1999 (manager).

Thoughts on the Final:
It will be a 50/50 game - very hard to predict. Down didn't play well in the semi-final, therefore Tipp looked very good.



SLIEVE NAMBAN

TIPP'S LADIES STRIVE FOR PREMIER POSITION
BY THERESA O'CALLAGHAN

Deirdre Hughes - Tipperary

Club - Toomevara
Position - Full Forward
Championship matches this year - quarter-final against Clare, semi-final against Down
Honours - 1 All Ireland Intermediate Championship Medal (Capt) 1997
1 All Ireland Junior Championship Medal 1992
3 Munster Junior Championship Medals 1990, 1991, 1992
6 Senior Inter-Provincial Championship Titles
2 Junior Inter-Provincial Titles
3 Munster U18 Championship Medals
1 Munster Minor Championship Medal
6 Senior County Championship Medals
1 Munster Senior Club Championship Medal

Deirdre Hughes is a household name in camogie, and is arguably one of the greatest players of the modern era. A full forward, and a very good one too, with a plethora of great goals to her credit. On the first Sunday of September, along with the rest of the Tipperary squad, she will endeavour to create history for her county. The Blue and Gold will make their eighth appearance in an All Ireland Senior Final, their first since 1984. Tipperary have never won an All Ireland Senior Title, but over the past few years


have been building towards this big day. Before you win an All Ireland, they say you have to lose one. Down Tipperary way, they will tell you that losing the National League Final to Cork earlier this year was that one. It made them all the more determined to prove that they were a better side. This was evident eleven days later when the same two teams met in the Munster Final. They were level at the three-quarter stage, with Cork only pulling away late in the game with two goals. Deirdre scored 1-1 that night for her county.

Colm Bonnar and Michael Cleary have since come on board to help the girls adjust to the fifteen-a-side. The red head full forward feels that "the new format has to be the way to go for more recognition, and it is also a lot easier to organize pitches for matches". Although sometime, she admits, in the twelve-a-side, you saw more of the ball. All in all though, it is a step forward for camogie. Deirdre's mother Kathleen was club secretary for a number of years, and is currently treasurer of the Toomevara club. She has been a major influence on her daughter's sporting career, who also cites Roger Mounsey, John Kennedy and Anne Gleeson as people she looked up to since she starting playing camogie at a young age. Pride in her club jersey is very obvious, and when they won the Munster Club Championship in 1995 great celebrations were to follow. Unfortunately for them, Rathnure of Wexford beat them in the All Ireland Final.

Winning came to Deirdre at an early age - U14 and U18 County Championships, and then the first of her All Ireland Medals arrived in 1992, when Tipp won the Junior Championship for the first time ever. That day was a case of third time lucky, as the two previous years they had been beaten by Down and Kildare in the final. Mairin McAleenan, Pauline Green, Bernie Kelly and Valerie Hynds who played against the Blue and Gold a few weeks back, were also involved in that Down team in 1991.

"It has to be Nicky" when I ask of playing heroes or heroines. The current Tipp hurling manager was "sheer class with a great hurling brain". In the modern game, D.J. is her idol, with Seanie McGrath a close second. She rates Angela Downey as the "best I've ever seen - a player capable of performing miracles". As for her own teammates, she says that "Noelle Kennedy is a genius, Emer McDonnell is as fast as light, and defensively Una O'Dwyer is the best in the country".

And that is coming from one of camogie's great stylists herself.

That elusive All Ireland Senior Medal has evaded Deirdre up until now - maybe there is a matter of unfinished business to look after on the first Sunday in September. 

CAMOGIE



Factfile

Kilkenny Manager
Bobby Jackman

No previous involvement with Camogie
Club: Windgap
Played Senior Hurling from 1970-1981.

Also played at Intermediate and Junior level.

Hurling: Kilkenny Minor Hurling trainer in 1997 and 1998.

Family: Wife: Ann
Children: Robert, Trevor and Lynda.

Robert plays Senior Hurling with John Lockes in Callan. Previously played with Windgap. Trevor plays with hurling with Windgap.

Thoughts on the Final: Impressed with Tipperary's skill and ability to take long range points. Played each other in challenge matches, and never much between the sides. Should be that way in the final.



THE NEW MILLEA-NIUM

SINEAD LETS THE CATS OUT OF THE BAG
BY THERESE O'CALLAGHAN

Sinead Millea - Kilkenny

Club - St. Brigid's, Ballycallan.
Position - Centre field / Centre forward.
Championship matches this year - quarter-final against Galway, semi-final against Cork.

Honours - 2 All Ireland Senior Medals 1991, 1994.

8 Leinster Senior Medals.

3 Senior National League Medals.

4 Leinster and 3 All Ireland Minor Medals.

2 Senior Inter-Provincial Championships

1 Ashbourne Cup Medal.

2 Senior County Club Championships.

Sinead Millea is the toast of Kilkenny. Her injury time winning goal against the defending All-Ireland Champions put the Black and Amber on the road back to Croke Park.

Sinead began playing competitive camogie at eight years of age. It was her mother who actually bought the young star her first "hurl". It was a plastic one. But it was her dad who showed her how to use it. Dad is Joe, who won an All Ireland Senior Hurling Medal with Kilkenny in 1969. Not surprisingly, he has been her greatest influence to date. Both of her brothers, Niall and Sean, have played minor hurling with the county, and of course her sister Tracy is

also a member of the Kilkenny camogie team playing at corner back.


Success arrived early for Sinead. She won her first county medal as a wee ten year old, and credits teacher Marie Gannon for that win (Marie is a sister of former player Deirdre Malone). In 1987, she was introduced to second level college's camogie. Under the guidance of teacher and coach Noelle O'Driscoll (Noelle has the unique distinction of winning Senior All Ireland Medals with Cork and Kilkenny), led St. Brigid's, Callan to an All Ireland Junior Title in 1990, and a Senior Title in 1993. Meanwhile, Ted Browne who is husband of Angela Downey, was busy nurturing the county's minor prospects. Between the years of '88 and '91, Sinead won three All Ireland Minor Titles. It is also interesting to note that with the exception of a few girls, the present team is a product of those minor players.

In fact, 1991 was a great year. Along with her Minor All-Ireland, the Cork based secondary school teacher won her first Senior Club Championship Medal, and still at the tender age of sixteen, also claimed her first All Ireland Senior Title with the Black and Amber. That was Kilkenny's famous seven-in-a-row, and the team were then about to go through a transition period. There were many great names associated with that side - Breda Holmes, Liz Neary, Marie Fitzpatrick, Deirdre Malone and in particular the Downey twins. Sinead was a big fan of Angela's, and considered herself lucky to have played alongside such a player.

A second All Ireland was won in 1994. But '95 was hard to take - two late goals from Cork saw the Cats surrender a substantial lead, to eventually lose out by four points. "A bit like our victory over them this year, I suppose", and in the same breath adds that the Leesiders are a great team, and will be back again.

Sinead thinks the fifteen-a-side changeover is most welcome, not alone by her, but she believes by most people in general. She admits that it took quite a bit of getting used to, with a lot more ground to cover especially at midfield. "Fitness demands on players are so much greater now, therefore foundation training need to begin in February". She believes that if camogie is to survive and grow, this has to be the way to go. Proof of this is from the greater interest now in the game, with also more people going to matches. The RTE coverage too, gives the game added impetus.

In today's game of hurling, D.J. Carey and Brian Whelahan are wonderful exponents of the game according to Sinead. She admires their "skill and flair, and their quick thinking is a very special talent".

Sinead displayed her own very special talent a few weeks ago in Parnell Park, which yielded her 1-9 against Cork. She should star again on September 5th. 

Tipp and Kilkenny a match to relish



Diarmuid O'Flynn

Talking Sport

LOST a little in all the hype surrounding the All-Ireland football semi-finals and the upcoming All-Ireland hurling final, is the fact that this is really camogie week, on the national front.

Down for decision on Sunday are the All-Ireland camogie finals, with Kilkenny taking on Tipperary in the senior event. In a semi-final of heart-stopping drama, Kilkenny ended the three-in-a-row hopes of hot title-favourites Cork, with a last-second winning goal from Sinead Milles, to set up what should be a real battle with their good friends and neighbours in Tipperary.

Though that particular result was bad news for Cork, it was definitely good for camogie. The final is, naturally enough, the highlight of any sporting year, but had Cork beaten Kilkenny, the odds are that they would also have taken Tipp, probably in a one-sided contest. In this year's league final, the Reds dished out a whopping defeat to the girls from the Premier county, and the prospect of a championship final between the sides can't have been too exciting to those charged with promoting camogie, as a live TV spectacle.

Kilkenny and Tipperary however, is a different basket of chips. Tipp beat the Cats by ten points in this year's League, and also knocked them out of last year's championship. Chasing their first senior final, determined to show they are simply not as bad as that league final result suggested, they will have no fears of Kilkenny. Perversely however, and though they will be warm - if not hot - favourites, Kilkenny do have real fears of Tipperary.

"Indeed it's not," rattled back Kilkenny scoring star Sinead Milles this week, when I suggested the result might be a bit of a foregone conclusion. "And I'm not just saying that, trying to play Kilkenny down. We really do fear Tipperary. When they beat us in the league this year, they hit us hard. We were gob-smacked really, they were much fitter than us, and they have always had great hurlers. We came up against them a lot in minor, they beat us in the final in 1990, and a lot of those players are now on this team."

"They've nothing to lose, in an All-Ireland final with a good chance, going for their first senior title, so the hunger is there. They are relishing this, and it's a major confidence boost to them that Cork are gone. They know they can beat us, and we're taking nothing for granted. Deirdre Hughes will have to be watched, and we can't afford to foul, with Noelle Kennedy taking the frees. If we do, she'll punish us. So it's going to be a ding-dong battle". One for everyone to relish.

Hand in hand with the camogie final, is the now-famous Kilmacud Crokes Sevens, held on the Saturday before the big day. Famous in hurling and football anyway, but this year, the South Dublin club will be hosting the 26th such camogie event also. And a measure of both the success of the event, and the growing strength of camogie throughout the land, is the fact that they will have a full quota of 48 teams competing, with another dozen on a waiting list.

Juniors set to start Rebel celebrations

T'S ladies day on Sunday in Croke Park when the All-Ireland camogie finals take centre stage.

Whilst the Cork senior side will not be in action, the county's hopes will be pinned firmly with the junior team who will be hoping to emulate the feats of the minor team and bring a second All-Ireland title to Cork.

They take on a Derry side who are the first from the county to contest a junior final since 1978 when they defeated Cork.

Interestingly Derry's only other appearance in a final was in 1969 again taking the title at the Leesider's expense.

Holders

Cork are no strangers to All-Ireland junior finals. The holders of five titles, the last in 1996 they were back again in 1997 losing out to Antrim.

An indication of the strength of the game in Cork is that only six members of that panel are involved with this year's team whilst three of the side have gone on to play with the county senior team.

A feature of this Cork side has been their excellent defensive play throughout the campaign.

Facing into a stiff wind in

PATHS TO FINAL

CORK qualified with ease for a Munster final meeting with holders Tipperary.

The Rebels looked in trouble at half time against Tipp but a tremendous second half performance enabled them claim victory.

They then travelled to take on an Offaly side they had easily defeated in the quarter-final of the National League.

Cork were severely tested and only a late rally, which yielded five points without reply, saw them through.

National League champions Derry easily dismissed the challenge of Tyrone in the Ulster final, taking the honours on a 6-15 to 1-7 scoreline. Derry also held all the aces in their semi-final parring with Roscommon who offered only token resistance.

CORK PANEL

G. Casey (Iniscarra), M. Harrington (Newtownshandrum), R. Holland (Barryroe), S. Buckley (Aghbullogue), Ruth Cahalan (Bishopstown), J. Hannon (Glen Rovers), L. O'Connell (St. Finbarrs), S. Morley-Olden (Bishopstown), H. Walsh (Eire Og) Captain, O. O'Sullivan (St. Finbarrs), M. Corkery (Cloughduv), V. O'Sullivan (Fr. O'Neills), R. Maloney (Courcey Rovers), C. Harte (Iniscarra), A. Murray (Cloughduv), C. Healy (Bishopstown), E. Burke (Valley Rovers), C. Gilman (Newtownshandrum), E. O'Herlihy (Eire Og), A. O'Regan (Courcey Rovers), C. Meaney (Iniscarra), G. Collins (Barryroe), E. O'Sullivan (Kilbrittain), P. Murphy (Iniscarra).

CORK SELECTORS

Lillian Zinkant (Sarsfields); Mairead O'Callaghan (Watergrasshill);

Kay Dunne (Ballincollig); Coach: Pat Murray, (Bishopstown).

Mary Newman McCarthy

the second-half of the Munster final their back-line, and in particular Ruth Cahalan, Jill Hannon, Rosalie Holland and captain Helen Walsh played superbly.

They broke up numerous Tipperary attacks whilst the hard working Sinead Cahalan and Sheenagh Morley kept the ball moving to the inside line.

The ace in the Cork attack has been last year's minor All-Ireland medal winner

Rachel Maloney who's accuracy has contributed handsomely through the championship.

Her exceptional free-taking has singled her out as a player destined to go further.

The Derry team is trained by former Antrim hurler Dominic McKinley and amongst the players on the side are Orla Downey, a sister of footballer's Henry and Seamus, whilst Aileen Tohill is a sister of football all-star

Anthony.

Camogie in Ulster has gone from strength to strength with the emergence of Antrim, Down and Derry who have all taken major honours in the last four years.

The much acclaimed camogie nurseries St. Patrick's, Maghera and St. Mary's, Magherafelt can between them claim twenty three of the present squad as pupils or past pupils.

This in itself shows the tremendous bond that exists within this Derry side.

Upsetting

Captain Mary O'Kane is a forward capable of upsetting the Cork defence, whilst Shauna McCall, Claire McNicholl and Karen Rafferty are looking forward to the challenge the Cork defence is sure to pose.

Looking at both sides it's hard to predict a winner. Derry, as National League champions will go in as favourites.

But such has been Cork's hard work and determination throughout the campaign, it would take a brave punter to back against a second All-Ireland camogie title heading Leaside this weekend.

The junior game down for 1.40pm and the senior game, Tipperary versus Kilkenny at 3.30pm.

The traditionally stronger camogie counties of Kilkenny, Cork, Galway, Dublin, Wexford, Tipperary, Antrim, are all well represented in the main competition, for the Prionsias O Cronan Cup, but there is also a secondary competition for teams from the weaker counties.

Teams from Armagh, Kildare, Down, Tyrone, Cavan, Waterford, Carlow and Offaly, will compete for the Shield, solid testimony to the spread of the game, and though the skill levels may be a bit lower, the endeavour will be no less than in the main competition. Twenty counties in all, represented.

Reigning champions Lisdowney of Kilkenny (I wonder was she related to Angela and Ann?) will be weakened by the absence of their county players, as will Ballycallan, Tullogher and Thomastown, while from Tipperary, former champions Drom & Inch, Toomevara, Holycross and Cashel all have players with slightly bigger ambitions. In those circumstances, anyone from Dublin's Ballyboden St. Endas, Cork's three-in-a-row county champions Bishopstown, Mullagh and Pearces from Galway, or six-time winners Buffers Alley of Wexford, could end up as champions.

Whirlpool are again the sponsors of the competition, but any gobshite who still associates women and dish-washing should be frog-marched out to Glenalbyn House for 10.30 am on Saturday morning, and forced to watch the start of this competition. If, by day's end and the 5.30 final, he or she wasn't completely enthralled by the skill and competitiveness of the camogie players, well, waste of time anyway.

Also featuring on the day will be a camogie/shinty sevens competition, with teams from Scotland competing against local opposition. The camogie Sevens competition already has an international dimension, with several teams from abroad taking part, but this is a new attraction, and one the organisers hope to develop further.

All in all, a very attractive sporting weekend.



Top scorer for the Cats - Sinead Milles



The Murray family members Paudie, Aoife and Kevin all involved in Cork teams contesting major honours.

A real family affair

By MARY NEWMAN MCCARTHY

WITH the country caught up in All-Ireland fever, one family hopeful of bringing a significant haul of medals to Cork are the Murray family from the Cloughduv club.

Aoife, Kevin and Paudie Murray are all involved with Cork teams about to contest for major honours, with Aoife already having got the ball rolling as goalkeeper to the county minor camogie side who beat Galway.

A member of last year's winning All-Ireland side, Aoife is also on the junior panel that heads to Croke Park on Sunday next to take on Derry and while still a pupil at Dunman-

way secondary school, she can be sure of big family support on in Croke Park.

The youngest in a family of 11, she receives plenty of coaching from brothers Kevin, a member of the Cork senior hurling panel, and Paudie, also on the Cork intermediate side who face Kilkenny in the all-Ireland Intermediate semi-final on Saturday in Dungarvan.

An All-Ireland medal still has not come the way of Kevin, but Paudie has won all-Ireland honours at Intermediate hurling level in 1997 and Junior football in 1996.

● Camogie previews: P11.



The Cork junior camogie team running during a training session for next Sunday's All-Ireland final against Derry

YOUR WEEKLY GAA MAGAZINE

Friday, 3rd September 1999

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PLAYER PROFILE

NAME: Sinéad Millea
DATE OF BIRTH: 17-3-1975
HEIGHT: 5'4"
WEIGHT: 9 1/2 st
CLUB: St. Brigid's, Ballycallan
COUNTY: Kilkenny
HONOURS: 2 Senior All-Irelands, 3 National Leagues, 3 Minor All-Irelands, 1 Junior Colleges All-Ireland, 1 Senior Colleges All-Ireland, 1 Ashbourne Cup Medal, 1 Ashbourne Shield medal, 7 Leinster Senior Championships, County Championship medals at all levels including 2 Senior
TOUGHEST OPPONENT: Sandy Fitzgibbon (Cork)
FAVOURITE GROUNDS: Graigue-Ballycallan hurling pitch
HOBBIES: Listening to music, socialising with friends, all kinds of sport, going for walks with my dog Alfie.

FAVOURITE POSITION: Centre forward

THE WORST PLAYER TO TRAIN THAT YOU KNOW: My sister Tracy!

MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT ON OR OFF THE PLAYING FIELD: Having a friend of mine announce on stage to a packed Ashbourne banquet hall that I had gotten up close and personal with a priest! For the record, he was not a priest!

FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Downey twins Sandy Fitzgibbon, Fiona O'Driscoll, Vivienne Harris, Pamela Nevin

INFLUENCES ON YOUR CAREER: My dad, Joe
THE HIGH POINT OF YOUR CAREER TO DATE: Winning an Ashbourne Cup medal with UL

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Missing out on chance of winning 4 minor All-Irelands - underwent surgery and was unable to play. Kilkenny lost by one point to Tipperary in the final

OTHER PLAYERS WITH A PROMISING FUTURE: Lizzie Lyng, Aoife Neary (Kilkenny minors), Gemma O'Connor (Cork minor)

WAYS OF IMPROVING THE GAME: I think the advantage rule should be brought into camogie; continue with current 15-a-side system; more ground hurling

RELATIVES INVOLVED IN GAELIC GAMES: My dad won an All-Ireland senior medal with Kilkenny in 1969. My sister Tracy plays with me on Kilkenny team, my brother Sean played on Kilkenny minor team and my other brother Niall also plays

PERSON YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO MEET: George Michael (not in a toilet!)

FAVOURITE PERSONAL SAYING OR TERM OF ABUSE: "Indeed!"

PET HATES: Spiders! Patronising comments by men who have never been to or seen a camogie match

FAVOURITE MUSIC: All kinds of music

FAVOURITE FILM: Room with a View

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WON THE LOTTO: Tell no-one!

PERSON LEAST WELCOME AT YOUR HOME: Everyone is welcome at my home

IDEAL DATE: David Beckham

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED: She was a nice girl living was just something she did while she wasn't sleeping



ALL-IRELAND FINAL DAY

Camogie's big day sees Tipperary and Kilkenny go head to head, while Cork and Derry meet in the junior decider. *PJ Fulham reports.*

 Bord na Gaeilge

Sunday next is All-Ireland camogie final day in Croke Park. The senior decider is sponsored by Bord na Gaeilge and, like last year, it will be televised live. This Millennium Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior championship final for the O'Duffy Cup is the first to be played with 15 players aside on the full size GAA pitch. Kilkenny and Tipperary meet for the first time in a senior championship decider.

Kilkenny are participating in their 16th final and have twelve titles to their credit. In 1974, they tasted their first success at their third attempt when they defeated Cork after a replay, 3-3 to 1-5. This was the third All-Ireland to end in a draw. This victory was sweet as Cork had defeated them on the two previous occasions - in 1970 (5-5 to 3-2) and in 1972 (2-5 to 1-4). Kilkenny won again in '76 and '77 defeating Dublin (0-6 to 1-2) and Wexford (3-4 to 1-3). 1981 saw Kilkenny and Cork involved in another drawn final, 3-9 each. The Noreiders won the replay by 1-9 to 0-7. Then came the 'magnificent seven' in a row from 1985 to 1991. Cork were the opponents four times, Dublin won twice and Wexford once.

In '94 their twelfth title was secured when they overcame Wexford 2-11 to 0-8 and their last visit to Croke Park was in 1995 when defeated by Cork.

This will be Tipperary's eighth All-Ireland final appearance and have yet to win. They were defeated by Dublin in all but one of those finals which was to Antrim in 1979 (2-3 to 1-3). They lost to Dublin in 1949, '53, '58, '61, '65 and their last appearance in Croke Park in 1984.

Tipperary, national league finalists, won the All-Ireland junior championship in 1992 at their third successive attempt, defeating Galway in the final 6-13 to 2-7. They became All-Ireland Intermediate champions in '97 with a 2-19 to 2-12 win over Clare. 1990 was an historic year for Tipperary when their minors brought the first ever All-Ireland championship title to the Premier County by defeating Kilkenny by two points, 2-11 to 3-6. The sides met three times in minor finals ... Tipperary won twice and Kilkenny once. The Munster county will have four players from those successful teams (Sinead Nealon, Helen Kiely, Jovita Delaney and Ciara Burns), while Kilkenny will have Brigid Mullally and Sinead Millea.

The sides will field two former Feile Skills stars: Brigid Mullally, Kilkenny 1988 and Niamh Harkin, Tipperary 1996.

Tipperary won their first and only national senior league title in the inaugural year of the league, 1977, defeating Wexford 4-2 to 1-3.

Kilkenny won eight league titles and Tipperary were their opponents in 1980, the score Kilkenny 3-8 Tipperary 1-3.

When the league was played on a two year test series of 15 players aside in 1993 and '94, the black and amber won the first.

Ann Downey is the only surviving member of the victorious 1974 team and is in line for her 13th All-Ireland medal which would leave her sharing second place in the Roll of Honour with Una O'Connor from Dublin.

On the path to today's final, Kilkenny defeated Galway 2-

8 to 1-8 in the quarter-final and Tipperary overcame Clare 1-18 to 1-6. The semi-finals were staged at a neutral venue for the second year in succession which proved very successful. Parnell Park, Dublin was the venue. Three of the four provinces were taking part which brought a great crowd. The opening match between holders Cork and Kilkenny proved to be a nail biting affair. Sinead Millea was the jewel in the Kilkenny crown when she delivered a 45 metre free to the back of the Cork net in the last puck of the match go give her side a two point win. It was score for score throughout with Cork holding a one point lead at the break.

By the end of the third quarter, Cork had built up a five point lead. The introduction of Ann Downey to Kilkenny on the 20th minute made a significant difference as almost immediately Margaret Commerford netted the Noreiders' first goal. Sinead Millea sent over the bar to leave just one point separating the sides. Sinead's free just on full time was expected to level the match ... instead, it went straight



Rebel County captain Helen Walsh

to the net to clinch victory, 2-12 to 1-13, as the final whistle sounded. Sinead had a personal tally of 1-9.

The other semi-final was one way traffic for Tipperary against Down. The match was over as a contest at half time when the Premier County led 4-12 to 0-2. It was only shooting practice for the winners as Deirdre Hughes notched off 4-3. Final score: Tipperary 6-22 Down 1-3.

The last time the sides met was in the national senior league earlier this year when Tipperary got the verdict, 4-5 to 0-9. League and championship are two different games and we can look forward to what should be a very close encounter.

Kilkenny panel: Miriam Holland, Tracey Millea, Margaret Hickey, Mairead Costelloe, Kelly Long, Jillian Maher (capt), Sinead Costelloe, Marina Downey, Sinead Millea, Margaret Commerford, Brigid Mullally, Lizzie Lyng, Mary Ellen Butler, Ann Downey, Una Murphy, Martina Maher, Catherine Dunne, Kathleen Atkins, Brigid Barnaville, Pauleen Commerford, Linda Crennan, Sandra Gleeson.

Tipperary panel: Jovita Delaney, Suzanne Kelly, Una O'Dwyer, Claire Madden, Meadhbh Stokes (capt), Ciara



Tipp captain Meadhbh Stokes

Gaynor, Sinead Nealon, Emily Hayden, Angela McDermott, Noelle Kennedy, Therese Brophy, Helen Kiely, Emer McDonnell, Deirdre Hughes, Niamh Harkin, Louise Ryan, Caitriona Hennessy, Philomena Fogarty, Sheena Howard, Marie Harkin.

In the curtain-raiser, Cork and Derry meet in the All-Ireland junior decider. This will be Derry's third All-Ireland junior championship final. Cork were also their opponents on the two previous occasions when Derry



Kilkenny captain Gillian Dillon-Maher



The Tipperary team that bids for senior All-Ireland glory this weekend

won in 1969 (4-2 to 2-4) and in 1978 (3-4 to 1-4).

Cork, 17 times Munster champions, will be making their 13th appearance in a junior championship final. They have won five, the last in 1996 when they overcame Roscommon 6-5 to 2-7.

In last year's semi-final Derry played a draw with Tipperary (2-13 to 3-10) and lost the replay (2-9 to 0-11). They secured the national junior league title this year for the first time at their first attempt, defeating Wexford 3-7 to 0-7 in the final. Cork contested two league finals and lost on both occasions.

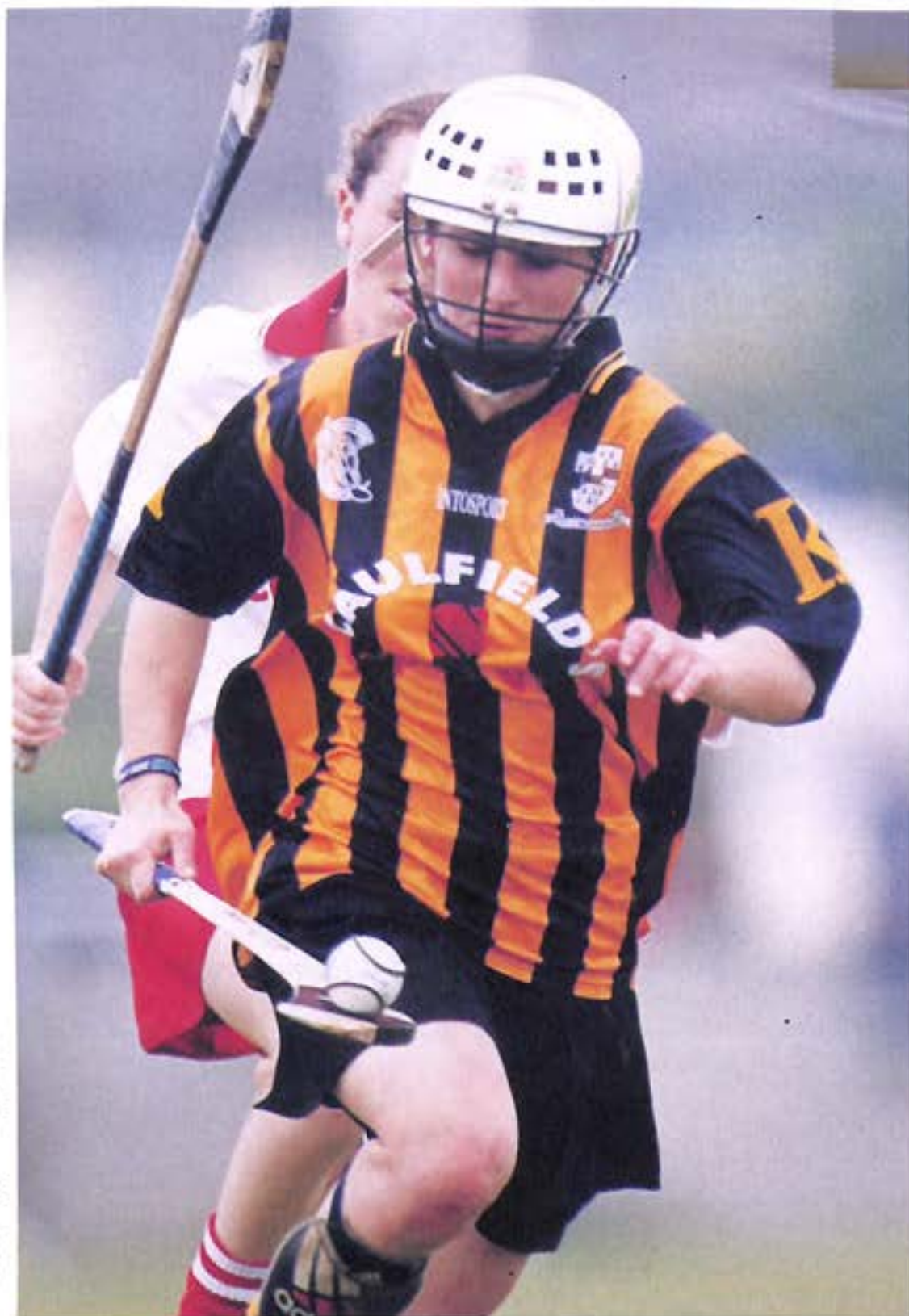
In the Ulster final, Derry overcame Tyrone (6-15 to 1-7) while Cork had a 3-14 to 2-7 victory over Tipperary in the Munster decider.

In the All-Ireland semi-final, Derry defeated Roscommon (4-11 to 1-3) at Athleague and Cork had a (2-13 to 2-8) win over Offaly at Rath.

The last time the sides met was in the national junior league semi-final earlier this year when Derry were victorious by 3-8 to 1-10.

Cork have lost three of that panel to senior (Una O'Donoghue, Sarah Hayes and Sinead O'Callaghan) but still have plenty of talent. Coach Pat Murray is adamant that his team will give a good performance.

They have a very young panel, five of whom played on the All-Ireland minor team two years ago: Geraldine Casey, Sinead Buckley, Elaine Burke, Ciara Healy and Rachel Molloney. Rachel is a star forward. It was her five points in the last ten minutes of the All-Ireland semi-final against Offaly that were the difference. She scored 1-9 altogether. The Leesiders will be anxious to follow in the footsteps of their minors who retained the minor crown with a one-point win over Galway.



Lizzie Lyng in All-Ireland semi-final action against Cork

Derry are a star-studded outfit. Aileen Tohill is a sister of Derry footballer Anthony. Orla Downey is sister of Seamus and Henry, also Derry footballers. Martina Mulholland, Claire Doherty, Shauna McCaul and Karen Rafferty are others to watch. Trained by former Antrim hurler Dominic McKinley, they will be going all out to secure the league and championship double which has only been achieved five times: Galway in 1985, Kildare in '89 and '90, Armagh in '93 and Antrim in '97.

Tipperary's Ciara Gaynor

NAME: Ciara Gaynor

DATE OF BIRTH: 23-10-1978

HEIGHT: 5'7"

WEIGHT: 10 1/2 st

CLUB: Kilruane

McDonaghs

COUNTY:

Tipperary

HONOURS:

All-Ireland

Intermediate

and 2 All-

Ireland

Minor

with

Tipperary: Senior,

Junior and 7-a side

All-Irelands with St. Mary's,

Nenagh: Junior and Intermediate

Championships with Kilruane;

Munster Youth Sports Award 1994

(Cork Examiner)

TOUGHEST OPPONENT: Too

many to mention

FAVOURITE GROUNDS:

Seample Stadium

HOBBIES: Horse riding,

dancing socialising

FAVOURITE POSITION:

Centre back or centre forward

THE WORST PLAYER TO

TRAIN THAT YOU KNOW:

Myself probably

MOST EMBARRASSING

MOMENT ON OR OFF

THE PLAYING FIELD: It

was embarrassing enough at

the time without telling any more

people

FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Suzanne

Kelly, Una Dwyer, Ethne Duggan

INFLUENCES ON YOUR CAREER: My dad

Len, my brother Brian

THE HIGH POINT OF YOUR CAREER TO

DATE: Winning Junior and Intermediate

championship with my club Kilruane

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: 1999 League final



PlayStation

PLAYER PROFILE

OTHER PLAYERS WITH A PROMISING

FUTURE: Philly Fogarty, Meadidh Stokes, Lizzy Lyng

WAYS OF IMPROVING THE GAME: Allowing there to be more physical contact to get rid of silly frees

DISLIKES ABOUT THE GAA: When supporters complain about a player having one bad game and forget about all the hard training put in

RELATIVES INVOLVED IN GAELIC

GAMES: Father Lea, brothers Brian and

Lenny, sister Sinead, cousins

PERSON YOU WOULD MOST LIKE

TO MEET: An old man with lots of money and a bad cough or Pierce Brosnan (the cough can come later!)

PET HATES!: Bad drivers, a bad hurley

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Everything for U2 to

Radiohead

FAVOURITE FILM: Austin Powers "The Spy

Who Shagged Me"

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WON

THE LOTTO: Take the whole team for a long holiday in the sun for a start, secondly I'd buy

Deirdre Hughes a new helmet

PERSON LEAST WELCOME AT YOUR

HOME: Dr Evil. Other than him our house is

always open

IDEAL DATE: Me with our selector Timmy

Moloney for a dinner for two in JKC's

restaurant in Nenagh

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE

REMEMBERED: People saying "Is she not

dead yet?"

On the double trail

Contrary to popular belief, Cork are not the only county still in with a chance of completing a senior double this year. Kilkenny, who play the Leesiders in the All-Ireland hurling final next week, are represented in this Sunday's camogie decider against Tipperary. Bobby Jackman is more qualified than most to discuss the county's prospects in both games. He currently manages the camogs, having been at the head of the Kilkenny minor hurling team for the past couple of years. He spoke to *Shane Breslin* about two monumental showdowns in the space of seven days.

Whether he is talking about his side's chances in next Sunday's camogie final, the prospects of the Kilkenny hurlers a week later or the state of the underage game in Leinster, Bobby Jackman's love of the game is genuinely palpable. In March of this year, he became manager of the Kilkenny camogie team. The last number of seasons have been relatively barren for Kilkenny after the county monopolised the camogie championship in the late 1980s with a team that revolved around the legendary Angela Downey.

In the latter half of this decade, Cork have climbed the pedestal that Kilkenny vacated, claiming the last three All-Ireland titles and this year's league crown, impressive credentials which made them strong favourites at the start of this year to go on to gain another All-Ireland title in September.

However, a last-minute Kilkenny goal in the semi-final from Sinead Millea's 40 metre free ousted the Leesiders, in the process, according to Jackman, reinvigorating the camogie championship. "Cork were really starting to dominate camogie, and looked like they were going to do so for a long number of years, which I don't think would be great for the game. At the start of this year, there were people saying that no-one would live with Cork with the new 15-a-side game on the fullsize pitch. But we upset the whole thing. We went into the game with absolutely nothing to lose, and in the end we got a lucky break to win. I think we really did everyone a favour by beating Cork. Tipperary might not have really fancied themselves against them, but without a doubt they'll believe they can beat us."

Recent research has shown that women's gaelic games is the fastest growing sport in Ireland, and Jackman believes that the new camogie regulations have improved the profile of the game. This year is the first that the camogie format has become aligned with that of men's games. In prior seasons, the game was 12-a-side and was played on a reduced size of pitch, and Bobby Jackman welcomes the alterations. "These changes have really done the game good, in my opinion," he remarks. "For a match to go ahead beforehand, a pitch would have to be prepared and lined properly, and posts would have to be put up, but now any pitch anywhere can be used once you have the players. It's great for the game, it gives it a lot of credibility."

He does see a possible downside to the move,

however. "I suppose in a lot of country areas teams might struggle to get 15 players as yet, but I'm sure that will change in the future with all the new players beginning to take up the game."

Looking ahead to Sunday's final against Tipperary, Jackman envisages a very tough battle. Despite having overcome Cork at the penultimate stage, he is taking



Kilkenny's camogie manager - Bobby Jackman

nothing for granted in his preparation for the game. "Tipperary will be very hard to beat. They ran up a huge score in the last game and while Down may have been a bit out of their depth, it was still a very impressive performance. They are well capable of taking long-range scores, and we know it will probably be close in the end."

The two sides also came up against each other in an extremely evenly balanced quarter-final in 1998, with Tipperary advancing on the scoreline of 3-11 to 3-10. According to Jackman, Sunday's game should be just as close. "We have played each other in two challenges this year, and have won one each. Tipperary have a couple of very strong forwards, and they will take a lot of stopping. Hopefully our defence will be up to the task. If it is a low-scoring game, I think we will win it. I wouldn't like the game to get too open, because Tipperary would probably then be favourites. Also, the Tipperary team got together fairly late on in the year, because of the Tipperary club championship, so they will probably improve as the year goes on."

Something else that seems to be playing on Jackman's mind is an apparent over-reliance on freetaker Sinead Millea to produce the goods. Corner forward Millea had a personal tally of 1-9 in the semi-final, most of which came from placed balls, and while her form is obviously encouraging for Jackman, he is concerned that there may be too much of a burden on her. "Sinead is playing better than ever this year, and her free-taking has been very good. But it's a little bit of a worry that she scored all but 1-3 of the final total. But our real strength is in defence. We have a very solid half back line, which played brilliantly against Galway in the quarter-final. Also, our goalkeeper Miriam Holland has been excellent all year, and she made one fantastic save at an important stage against Cork."

Jackman has only been in charge of the camogie team in the county for five months, so he is relatively new to the code. He has, however, extensive experience of hurling in the county, gained during his time as minor team manager in 1997 and 1998.

A further step in the development of camogie is the introduction of the team of 25 years ago on All-Ireland day between the junior and senior finals which will be attended by Uachtarán na hÉireann Mary McAleese.

Schwarzkopf are the sponsors. The team of 25 years ago is Kilkenny who defeated Cork 3-3 to 1-5 after a replay to win their first All-Ireland senior championship title.

The team: Teresa O'Neill (capt), Ann Carroll, Liz Neary, Bridie Martin, Mary Kennedy, Helena O'Neill, Peggy Carey, Mary Fennelly, Ursula Grace, Mary Conway, Angela Downey, Carmel Doyle, Ann Downey, Teasie Brennan, Mary Kavanagh and Ann Bowden.



Peter Muntion of Schwarzkopf presents Lizzie Lyng (Kilkenny) with the interprovincial Junior Player of the Tournament award. Mary Connor (Vice-President, Cumann Camagaochta Na nGael) looks on

Tipp girls fighting fit and in top condition

Kilkenny have made no changes from the

The only injury worry is Mullally who has a slight hamstringing injury. Former Kilkenny trainer Pat Treacy said: "Tipperary have beaten us on the last three occasions we have met and that will give their confidence a boost. Although Kilkenny will start

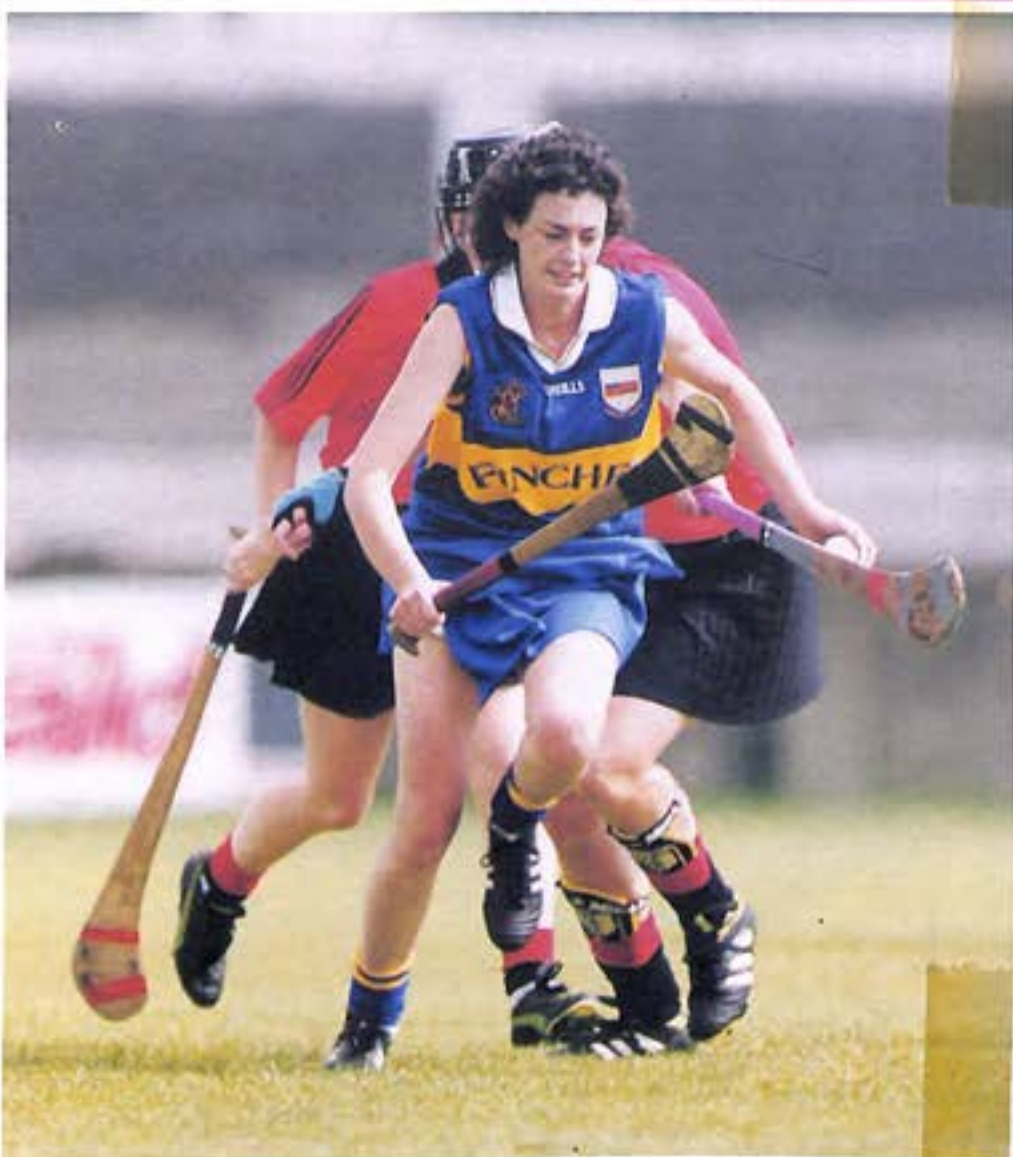
A black and white photograph of a woman with short blonde hair and glasses, wearing a dark t-shirt with a 'GYM' patch on the sleeve. She is standing outdoors next to a stone wall, with a body of water and trees in the background.

TIFFINERY: J. Delaney (Cashell), S. Kelly (Toomevara), U. O'Dwyer (Cashell), C. Madden (Portree), M. Stokes (Cashell) capt. C. Gaynor (Kilruane-McDonagh), S. Nealon (Burgess), E. Hayden (Cashell), A. McDermott (Knockavilla-Kickham), N. Kennedy (Toomevara), T. Brophy (Burgess), H. Kiely (Dromin-Inch), E. McDonnell (Burgess), D. Hughes (Toomevara), N. Harkin (Dromin-Inch), Subs. L. Ryan (Holvacar-Ballycathill), C. Hennessey

KILKENNY: M. Holland (Lisdowney); T. Milne (St Brigid's Ballycallan); M. Hickey (Freshford); U. Murphy (Tulligoheri); S. Costelloe (Freshford); J. Dillon-Maher (Freshford); M. Costelloe (Freshford); K. Long (Lisdowney); S. Milne (St Brigid's Ballycallan); B. Gleeson (Lisdowney); B. Mulrady (Glenmore); M. Comerford (St Brigid's Ballycallan); M. Downey (St Brigid's Ballycallan); M. Maher (Freshford); L. Lyng (Rower-Inistioge).

Picture: INF

Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Championship Final: Kilkenny v Tipperary at 3.30. Referee: Aine Derham, Dublin



Noelle Kennedy - the Trevor Giles of camogie? - in semi-final action for Tipp against Down

Cork juniors face Derry in All-Ireland final

CORK will be bidding to win their sixth All-Ireland junior camogie title, and their first since 1996, when they take on Derry at Croke Park next Sunday.

In qualifying for the final, Cork recorded a comprehensive victory over Clare in their opening game, but they had things much tougher against Tipperary in the provincial decider.

A sparkling display from Rachel Moloney of Courcey Rovers, who finished with 1-9 to her credit, was the key factor in the victory over the Premier County.

Again Cork had to survive a stiff challenge from Offaly in the semi-final when they needed to produce a late flourish to come through with five points to spare.

The likelihood is, however, that they will face their stiffest test to date on Sunday against a Derry side which has already lifted the national league title this season, getting the better of Cork in a thrilling semi-final game.

Incidentally, Derry have twice won the All-Ireland in this grade, and both of their previous triumphs, in '69 and '78, were achieved at Cork's expense in the final.

The Cork panel is: Geraldine Casey, Inniscarra; Maureen Harrington, Newtownshandrum; Rosalie Holland, Barryroe; Sinead Buckley, Aghabullogue; Ruth Cahalane, Bishopstown; Jill Hannon, Glen Rovers; Linda O'Connell, St. Finbarr's; Sheelagh Morley, Bishopstown; Helen Walsh, Eire Og; Orla O'Sullivan, St. Finbarr's; Marie Corkery, Cloughduv; Val O'Sullivan, Fr O'Neills;



Three of the Cork junior camogie panel which will face Derry in the All-Ireland final at Croke Park next Sunday. From left—Marie Corkery, Cloughduv, Val O'Sullivan, Fr O'Neill's and Ruth Cahalane, Bishopstown



The three selectors of the Cork junior camogie team. From left—Mairead O'Callaghan, Watergrasshill, Kay Dunne, Ballincollig and Lillian Zinkant, Sarsfields.

Rachel Moloney, Courcey Rovers; Criona Harte, Inniscarra; Aoife Murray, Cloughduv; Ciara Healy, Bishopstown; Elaine

Burke, Valley Rovers; Caroline Giltinan, Newtownshandrum; Ellen Herlihy, Eire Og.

Selectors: Lillian

Zinkant, Sarsfields; Mairead O'Callaghan, Watergrasshill; Kay Dunne, Ballincollig. Coach: Pat Murray, Bishopstown.

BEST



By Trevor Spillane

THIS SUNDAY, the women of Kilkenny have the opportunity to steal the limelight from their hurling counterparts

when they face Tipperary in the All-Ireland senior camogie final in Croke Park.

Having spent four years in what could be called a camogie wilderness, Kil-

Kilkenny Management profiles:

COACH: BOBBY JACKMAN (Windgap)

Bobby's playing career with his club spanned 26 years from 1968 to 1994 during which time he won Intermediate and Junior county titles. He trained the first Windgap school's side to win a primary schools final in 1993 and the first Windgap U-21 side to win a county final in 1994. At county level he played in goal for the senior side during 1974/1975. He captained the masters side which contested the All-Ireland in 1994 and won a medal the following year. Appointed as the first full-time coach in Kilkenny from 1993 until 1997, he coached the county minors which reached the All-Ireland semi-final in 1997 and the All-Ireland final last year. This is his first ever involvement with a Camogie team.

TRAINER: MICHAEL FENNELLY (Shamrocks)

Michael's playing career was also long-lasting. He played with the famed Ballyhale Shamrocks side which won 3 All-Ireland club titles and 9 senior county championships between 1970 and 1995. A member of the masters team since 1993, he has won All-Ireland medals with this team in 1995, 1997 and 1998. In addition to his involvement with many of his club's underage teams, he is also currently a selector with their senior side. His daughter Grace is a member of the current panel.

SELECTOR: MAURA COSTELLOE (Freshford)

Maura's playing career was equally lengthy, lasting from 1968 to 1998. She won 3 All-Ireland club titles in a row with St Paul's from 1968 to 1970 and senior Gael Linn medals with Leinster in 1970 and 1972. At club level she also played with Carrickshock, Graigue-Ballycallan and Freshford. She has been involved in management at all levels with Freshford for many years. Her two daughters, Sinead and Mairead, and her niece, Martina Maher, are members of the current panel.



Nation
Mary
Golfir
Hock
Week
Rack
Side
Fifth

OF LUCK GIRLS!



The Kilkenny senior camogie panel who will chasing All-Ireland glory against Tipperary at Croke Park on Sunday.

Photo: Sportfile

Kilkenny have returned to Croke Park ready to challenge for the crown of Queens of Ireland.

The track record of both finalists in the championship is contrasting to say

the least. Kilkenny have amassed 12 titles in 15 appearances, while Tipperary have still to lift the O'Duffy Cup after seven attempts. This is the first time the counties have met in the final.

While Tipperary have not won an All-Ireland it doesn't mean Kilkenny will go into the game certain of victory.

The Munster girls beat Kilkenny heavily in the League this year and knocked them out of last year's championship as well.

"We are in with a chance. Tipp will not be easily beaten," said Teresa Dillon, mother of captain Gillian Maher.

Trained hard

"Tipperary have a pretty strong side. Their team came up through the ranks and some players have been

on the team for a few years".

"The girls have trained hard for the final and beat Cork who were seen as the team to beat," she said "But Tipp are still Tipp, whether it's hurling or camogie".

For Tipperary, another shot at the All-Ireland has been a long time coming. They have not featured in a final since they were beaten by Dublin in 1984.

The current side have a number of players who featured in Tipp's wins in the junior All-Ireland in 1992 and the intermediate final in 1997, including Deirdre Hughes and captain Maeve Stokes.

Luck

The Tipperary girls have also been under the watchful eye of former inter-county All-Star Michael Cleary, who was brought in to help with coaching.

Even though Tipperary will go into the game as underdogs, they hope their determination will pay off and their hoodoo in the championship will finally be broken.

Kilkenny have enjoyed considerably better luck in the quest for glory.

The Cats burst onto the scene in 1974 when they scored a four point win over Cork. The following 20 seasons saw them amass a further 11 titles.

Kilkenny hit a purple patch when they secured an impressive seven-in-a-row between 1985 and 1991.

The fantastic run of form took Kilkenny to third place in the roll of honour, behind Dublin and Cork.

Not only are Kilkenny going for that 13th title, but so is Lisdowney's Ann

Downey. Ann was a substitute for Kilkenny's first All-Ireland and featured in every final since.

Path to glory

At half time in this year's final the Jubilee team of 1974 will be presented to the crowd at Croke Park. Ann will be the only member not present, as she will be in the dressing room, with the rest of her team-mates.

Kilkenny had to take the harder path to glory. Victory over Galway in the quarter final set up a mouth-watering fixture against league champions Cork.

After being behind for most of the game, a Sinead Millea free that made its way to the net gave the Cats a two point victory.

Tipperary had it somewhat easier, beating Down 6-22 to 1-3. In reaching the

final, Kilkenny have beaten two teams who were finalists in the last three All-Irelands.

Cork were also the last side to beat Kilkenny in an All-Ireland when they won the 1995 final with literally the last puck of the ball in extra-time.

The panel for the game on Sunday is a mixture of youth and experience.

Seven members played in the defeat by Cork in the 1995 final, while for players like Elizabeth Lyng it will be a first appearance in the final.

All Kilkenny have to do is get the right blend and the O'Duffy Cup will be winging its way Noreaside.

Gauntlet

The gauntlet has been thrown down to anyone who has never seen a camo-

gie match. While camogie does not attract the same levels of support as hurling, Teresa Dillon promises the potential viewer a game to remember.

"The men who come to watch camogie are fascinated by how skilful and tough the games are", she said.

"Nearly all of the players have brothers, fathers or boyfriends who play hurling, so they come to watch and are impressed by the effort the girls put in."

This year could see a dream fulfilled for Kilkenny hurling and camogie. The last time both senior teams reached the final in the same year, they both walked away with the silverware.

That's something for the fans to think about as they make their way to Croke Park for what should be a thrilling encounter between two old rivals.

Panel: Miriam Holland (Lisdowney); Tracey Millea (Graigue-Ballycallan); Margaret Hickey (Freshford); Una Murphy (Tullagher); Sinead Costelloe (Freshford); Gillian Dillon-Maher (Freshford); Mairead Costelloe (Freshford); Kelly Long (Lisdowney); Sinead Millea (Graigue-Ballycallan); Sandra Gleeson (Lisdowney); Brigid Mullaly (Glenmore); Marina Downey (Lisdowney); Margaret Comerford (Graigue-Ballycallan); Martina Maher (Freshford); Elizabeth Lyng (Rower-Inistioge); Ann Downey (Lisdowney); Catherine Dunne-Power (Lisdowney); Brigid Barnaville (Lisdowney); Mary Ellen Butler (Freshford); Pauline Comerford (Graigue-Ballycallan).

Did you know?

KILKENNY have won 12 senior All-Irelands'. Their first was in 1974, when a team including Liz Neary, Ann Carroll, Angela Downey, Mary Fennelly and Teresa O'Neill made the historic breakthrough.

Roll of Honour

1974 - Kilkenny 3-3, Cork 1-5
1976 - Kilkenny 0-6, Dublin 1-2
1977 - Kilkenny 3-4, Wexford 1-3
1981 - Kilkenny 1-9, Cork 0-7
1985 - Kilkenny 0-13, Dublin 1-5
1986 - Kilkenny 2-12, Dublin 2-3

1987 - Kilkenny 3-10, Cork 1-7
1988 - Kilkenny 4-11, Cork 3-8
1989 - Kilkenny 3-10, Cork 2-6
1990 - Kilkenny 1-14, Wexford 0-7
1991 - Kilkenny 3-8, Cork 1-10
1994 - Kilkenny 2-11, Wexford 0-8

• Angela and Ann Downey are one of only three sets of twins to win All-Ireland camogie medals.

• Fathers and daughters who have won All-Irelands' include John and Geraldine Sutton, Pa and Gillian Dillon, Joe, Sinead and Tracey Millea, Paddy and Ursula Grace and Shem, Angela and Ann Downey.

• Senior hurling manager Brian Cody can also claim a link with camogie. His wife Elsie won an All-Ireland medal with Wexford.

• The All-Ireland senior championship trophy is named after Mayo man Sean O'Duffy, who spent his life promoting the camogie association.

• Angela and Ann Downey are in third position in the medal roll of honour with 12 medals.

• Noelle O'Driscoll is one of three players to win All-Irelands' with two different counties, Cork in 1980, 1982 and 1987 and three with Kilkenny in 1989, 1990 and 1991.

Kilkenny Senior Camogie Team

BRIGID BARNAVILLE (Lisdowney)

9th. Season with seniors -

2 Senior All-Ireland Championship medals; 2 Senior National League medals; 1 Club Championship All-Ireland medal; 2 Minor All-Ireland Championship medals; 1 Kilmacud Crokes 7-a-side medal; 1 Junior Gael Linn medal; 6 Leinster Senior Championship medals; 2 Leinster Minor Championship medals; 1 Leinster U-14 Championship medal; 3 Leinster Club championships; 1 Leinster Colleges Senior B medal; 4 Senior County Championship medals; 2 U-21 County Championship medals; 2 U-18 County Championship medals; 1 U-14 County Championship medal; 1 Senior B County Championship medal; 1 Junior B County Championship medal

SINEAD COSTELLOE (Freshford)

7th. Season with seniors

1 Senior All-Ireland Championship medal; 1 Senior National League medal; 1 Minor All-Ireland Championship medal; 1 All-Ireland Colleges Senior Championship medal; 2 Feile na nGael medals; 3 Leinster Senior Championship medals; 2 Leinster Junior Championship medals; 2 Leinster Minor Championship medals; 1 Leinster U-14 Championship medal; 2 Leinster Colleges Senior medals; 1 Leinster Colleges 7-a-side medal; 1 Leinster Vocational Schools Junior medal; 2 Senior County Championship medals; 3 U-21 County Championship medals; 6 U-18 County Championship medals; 5 Minor County Championship medals; 3 U-14 County Championship medals; 2 Primary Schools County Championship medals; 1 Senior B County Championship medal

GILLIAN DILLON (Freshford)

10th. Season with seniors

3 Senior All-Ireland Championship medals; 3 Senior National League medals; 2 Senior Gael Linn medals; 2 Minor All-Ireland Championship medals; 5 Leinster Senior Championship medals; 2 Leinster Minor Championship medals; 2 Leinster U-14 Championship medals; 2 Leinster Colleges Senior medals; 1 Leinster Vocational Schools Senior medal; 2 Senior County Championship medals; 5 U-21 County Championship medals; 4 U-18 County Championship medals; 1 Minor County Championship medal; 1 Primary Schools County Championship medal; 1 Senior B County Championship medal

ANN DOWNEY (Lisdowney)

27th. Season with seniors

12 Senior All-Ireland Championship medals; 9 Senior National League medals; 10 Senior Gael Linn medals; 6 Club Championship All-Ireland medals; 11 Leinster Senior Championship medals; 12 Leinster Club championships; 1 Leinster Colleges Senior medal; 1 Leinster Colleges Junior medal; 23 Senior County Championship medals; 1 Junior County Championship medal; 4 Kilmacud Crokes 7-a-side medals; 2 B & I Awards

MARINA DOWNEY (Lisdowney)

13th. Season with seniors;

5 Senior All-Ireland Championship medals; 6 Senior National League medals; 2 Senior Gael Linn medals; 1 Club Championship All-Ireland medal; 1 Kilmacud Crokes 7-a-side medal; 9 Leinster Senior Championship medals; 3 Leinster Club championships; 1 Leinster Colleges Intermediate medal; 1 U-14 County Championship medal; 2 Primary Schools County Championship medals; 1 Senior B County Championship medal

TRACEY MILLEA (Graigue/Ballycallan)

9th. Season with seniors

2 Senior All-Ireland Championship medals; 1 Senior National League medal; 1 Senior Gael Linn medal; 2 Minor All-Ireland Championship medals; 6 Leinster Senior Championship medals; 2 Leinster Minor Championship medals; 2 Leinster U-14 Championship medals; 1 Leinster Colleges Senior medal; 1 Leinster Colleges Junior medal; 2 Senior County Championship medals; 1 U-21 County Championship medal; 2 U-18 County Championship medals; 2 Minor County Championship medals; 1 U-14 County Championship medal; 2 Primary Schools County Championship medals; 1 Senior B County Championship medal

FRAN SHORE (Lisdowney)

5th. Season with seniors

1 Club Championship All-Ireland medal; 1 Leinster Junior Championship medal; 2 Leinster Minor Championship medals; 3 Leinster Club championships; 1 Leinster Colleges Senior B medal; 1 Leinster Colleges 7-a-side medal; 1 Leinster Vocational Schools Junior medal; 3 Senior County Championship medals; 1 Minor County Championship medal

KATHLEEN ATKINS (Mullinavat)

1st. Season with seniors

1 Ashbourne Cup medal; 1 Junior County Championship medal; 1 Minor County Championship medal; 1 U-14 County Championship medal

MARGARET COMERFORD (Graigue/Ballycallan)

4th. Season with seniors

1 All-Ireland Colleges Senior Championship medal; 1 All-Ireland Colleges Junior Championship medal; 1 Leinster Junior Championship medal; 2 Leinster Minor Championship medals; 1 Leinster U-14 Championship medal; 1 Leinster Colleges Senior medal; 1 Leinster Colleges Junior medal; 1 Senior County Championship medal; 1 U-21 County Championship medal; 1 U-18 County Championship medal; 2 Minor County Championship medals; 1 U-14 County Championship medal; 4 Primary Schools County Championship medals

PAULINE COMERFORD (Graigue/Ballycallan)

2nd. Season with seniors

1 All-Ireland Colleges Senior Championship medal; 1 Leinster Senior Championship medal; 1

Camogie: Liatroim Fontenoys of Down further enhanced the standing of camogie in Ulster by qualifying on Saturday with three Galway clubs for the semi-finals of the Whirlpool All-Ireland Sevens in Kilmacud.

Only a couple of Ulster clubs have reached the semi-final stages in the 26 years of the event which draws over 60 entries annually from all over Ireland and also from Britain.

Liatroim's impressive run came to a stop against Loughrea side Shamrocks who won by 4-5 to 1-3. In the second semi-final - an all-Galway affair - Pearses had three goals to spare over Craughwell.

In the final Sharon Glynn powered Pearses to the title with an impressive 6-7 to 1-3 victory over Shamrocks.

Tipp's 8th senior final

Tipperary have appeared in seven All Ireland senior camogie finals and the O'Duffy Cup has yet to rest in the Premier county.

Between 1945 and 1960, Roscrea with such famed players as Terry and Kathleen Griffin, Kathleen and Mary England, won no fewer than SIXTEEN successive county titles and provided the backbone in some of the early challenges for final glory.

1949 saw Tipp's All Ireland final debut but they lost to Dublin, 8-6 to 4-1.

The first team to represent Tipp in an All Ireland final was: M. Flanagan, T. Griffin, M.A. O'Brien, N. Curran, K. Gleeson, K. Callanan, E. Walsh, M. Walsh, M. Power, C. Fitzpatrick, N. Keating, P. Power.

Dublin have proved to be Tipp's bogey side at the final hurdle and in all but one of Tipp's seven title bids, they have come up against the Dubs, the exception being in 1979 when it was Antrim's turn.

Other final results were as follows:

1953: Dublin 8-4 Tipperary 1-3; 1958: Dublin 5-4 Tipperary 1-1; 1961: Dublin 7-2 Tipperary 4-1; 1965: Dublin 10-1 Tipperary 5-3; 1979: Antrim 2-3 Tipperary 1-3; 1984: Dublin 5-9 Tipperary 2-3.



Kilkenny goalkeeper Miriam Holland (left) and Sinead Millea, who scored the winning goal in the semi final against Cork.

Nenagh nursery can take a bow

For some of Sunday's participants, their first taste of the camogie scene came in their early years as pupils of St Mary's secondary school, Nenagh under the guidance of Ger Dullea and Geraldine Bourke.

In 1991, Aine Hogan from Burgess led St Mary's to their first All Ireland junior colleges title, when they defeated St Cuan's, Castleblakeney in Tullamore. St Cuan's, incidentally, were captained by Sharon Glynn who has gone on to become one of the top stars of the present day and won an All Ireland senior medal with Galway three years ago.

SUZANNE KELLY and NOELLE KENNEDY played in that final and Suzanne was under age again the following year when Nenagh set out to defend their title. On to the team had now come a very

young lass with an illustrious pedigree, CIARA GAYNOR, daughter of Len and St Mary's again found themselves back in O'Connor Park, Tullamore, for the All Ireland final this time against St Mary's, Magherafelt. The sides drew 2-5 each and it was then off to Carrickmacross for the replay which Nenagh won, 2-6 to 0-8.

Two years later, Noelle Kennedy captained St Mary's, Nenagh as they set out in search of the All Ireland colleges senior title. Suzanne and Ciara were also there as was Grainne Shanahan, of the present Tipp panel. Playing a captain's part, Noelle scored 1-8 in St Mary's 1-10 to 1-2 win over St Patrick's, Maghera. For good measure Ciara scored a point. Tullamore had proved to be a happy hunting ground for the Nenagh girls.



Ciara Gaynor and Suzanne Kelly on an exercise trip in training.

COMMUNITY GAMES

Girls - U14 Camogie: 1 Templeton (Tipperary), 2 Woodford (Galway), 3

- Pen Pictures 1999

Leinster Colleges Senior medal; 1 Senior County Championship medal; 1 U-21 County Championship medal; 1 U-18 County Championship medal; 1 Minor County Championship medal; 1 Primary Schools County Championship medal

MAIREAD COSTELLOE (Freshford)

4th. Season with seniors

2 Leinster Senior Championship medals; 2 Leinster Colleges Senior medals; 1 Leinster Colleges Junior medal; 4 Leinster Colleges 7-a-side medals; 2 Leinster Colleges Senior Shield medals

2 Senior County Championship medals; 4 U-21 County Championship medals; 4 U-18 County Championship medals; 2nd. Season with seniors; 1 Leinster Colleges Senior Shield medal; 2 Senior County Championship medals; 1 Intermediate County Championship medal; 2 Junior County Championship medals; 2 Minor County Championship medals; 2 U-14 County Championship medals; 4 Primary Schools County Championship medals

BRIGID MULLALLY (Glenmore)

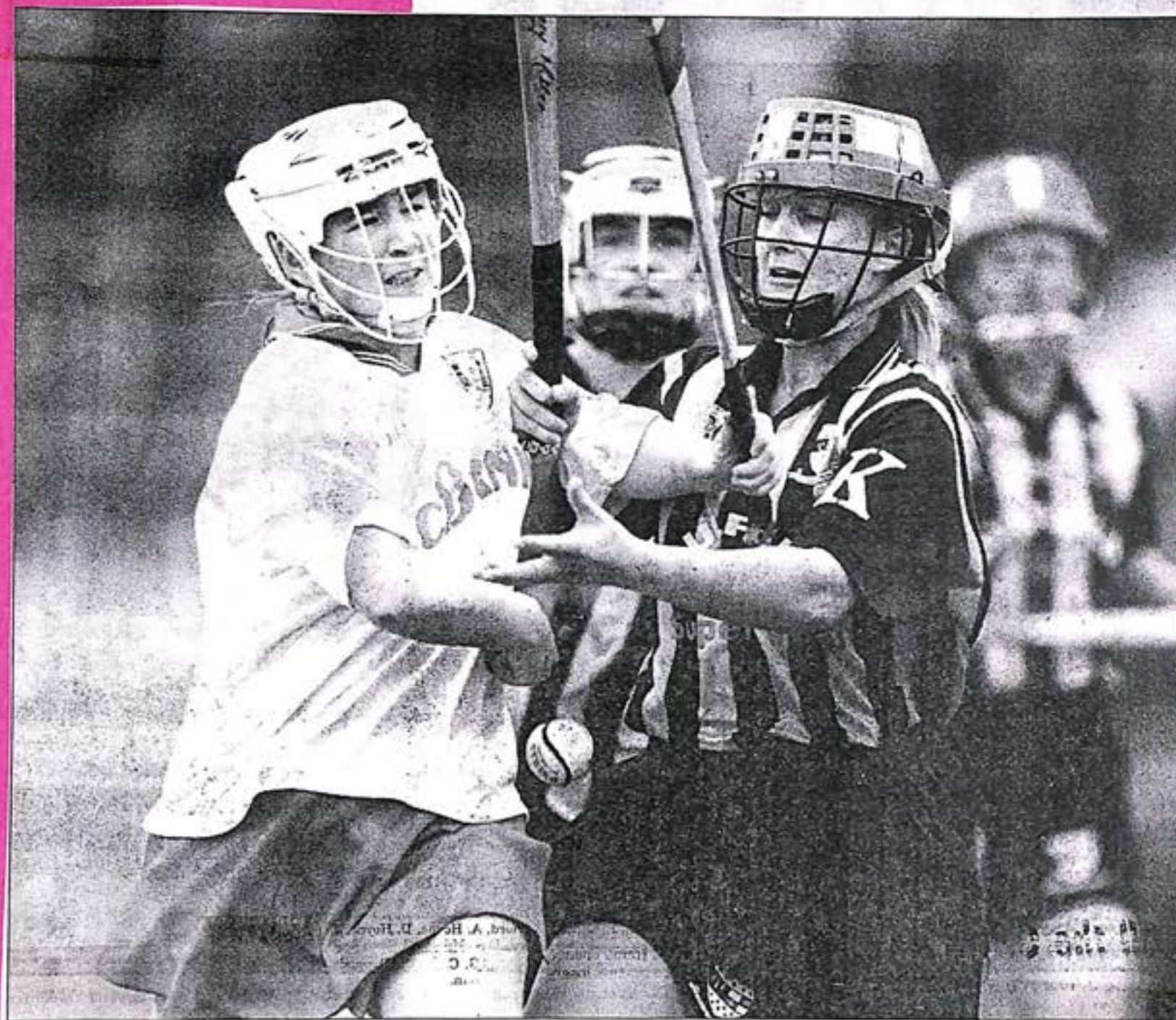
8th. Season with seniors

3 Senior All-Ireland Championship medals; 2 Minor All-Ireland Championship medals; 5 Leinster Senior Championship medals; 2 Leinster Minor Championship medals; 3 Leinster U-14 Championship medals; 1 Ashbourne Cup medal; 1 Intermediate County Championship medal; 3 Junior County Championship medals; 2 U-14 County Championship medals; 1 Feile na nGael skillstar award

UNA MURPHY (Tullagher)

5th. Season with seniors

1 Senior All-Ireland Championship medal; 2 Senior National League medals; 2 Minor All-Ireland Championship medals; 1 Senior Gael Linn medal; 1 Kilmacud Crokes 7-a-side Shield medal; 4 Leinster Senior Championship medals; 2 Leinster Minor Championship medals; 1 Leinster U-14 Championship medal; 1 Leinster Colleges Senior medal; 3 Leinster Vocational Schools Senior medals; 1 Ashbourne Shield medal; 2 Purcell Cup medals; 2 Intermediate County Championship medals; 1 Junior County Championship medal; 1 U-14 County Championship medal



Kilkenny's Tracey Millea in action against Cork's Miriam Deasy in the All-Ireland Camogie Semi-Final

Photo: Sportfile



Some of the Tipperary squad going through their paces for next Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final with Kilkenny.

Tipp's huge task in dream realisation

Kilkenny stand in way of first senior title

Back in their first All Ireland senior camogie final since 1984, Tipperary's long felt ambition of making the breakthrough and taking the coveted O'Duffy Cup for the first time ever, is quite a realistic one, with Kilkenny standing in the way of a victory that would do a power of good for camogie in the county.

Sunday will be an historic day in Croke Park in that it will be the first senior final played with teams lining out with fifteen players and on a full sized pitch. Camogie, it could be said, has at last come of age, standing hip to hip and shoulder to shoulder with hurling, the game that breathed life into it back in 1904.

And for all Tipp has contributed to hurling, it is indeed strange that the county has yet to record its first All Ireland senior camogie victory. Will Sunday be that day?

Both Tipp and Kilkenny have reached the final by varying routes. Tipp could be said to have got the easier side of the draw, getting over Clare and Down handily. Kilkenny, on the other hand had to dispose of All Ireland finalists for the past few seasons, Galway and Cork, a much tougher passage one must agree, and one that entitles them to be hot favourites for yet another title.

INTIMIDATED

But that isn't the whole story, nor have Tipp reason to feel in any way intimidated. Last year, they accounted for Kilkenny in the first round of the championship, while in this year's league they repeated that victory.

Therefore, they enter Sunday's final in confident mood because they have the players in all sectors, capable of upsetting the odds. The game has received a huge profile in recent years within the county and the North division can feel very proud of its contribution as illustrated in the 'majority share-holding' which it has on the first fifteen for Sunday.

Inevitably when looking to Tipp's chances, one has to recall, however unpalatable it may be, the 'roasting' Tipp received from Cork in the league final in May. While the concession of nine goals in a thirty three point rout begs many questions, a more reasoned glance at that evening - and Cork too share that view - will side with the theory that it was just one of those things, a freak result, that in no way reflects the true position of the game in Tipp.

Following such a roasting, former senior hurlers Michael Cleary and Colm Bonnar entered the back-room scene and with a renewed approach from everyone, the past was forgotten about and plans made and developed for a serious attack on that elusive All Ireland title.



Stepping it out in training in Semple Stadium, from left; Noelle Kennedy, Una O'Dwyer, Louise Ryan, Sinead Nealon, Sheena Howard, Grainne Shanahan, Claire Madden (hidden), Helen Campion, Caitriona Hennessy, Niamh Harkin, Nora Dwan, Philly Fogarty, Angie McDermott, Mariam Harkin.

Two games later, Tipp are in their first final in fifteen years, they have prepared very well and while under no illusions

about the task facing them, they realise too that their recent record against Kilkenny entitles them to know that they are there

with an excellent chance of making Tipperary camogie history.

ALL IRELAND

MEDALISTS

While hardly as experienced in senior ranks as their oppo-

All Ireland medalists in minor, junior, intermediate and colleges grades. The defence was hardly tested against Down while at the other end of the field a huge score of 6-22 was being chalked up. Jovita Delaney has slotted in very well as goalkeeper and she can have the utmost confidence in a back line that marks tightly and gives little away. Suzanne Kelly, Una O'Dwyer and Claire Madden are very solid in the inner line while Ciara Gaynor at centre half is a commanding figure with two excellent flankers in team captain Maedhbh Stokes and Sinead Nealon.

On All Ireland final day a year ago, Tipp lined out in the junior decider, defeated by Galway and returning to Croke Park on promotion to the senior side is Angie McDermott, a tireless worker at mid field where she is likely to partner an equally proficient Emily Hayden.

CLASSIEST

Up front most attention will centre around the exploits of Noelle Kennedy, Deirdre Hughes and Emer McDonnell. Noelle is one of the game's classiest performers, her accuracy from placed balls complementing the silken skills she invariably brings to every game. Toomevara club mate Deirdre Hughes, like Noelle, has had a long and busy camogie life in her comparative youth and opposing defenders are always

mate ways to stop her. It isn't easy, Deirdre in possession is something special and if the right kind of ball comes in her direction on Sunday, she will be exceedingly difficult to close down.

Emer McDonnell is developing into a forward of great thrust and skill and is always good for decisive scores while Therese Brophy, Helen Kiely, Niamh Harkin, Sheena Howard, Caitriona Hennessy, Marie Harkin have shown an innate ability to rise to the occasion when the need is there.

Kilkenny? Well, anyone who saw they way in which they defeated Cork in the semi final will know they are not a side to lie down easily. The game seemed to be gone away from them when what was literally the last puck of the hour, saw Sinead Millea lob a far out free all the way home for a 2-12 to 1-13 victory. They have won twelve finals in all out of fifteen final appearances and in fact, Cork is the only side to have defeated them in a final.

LIFTED TEAM

Throughout most of the semi final, Anne Downey was pacing up and down the side-line, urging them on, herself unable to take full part in the game because of injury. She then came on towards the end and lifted the team considerably from the full forward berth. Tracey Millea, Gillian Maher,

defenders. Kelly Long and Marina Downey give little away at mid field and in attack Bridget Mullaly, Sinead Millea, Martina Maher and of course Anne Downey if fully fit are sure to cause problems for the Tipp defence.

A strong team who play the game hard but fair, Kilkenny have built up a fine tradition over the past two decades or so and have been through it all.

To describe Tipp's task as anything other than huge, would hardly be treating the issue fairly. That is not to say that Tipp are not capable of realising their dream against such illustrious opposition. They are, and they must be considered as having a really good chance of winning their first title. It is going to demand the very maximum in contribution from all players, and with the right attitude and a strong self-belief allied to total commitment and concentration, Tipp's title hopes can be realised.

That isn't just wishful thinking. That league final display could yet turn out to be the best thing to have happened to them in terms of putting the proper game together. If the occasion does not get to them, Tipp are there with an excellent chance and hopefully the clubs of the county will respond in huge numbers and provide the vocal support so necessary on such a big day.

"People were laughing at us, we had to get respect back"

- Deirdre Hughes

It can't be nice when you go out and do your best, but for some reason or other nothing goes right. The feeling must be one of, not only huge disappointment but utter frustration. However it has to become far more serious, far more hurtful when people start to laugh at you and make little of your efforts.

Such was how DEIRDRE HUGHES felt in the wake of than thirty three point thrashing by Cork in the league final last May. The fact that the game was a curtain raiser to the Tipp/Kerry Munster hurling championship game was thought to be a boost for it and Deirdre was very excited about the prospect of playing on such a programme and in Semple Stadium. She even told people to be there early and not be going along just for the hurling match. Some people who normally didn't patronise hurling games went along, and their disappointment coupled in some instances with sneers and bawdy laughter provided Deirdre and her team mates with a let-down that was very difficult to get to grips with.



Deirdre Hughes

HADN'T PREPARED

"We really thought we were up for it but looking back now, we realise we hadn't prepared as we should have. Cork were expecting a battle from us, especially here at home but it all went totally wrong. I think we have shown since that we have recovered and that it was a once-off occasion, hopefully never to be repeated. The following Wednesday evening we met Cork again in the Munster championship and while they beat us, narrowly, we gave them a fair old game. Then 'the boys' (Michael Cleary and Colm Bonnar) came in to give us a hand and they lifted us up. The whole scene began to change quickly and we all said we would knuckle down and try to get a bit of respect back. We had let ourselves and

the county down and as I say, people were laughing at us. Hopefully, we will have the last laugh on Sunday!", says Deirdre. And as though to prove that respect is well on the way back, if not completely there, Tipp have recorded two big wins over Clare and Down, en route to Sunday's final with the Toomevara girl notching a fantastic 4-3 against Down.

PLAYS HOCKEY

But of course things will be totally different in Croke Park from what they were in Parnell Park which Deirdre, who plays competitive hockey with Nenagh during the winter months, to stay fit, readily concedes.

A great bond has been built up with Kilkenny in recent years both on and off the field and Deirdre is under no illusions as

to what to expect from them on Sunday.

"Sinead Millea and Bridget Mullally are very good forwards and their backs are strong. I went to see their county final a few evenings ago and you'd have to be impressed with the overall strength of the game there" she says.

Deirdre will be no stranger to Croke Park, though on this occasion, apart from it being the biggest challenge of her life, there is also the fact that it will be the first fifteen-a-side final and for a full forward, that is indeed a change.

TO HERSELF

Heretofore, she was used to having the area to herself and she liked that. Now she has a corner forward on each side of her and it does take some getting used to.

"It's a whole new ball game for me and I have to admit that, personally, I would prefer things as they were. That isn't to say that I am against fifteen-a-side. It has to be the way forward and I'll get used to it as it goes on. It will also mean that more games will be played before hurling games, because it won't be necessary to change the pitch dimensions and after that Cork game, we have to give our public back the faith in us that was so badly damaged then", says Deirdre.

She doesn't have to worry on that score. As one of the team on whose slim shoulders so much of Tipps scoring abilities rest, Deirdre Hughes is someone very special in the camogie scene and has nothing to apologise to anyone for.



Camogie Board Officials - Marion Graham (secretary), Noel Hennessy (chairman), Biddy Phillips (treasurer and team manager), Rose Mannion (PRO).

League final spurred us on - Biddy Phillips

A National League final score line of 9-19 to 2-7 in Cork's favour should be sufficient to disillusion any team. That was in Semple Stadium as a curtain raiser to the May 22nd Munster SHC first round game between Tipp and Kerry. Now, three months later Tipp find themselves in the All Ireland final and Cork are gone!

Tipp coach BIDDY PHILLIPS admits it wasn't easy to build up morale after that defeat, yet, at the same time she says that when the league began there was no great ambition centred around winning it.

"We hadn't much done up to that final and it happened that we got to the final. We then decided to get the club championship over and prepare well for the All Ireland series, knowing we had a reasonable chance of getting to the final because of the way the draw worked out", she says.

Biddy, who refereed the All Ireland final between Galway and Cork two years ago sees that league final defeat as also having had a determined effect on the team.

"Maybe it was the best thing that happened to us. It spurred us on. It made us wake up and realise that if we wanted to reach Cork's standard, we had to get out and do something about it".

PREFERENCE FOR KILKENNY

Looking to Sunday, Biddy makes no apology in stating their preference to be playing Kilkenny rather than Cork. They have had the upper hand on their black and amber neighbours in recent times. Tipp won in last year's championship quarter final and again in this year's league. She sees the Tipp and Kilkenny styles as being somewhat alike. Both are strong physical teams whereas Cork play a more open, running game.

Nevertheless, despite the encouragement recent past performances must give Tipp, there can be no getting away from the fact, according to Biddy, that Kilkenny are a very experienced team. At least ten of their team have several All Ireland medals and they have been in the big time very often. All this is new to Tipp and Kilkenny's rise to fame in the game has occurred since Tipp were last in an All Ireland final in 1984.

"We are going to enjoy it and maybe we might shade it in the end", says a smiling Biddy.

Mad on camogie in Maddens!

I once heard of a great footballer of the past who was also a selector on the club senior team. Each week before a big game, when the selectors would meet to pick the team, all would go well until it came to the centre field pairing when our friend would pipe up "Me and who else?".

This is not meant to infer that team selector JIM MADDEN has any ulterior motive when he sits with his colleagues to pick the Tipp camogie team - daughter Claire being a member of the panel.

The Madden household in Ardara, Portroe has a great gradh for camogie and the one major link between Tipp's last senior All Ireland final appearance in 1984 and the current, is a Madden connection. Margaret, daughter of Jim and Ann played in that final, as one of no fewer than five Port lassies, the others being Maura Hackett, Breda Kennedy, Mary Sheedy and

Susan Hickey (sub). Port man John O'Connell was team trainer.

Now younger sister Claire upholds the Madden and Portroe tradition.

Incidentally that '84 final in which Tipp lost to Dublin was the first occasion the game received television recognition being featured that night on "The Sunday Game".

SCHOOLS MEDALS

Another member of the Madden family, Sarah, won an All Ireland colleges junior and senior medal with St Mary's, Nenagh earlier this decade, so with father Jim it is probably a case of "if you can't beat them, join them" and this he has done so successfully in his role as team selector.

Without for a moment underestimating the task facing Tipp on Sunday, Jim sees the absence of Cork as a psychological boost to Tipp in light of what happened in the league final. At the same time he sees the advantage Kilkenny has in terms of experience and while a number of the Tipp players have won All

Ireland medals at Intermediate, junior and minor levels, they are lacking in the experience of the big time success, something that has been part and parcel of the Kilkenny scene so often over the past couple of decades.

WORKED WONDERS

Jim sees Michael Cleary, Colm Bonnar and Sean Hennessy as having worked wonders with the team since joining the back room set-up after the league final.

"It's great to get men like Michael and Colm, who have such vast experience of what it takes to get to the top", he says. What of the new fifteen-a-side game?

Jim sees it as being of great benefit to the stronger clubs or counties and he favours staying with it because it caters for more players. However counties and clubs where the game might not be so strong could see difficulties in being able to come up with a good balanced fifteen. It is something, he feels, that has to be persevered with and in time, it should benefit the game considerably.

Same team for final

Selectors Biddy Phillips, Jim Madden and Timmy Moloney stay with the side that began the semi final against Down in Tipp's quest for a first All Ireland senior camogie title against Kilkenny on Sunday.

The team is:

	Jovita Delaney (Cashel)	
Suzanne Kelly (Toomevara)	Una O'Dwyer (Cashel)	Claire Madden (Portroe)
Maedhbh Stokes (Cashel) capt.	Clara Gaynor (Kilruane)	Sinead Nealon (Burgess)
Emily Hayden (Cashel)	Angie McDermott (Knockavilla)	
Noelle Kennedy (Toomevara)	Therese Brophy (Burgess)	Helen Kiely (Drom 'n Inch)
Eimear McDonnell (Burgess)	Deirdre Hughes (Toomevara)	Niamh Harkin (Drom 'n Inch)

Suns: Louise Ryan (Holycross), Cathriona Hennessy (Drom 'n Inch), Philomena Fogarty (Cashel), Sheena Howard (Burgess), Maria Harkin (Drom 'n Inch), Helen Campion (Cashel), Nora Dwan (Toomevara), Grainne Shanahan (Toomevara).



Selector, Jim Madden with team member, daughter Claire.

CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND:-

Tipperary Hoping for Senior Breakthrough

(By John Gilton)

Following many false dawns, Tipperary camogie may be about to witness its greatest hour. The marked progress of the nineties, as reflected in national junior, intermediate titles would be gloriously complete on Sunday next at Croke Park, should the Premier County prevail over neighbours Kilkenny to take its first ever All-Ireland senior title.

As the countdown begins to Sunday's showpiece, Kilkenny rank as overwhelming favourites to take the prestigious prize, following their defeat of an awesome Cork side bidding for three-in-a-row. In terms of experience they certainly outweigh the Tipperary girls with no fewer than ten of the team already having savoured All-Ireland senior success, and one of the all-time greats of the game, Ann Downey, now chasing her thirteenth national honour.

The 'Cats', will accustomed to the big stage, are truly on the warpath, buoyant following their dramatic victory over the champions, and will take stopping in pursuit of the

ultimate prize. Kilkenny's credentials are beyond question, and taking everything into account, little wonder that Tipperary are given a mere outside chance of making the long-awaited breakthrough.

Naturally enough, the underdog suits the Tipper-

ary management and team as they put the final touches to their preparations for Sunday's acid test. Anxious to keep a low profile, following their facile victory over Down in the semi-final, they see no harm at all in the Black

TIPPERARY TEAM

The team for the All-Ireland Final is:-

Jovita Delaney (Cashel)

Suzanne Kelly (Toomevara) **Una O'Dwyer** (Cashel) **Claire Madden** (Portroe)

Maedbh Stokes (captain) (Cashel) **Ciara Gaynor** (Kilruane McDonagh) **Sinead Nealon** (Burgess)

Emily Hayden (Cashel) **Angie McDermott** (Knockavilla)

Noelle Kennedy (Toomevara) **Therese Brophy** (Burgess) **Helen Kiely** (Drom-Inch)

Eimear McDonnell (Burgess) **Deirdre Hughes** (Toomevara) **Niamh Harkin** (Drom-Inch)

Subs - Louise Ryan (Holycross), Cathriona Hennessy (Drom-Inch), Philomena Fogarty (Cashel), Sheena Howard (Burgess), Maria Harkin (Drom-Inch), Helen Campion (Cashel), Nora Dwane (Toomevara), Grainne Shanahan (Toomevara).

and Amber carrying the weight of the favourites banner going into the final! Having said that, the relatively inexperienced Tipperary are in no way put off by the daunting task ahead of them, and they are oozing with determination as the big day beckons. Tipperary

are certainly not short of incentive for the task ahead. The chance of creating history is obviously of paramount importance, but they desire to do it at the expense of their neighbours, and great rivals, at whose hands they have too often fallen, is also a real

motivating factor for the Tipperary contingent.

By now, Tipperary's preparations are winding down, and team manager, Billy Phillips, is happy that everything has gone well in recent weeks. The panel is injury free, and Biddy states that they are simply "raring to go".

The Thurles lady, and selectors Timmy Moloney (Cashel) and Jim Madden (Portroe) readily acknowledge that Tipperary have had a season of contrasting fortunes but that will have little relevance should captain Maedbh Stokes lift the trophy on Sunday evening next.

Speaking to the "Tipperary Star" this week, Biddy described as "a nightmare" Tipperary's crushing defeat at the hands of Cork in the National League final, but to their credit, they bounced back full of heart and determination. "There's a great team spirit, and they have put in a huge effort for Sunday", said Biddy who had the distinction of being a selector on the All-Ireland winning junior team of 1992, and manager of the intermediate winning side of 1997.

Biddy feels that while the spotlight tends to focus

on the experience of the Kilkenny side the majority of the Tipperary team have played in the junior and intermediate finals, and will not be over-awed by the challenge. "They are acutely aware that Tipperary have not been in a senior final since 1984, and they are going to give this history-making bid their best shot", she said.

Naturally enough, Tipperary would have welcomed a more vigorous challenge in the semi-final to better prepare them for

to take the game by storm from the start on Sunday. Mindful that Kilkenny beat the same Cork side which hammered Tipperary in the league final, Biddy agrees that her charges have a mountain to climb. "We fell apart against Cork in the league final, and hopefully that won't happen again. The side recovered well from the defeat, and are ready physically and mentally now for this challenge", said Biddy.

Biddy has appealed for

Reception for Camogie Team

The Tipperary camogie team will return on Monday afternoon with a stop off at the Horse & Jockey Hotel.

They will continue their journey into Cashel where they will assemble at the Esso Station, Dublin Road at 8 o'clock.

A parade is arranged from there to proceed down the town to the Council Offices where they will receive a Civic Welcome from the Chairman and Councillors.

The party continues on to Halla na Feile to a reception and social night, where a big welcome awaits.

Sunday. "Down were disappointing on the day, and the game was no real test for us. Yet, I was happy with the way the girls played and the improvement they had shown since the league final defeat. That loss to Cork really opened our eyes, and we stepped up considerably for the championship semi-final", said Biddy.

The team manager reckons that there is still room for improvement, however, and the team will need

huge support for the team on Sunday. Chiefly sponsored by Tom Egan of the Horse & Jockey Inn, the team will travel to Dublin on Sunday morning, and win, lose or draw, will attend an official reception for the teams in the Burlington Hotel on Monday. They will return, hopefully, as victors, to Cashel on Monday evening where they will be given a reception at 8 p.m. Captain Maedbh Stokes represents the Cashel club.



Two of Tipperary's senior camogie team for Sunday's final are (left to right) Sinead Nealon and Ciara Gaynor (daughters of All-Ireland hurling winning fathers, Donie Nealon and Len Gaynor)



The Tipperary senior camogie selectors are (left to right) Jim Madden, Bridget Phillips and Timmy Moloney.

BORD NA GAEILGE ALL IRELAND CAMOGIE FINAL

'91 minor break-through paved the way

Having opted out of senior ranks in 1987 when it was decided to try and work their way back up through concentration on lower levels, Tipp made their initial break through in 1991, when SINEAD NEALON captained the minors to what was the first ever inter-county All Ireland title to come to Tipperary. JOVITA DELANEY, now goalkeeper on the senior side was also on that team, contributing seven points in the 2-11 to 3-6 win over Kilkenny.

The year before that, Kilkenny had beaten Tipp in the final.

With joy for the minors in '91, not so for the juniors who travelled to Croke Park hoping to bring a second national title to the county. When Joan Tobin finished the slotair to the Down net with time just up, a narrow Tipp victory looked assured, but straight away from the puck out Down attacked and goaled, 3-13 to 2-14 in Down's favour.

exacted in The Ragg, when DEIRDRE HUGHES led them to a 2-19 to 2-12 victory. Noelle Kennedy capped a great performance with a personal tally of 1-18 while of the present panel, Emily Hayden, Sinead Nealon, Claire Madden, Maedhbh Stokes, Therese Brophy, Helen Kiely, Jovita Delaney, Una O'Dwyer and Nora Dwan all featured.

Ten years exactly after it was decided to leave senior ranks,



Mind games with Michael Cleary - From left; Ciara Gaynor, Suzanne Kelly, Marie Harkin.

50/50 chance says Marion

Outspoken she may well be -- her annual Convention reports pull no punches -- but in reference to Sunday's All Ireland Camogie final, MARION GRAHAM concedes to Tipp having no more than a fifty-fifty chance of success.

It isn't that the popular Littleton lady hasn't faith in the team. She has, but she more than most is well aware of the threat posed by Kilkenny.

"Kilkenny are favourites and why wouldn't they be?", she says. "They have been through it all at this level. That isn't to say that we won't be ready for them. We have prepared very well under the guidance of Biddy, Michael, Colm and Sean. There are no injuries, though we had a few scares last week with three players struggling but they are all flying again", she says.

When interviewed earlier this year after she had been the unanimous choice of delegates to chair the Munster Council, Marion was confident Tipp would reach the A.I. Ireland final this year because she felt Lady Luck had treated them well in the draw.

HAVE TO WIN

"Now that we are there, it won't be good enough simply to line out in Croke Park, we have to win it", she adds, while adjusting her thoughts to the opposition.

"They are good, you can't get away from that. Look how they never gave up against Cork, but we beat them in the championship last year and in the league this year. We have played them in a couple of challenge games this year too and you could say we know one another very well" Marion adds.

A year ago, having paced the side-line for the duration of All Ireland semi final in Nowlan Park in which Tipp narrowly lost to Galway in a late challenge, Marion put that disappointment behind her to immediately officiate as umpire for the second semi final between Cork and Clare.

GIVES SO MUCH

Whether it is on the side-line shouting advice, leading camogie summer camps, in umpire action, or doing the very necessary tedious tasks an administrator has to contend with, Marion gives so much to camogie. She always has, from her own exciting if largely unrewarding days as an inter-county player, right up to the present.

An advocate of the fifteen-a-side game, Marion illustrates her satisfaction with its introduction, by pointing to the fact that more girls can now be accommodated on a team. Last year, Tipp had a talented panel but in the end it all boiled down to being able to select only twelve.

She feels Tipp have adjusted well to the new arrangement, quickly adding that so too have Kilkenny, which brings us back to Sunday's final, and Marion reiterating her view that "we have only a fifty-fifty chance".

Jovita's new role

Up to this year, JOVITA DELANEY from Cashel had been one of Tipp's outstanding out-field players, featuring in the All Ireland successes of the minors -- she scored seven points in the '90 final against Kilkenny -- junior and intermediate teams.

On Sunday she finds herself as the last line of defence, having performed very well there against both Clare and Down.

A big change? Jovita readily admits it is a huge difference but having played as a defender in latter seasons, she is well aware of how forwards approach the ball and what is required of a defence to limit their possession.

Against Clare in particular, Jovita made some excellent saves and showed that her move back wasn't all that intimidating. She had a relatively quiet hour against Down but knows that Sunday will be the real test in the cauldron of an All Ireland final and against such doughty opponents as Kilkenny.

Is she enjoying her new role? "I'll tell you that after Sunday!", she smiles.



Eimear McDonnell



Therese Brophy



Wearing their college colours, Angie McDermott (UCC) and Sinead Nealon (Waterford RTC), Ashburne Cup winners in '98 & '99 respectively.

There were many tears shed on that Croke Park sod when the final whistle sounded.

However Tipp bounced back quickly and in '92 Triona Bonnar led them back to Croke Park. Six of Sunday's team -- MAEDHBH STOKES (capt), CLAIRE MADDEN, JOVITA DELANEY, SINEAD NEALON, DEIRDRE HUGHES lined out against Galway. NOELLE KENNEDY coming on as a second half sub.

Tipp beat the Cyril Farrell-coached Galway team, 6-13 to 2-7. Sinead scored ten points and Deirdre found the net on three occasions along with adding three points.

TO INTERMEDIATE

The step up to Intermediate grade had been achieved but it took five years to make the next break-through, that long desired step up to senior grade.

Clare deprived Tipp of that goal in '95 but two years later, revenge for that defeat was

Tipp had qualified to return. The teething process undertaken had been successfully completed and by now the game had taken a strong grip throughout the county.

Sunday's opponents felt the weight of Tipp's senior challenge when the sides met in Semple Stadium in the opening round of the '98 senior championship. Having got over that hurdle, they travelled to Kilkenny's Nowlan Park to face '96 champions Galway but without the injured Deirdre Hughes.

For a long time it looked as if a final place was beckoning, however a late Galway goal put paid to that dream and along with the loss of Deirdre, Tipp also suffered the disallowance of what appeared to be a perfectly legitimate Eimear McDonnell goal.

But '99 is another year, the first of the fifteen-a-side era. Can the dream be realised?



Sheena Howard, Louise Ryan, Nora Dwan, Helen Campion, Grainne Shanahan, share a light moment with selector Timmy Maloney, and advisor, Michael.



When Tipperary step out on Croke Park's sod on Sunday in search of their first ever All-Ireland Senior camogie title, six of the team that won All-Ireland Junior honours in 1992 will be in action. Five are pictured here: Back from left: Claire Madden (Portroe), Senior Captain Maedhbh Stokes (Cashel), Jovita Delaney (Cashel). Front: Deirdre Hughes and Noelle Kennedy (Toomevara). Also on the team was Sinead Nealon (Burgess). (See sports section).

All-Ireland final day for Tipp cailini

By Gerry Slevin

Tipperary's senior camogie team led by Maedhbh Stokes from Cashel steps out on Croke Park's sod on Sunday in search of that elusive All Ireland title.

Never in the history of the game which goes back to 1904 has the O'Duffy Cup come to Tipperary, despite seven final appearances, the last being in GAA centenary year, 1984.

There is huge interest in this

first in the north of the county with eight of the line-out hailing from four clubs. Toomevara, Burgess, Portroe and Kilruane, and as it is the first ever fifteen a side final, the game will be played on the complete Croke

Park pitch.

The selected team is the same as that which defeated Down in the semi final and players from the North division are Suzanne Kelly, Noelle Kennedy, Deirdre Hughes (Toomevara), Claire Madden (Portroe), Ciara Gaynor (Kilruane), Sinead Nealon, Therese Brophy, Eimer McDonnell (Burgess). In addition, included in the subs are Sheena Howard (Burgess), Nora Dwan, Grainne Shanahan (Toomevara).

Several bus loads of fans will be leaving for the capital on Sunday morning, organised by the various clubs and the game will also be televised live on Network Two.

CAMOGIE/All-Ireland finals

Incentive for teams to make it lucky 13th

By Ian O'Riordan

NOT FOR the first time, the battle for the All-Ireland Camogie title in Croke Park tomorrow will be an historic occasion. Besides it being the last final of the millennium, and that it's 15-a-side for the first time, both Kilkenny and Tipperary have extra incentive to make this year the one that matters.

Tipperary, appearing in their 13th final, are looking for their first title. Their last visit to Croke Park was back in the GAA centenary year of 1984. Kilkenny aim to achieve their 13th title but there are some personal matters also which adds to their sense of occasion.

For a start, Kilkenny's Ann Downey is a substitute, although an appearance tomorrow is more a formality than a possibility. If they win, she will claim her 13th All-Ireland senior medal, a feat which would equal the record of Dublin's Una O'Connor set between 1953 and 1967. But there are other long-serving members also, including the current captain Gillian Dillon-Maher who has been there since the start of the 1990s after coming straight into the senior panel following her two victorious All-Ireland's with the minor side.

With senior medals from the Kilkenny side that won their last two titles in 1991 and 1994, Dillon-Maher, however, believes the five year gap has been too long. "We are delighted to get this far, but we're all hoping to finish it off as well," she said. "It was such a big boost in the camp to beat Cork and get here in the first place, because nobody really gave us a chance. We're all excited about winning it now but we know Tipperary will have something to say about that."

Dillon-Maher agrees with the sense of history surrounding the game, significantly with it being the first 15-a-side line-up for an All-Ireland final. "The new format has definitely improved the game, no doubt about that."

"It encourages more players to come on board and probably brings it closer to the game of hurling in that before it was so different in how it was played. It can only get better in the years to come. As it is, the live television coverage is a step in the right direction but I still feel there is a way to go," she said.

Tipperary, meanwhile, will prove more than a worthy match, not least of all in their hunger to claim their first senior title. "We've played them in three prac-

tice matches already this year and we know how strong they are. They are a very physical side, especially in the forwards, but the whole team will have to be watched very closely," she said.

Her role as captain is something Dillon-Maher gratefully received following her club Freshford's victory in the county championship. Tomorrow, she is joined by four clubmates — an advantage she hopes will enhance Kilkenny's chances. "The five of us obviously know each other very well at this stage, although I usually play at centre-forward for the club. I'll start at centre-back tomorrow and that's a bit of a change for me but the whole team have been together since last March so we do have a fair understanding of each other."

It has been quite a few years since a camogie-hurling double was achieved in Kilkenny, but that's an incentive Dillon-Maher senses will only lift them even more. "It's a bit wild in Kilkenny at the moment, and certainly a real buzz about the hurling and the camogie. I can't imagine what it will be like if we get the double."

And adding to the sense of history will be the introduction to the crowd for the first time of a women's Jubilee Team before the senior final, featuring the victorious Kilkenny team of 1974 which, incredibly, also included Ann Downey — still on senior panel 25 years later. Another medal tomorrow would surpass by one her twin sister Angela's total.

The junior final preceding the senior game sees Derry, the National Junior League winners, take on Cork, who last won the title in 1996. It's been 21 years since Derry's last championship victory when, coincidentally, they beat Cork and before that the two sides met in the 1969 final when Derry again came out on top. For Cork, it's the chance to make it third time lucky.

SENIOR FINAL (3.30 p.m.)

KILKENNY: M Holland, T Miles, M Hickey, U Murphy, S Costelloe, G Dillon-Maher (capt), M Costelloe, K Long, S Miles, S Gleeson, B Mulrany, M Downey, M Comerford, M Maher, E Lyng.

TIPPERARY: J Delaney, S Kelly, U O'Dwyer, C Madden, M Stokes, C Gaynor, S Nealon, E Mayden, A McDermott, N Kennedy, T Brophy, H Kelly, E McDonnell, D Hughes, N Harkin.

Referee: A Derham (Dublin).

JUNIOR FINAL (1.40 p.m.)

DERRY: A O'Grady, C Scullin, G Maguire, P McKenna, C McDonald, S Convery, C Doherty, M Mulholland, A O'Loughlin, S McCaul, A Tohl, P McAtamney, C McNicholl, M O'Kane (capt), K Raftery.

CORK: G Casey, M Harrington, R Holland, S Buckley, R Cahalan, J Hannon, L O'Donnell, S Morley, H Walsh (capt), O O'Sullivan, M Corkery, V O'Sullivan, R Maloney, C Healy, C Harte.

Referee: J Morrissey (Tipperary).

Kilkenny will shade it

by Conor George
and Tom Higgins

Nerves Tipp's biggest worry

THE disappointment of an All-Ireland semi-final defeat at the hands of Kilkenny still rankles with Cork camogie star Eithne Duggan. Not even the satisfaction of helping pilot her club Bishopstown to their third successive county final triumph a number of weeks ago has helped dull the pain.

This weekend, despite the desire to ignore it, her gaze will naturally be drawn to television coverage of the Cats in All-Ireland final action against Tipperary for the right to be crowned the best team in the land.

It is an accolade she fully expects Kilkenny to claim. "If only on experience alone I think that Kilkenny will shade matters, but there is no way that they can afford to be complacent on the day because Tipperary are a good side, and if they can overcome their nerves they should prove to be sticky opposition," said Duggan.

Duggan and her Cork team-mates have first-hand experience of both sides, having thrashed Tipperary in

the League Final when racking up an impressive tally of 9-19 to the Premier County's paltry 2-7 and having lost to Kilkenny in their All-Ireland semi-final meeting.

"I know that we had quite a comprehensive win over Tipperary in the League final, but they are not as bad a team as that scoreline suggests. We played them about a week-and-a-half after that league final meeting and they put up a far better showing against us.

"Their biggest obstacle will be nerves because none of the present team have an All-Ireland medal in their possession. They have reached the final on seven occasions and have been beaten in every single one of those finals, and that could work either way for the team.

"Also, the fact that they have beaten Kilkenny in their last three meetings, once in the championship and twice in the league, should give them a degree of confidence, but by

the same token, there is no way that they can take Kilkenny for granted.

"After all, Kilkenny have been there before and have succeeded and after beating us (Cork) they will be firing on all cylinders. Their only worry will be that perhaps they have already played their All-Ireland final. They hit such a high against us that it might be a small bit difficult to motivate themselves to that level again," added Duggan.

Tipperary have pulled out all the stops in their preparations this year, with Tipperary hurling stars Michael Cleary and Colm Bonnair doing much of the training with the squad and if they can get good early possession into Deirdre Hughes and Noelle Kennedy in their full-forward line they could cause Kilkenny problems. "Deirdre, in particular, is a class act. She literally has a hand like a bucket, in that she can catch literally anything and if she can get a clear run on the Kilkenny goal she

will definitely cause problems for the defence, but she will certainly have to work hard to shake off her marker.

"Kilkenny also have very fast forwards with Sinéad Millea the star of the show, but their backs are very physical and make the opposition work very hard for any scores they can get. If they can nullify the threat of Hughes and Kennedy they will have gone a long way towards winning the game.

"Kilkenny also have the irreplaceable Ann Downey in their squad and she could prove to be the deciding factor in the game. She came off the bench in the semi-final against us and really lifted the crowd and the team. She has 12 All-Ireland medals to her credit and just imagine the effect seeing her come off the bench would have on the young, inexperienced Tipperary players. She is a player an awful lot of the Tipperary girls would have looked

up to and tried to base their game on and that could prove to be unsettling for them," said Duggan.

"There is no hiding the fact that Croke Park is a very intimidating place to play in and Tipperary's lack of knowledge of the venue and the atmosphere that comes with these games could be crucial. They have to settle into their game early and try and impose themselves on Kilkenny. The day looks like being dry and that will mean good fast ball on both sides and that will add to the game because both teams are hurling sides who like to let the ball travel, and whoever can get the better possession will certainly be in the driving seat.

"Kilkenny also had the tougher run in to the final having had to play Galway and Cork in two very tough games while Tipperary may have had a close game against Clare but they had a more comfortable outing against Down in the semi-final. The tougher games will have prepared Kilkenny for Sunday but unless they hit the type of form they showed against us they could well be in trouble."



Cork junior camogie backs Muireann Harrington, Ruth Cahalan, Sinead Buckley, Linda O'Connell, Rosalie Holland and Jill Hannon at a recent training session at the Mardyke.

Camogie juniors aim to start Cork title spree

by Mary Newman

CORK bid to get September at Croke Park off to a morale-boosting start as they contest the All-Ireland Junior Camogie final against Derry tomorrow (1.40pm).

Cork juniors are no strangers to Croke Park on All-Ireland day as the junior title has come to Leeside on no

fewer than five occasions, the last being in 1996.

Defeated in the 1997 final by Antrim, Cork went out rather surprisingly last year in the Munster Championship semi-final to Tipperary.

However, this was to be the junior side's last defeat in a championship game. Opening this year's campaign they qualified at ease for a

Munster final meeting with Tipperary having brushed aside the challenge of Clare in their opening round.

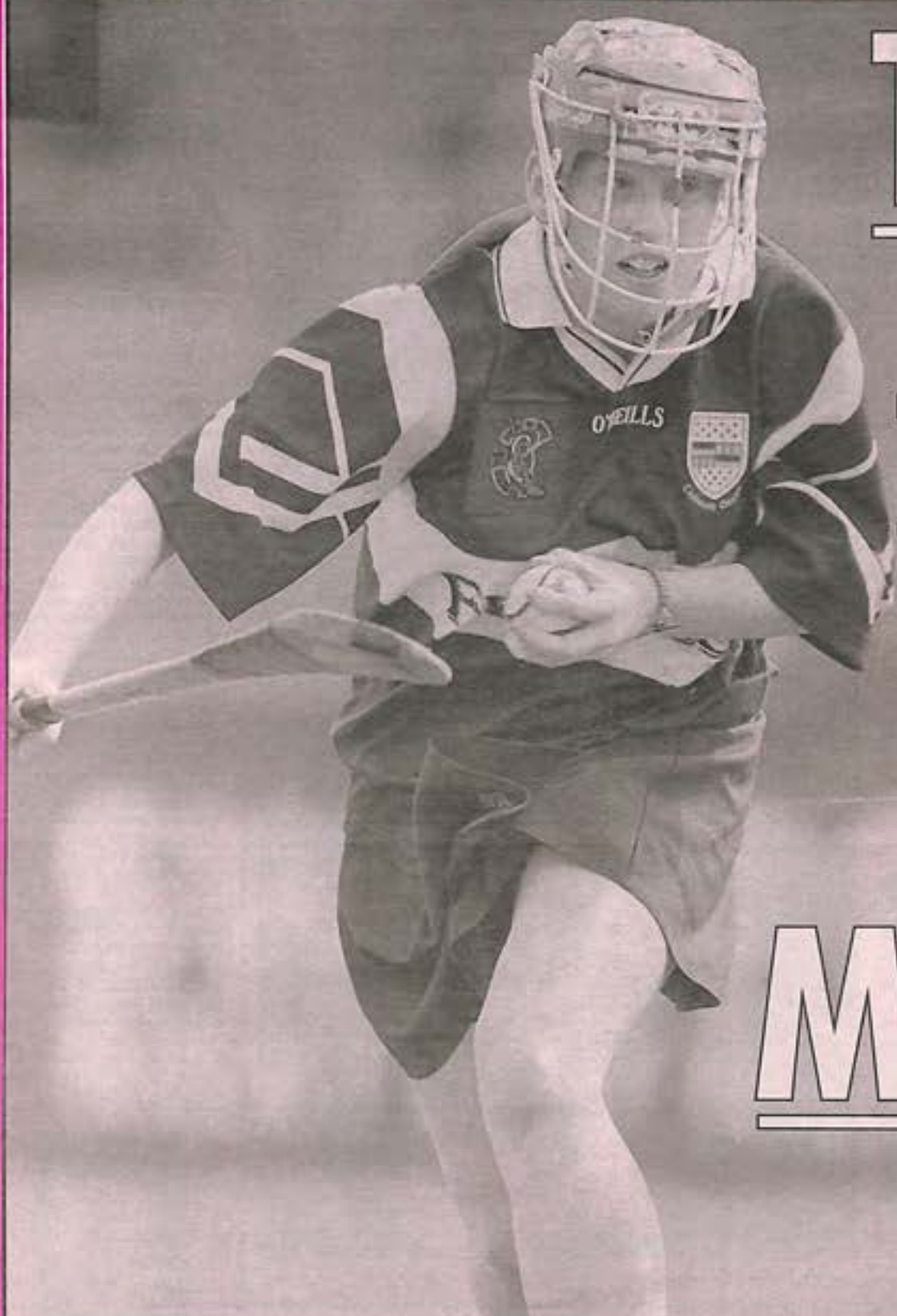
In the Munster final they made no mistake after a tremendous game where the superb second-half display against a strong wind and a magnificent individual performance from Rachel Maloney ensured victory.

Meeting an Offaly side they had already defeated in the National League quarter-final, Cork found their last-four encounter a tough stumbling block against a determined Offaly side who refused to wilt.

Indeed, it was only a late rally yielding five unanswered points that saw Cork book their final spot.

Derry are National League title holders and will go in as firm favourites to complete the double. Their team is trained by Antrim hurler Dominic McKinley and among the players on the side are Orla Downey, sister of inter county footballers Henry and Seamus and Aileen Tohill, sister of football Allstar Anthony.

Captain Mary O'Kane is a forward capable of upsetting the Cork defence as she has shown throughout the campaign, whilst Claire McNicholl and Karen Rafferty are also players of note. When Derry won their first title in 1978, full back on the side was Mary Lee, whose daughters Eimer and Karen are members of tomorrow's team.



Thanks for the Tipps, Michael!

NOW DIERDRE WANTS TO BE A WINNER

DEIRDRE UGHES has hailed former Tipperary hurling ace **Michael Cleary** for putting her on the road to camogie glory.

Tipp forward Hughes stands just 60 minutes from lifting the All-Ireland senior crown with her team-mates.

They face Kilkenny in tomorrow's decider but Hughes, who netted four goals in the semi-final defeat of Down, knows Cleary's influence has been a key factor in their march towards the title.

Cleary quit inter-county hurling two years ago after winning every major honour in hurling - including a brace of All-Ireland medals.

Hughes revealed: "Michael joined us a few months ago to help our manager Biddy Phillips during the Championship.

"Colm Bonaguid, who also played with Tipp, has been along to training too in an

attempt to give us the best preparation possible for games.

"While Colm has been working with the defenders, Michael has been concentrating on the forwards and I have benefited from his knowledge and experience.

"He has taught me a lot and I believe I have improved as a player since he came on board.

Shock

"In fact I think the team in general has learned from the lads and only for them we might not be looking forward to the All-Ireland final."

Tipp beat Clare and Down to advance from their half of the draw while the Cats sneaked through from the other side with shock wins over Cork and Galway.

Cork had been the hot favourites to be crowned All-Ireland champions for the third year on the spin but Hughes insists the fact they are not in the final won't

make Tipp's task any easier. She added: "I know some people are saying we must be well pleased that we are not up against Cork in the final but really it makes no difference to us.

"We know Kilkenny can provide just as tough a test as any other team and we won't be taking them lightly."

Tipp are expected to field an unchanged side but Kilkenny still have a big worry over Brigid Mulally.

She damaged her hamstring in the quarter-final clash with Galway and failed to finish the next game against Cork.

Despite intensive treatment on the injury she is doubtful for the Croke Park showdown and boss Bobby Jackman and his selectors fear she might not make it.

Said Kilkenny star Tracy Millea: "It will be a huge blow for us if Brigid doesn't recover in time.

"She has been playing really well but if we have to do without her then it will make

us more determined to win." And Millea continued: "We have done very well to reach the final when you consider the other counties in our half of the draw.

"But while we have beaten two of the top teams to get this far we aren't crazy enough to believe the hard work is done. Tipp are going to be very strong - we know that from the National League where they beat us earlier in the year."

Meanwhile, **Cork** hope to reverse the result of their National League clash with **Derry** when the sides meet in the All-Ireland junior final tomorrow.

Chances

Derry ran out four-point winners in their most recent encounter which was a League semi-final in May.

But Cork are happy that they can make amends at Croke Park and win the All-Ireland title for the first time in three years. Said Cork

selector Lilian Zinkant: "We were understrength for the League game with Derry but we have everyone available for the All-Ireland final.

"Hopefully that will improve our chances although Derry are a well prepared and organised side."

Both teams expect to be unchanged and Derry chief Dominic McKinley reckons his players can repeat that League win over Cork.

Ex-Antrim hurler McKinley explained: "I have every confidence in my team and if they play to their potential they can do it.

"My main worry, apart from the opposition, is our lack of experience of playing at Croke Park.

"Some players can freeze on the pitch there but all we can do is hope they all enjoy the occasion because they don't know if they will ever get to play there again."

Fixtures: Today: All-Ireland Ladies Football Senior Championship semi-finals: Mayo v Meath (Parnell Park, 3.15); Monaghan v Waterford (Parnell Park, 1.45). Tomorrow: All-Ireland Camogie Junior Championship final: Cork v Derry (Croke Park, 1.40). All-Ireland Camogie Senior Championship final: Kilkenny v Tipperary (Croke Park, 3.30).

Helen is ready

for big day



Pat Murray with members of the Cork junior camogie team during training as they prepare to take on Derry tomorrow in the All-Ireland final.

Helen Walsh is a Lab Technician with Cara Partners.

Next Sunday, she endeavours to follow in the footsteps of Nancy O'Driscoll, and become the second Eire Og player to bring the New Ireland Cup back to her club. Did you think at the beginning of the year that you would lead this team to Croke Park?

Yes, I had high hopes, because last year much of this side got to the All Ireland Intermediate Final. I felt if we could stick together and train that bit harder, then we would have a great chance of achieving success this year.

Derry beat you in the League semi-final. How does that result now affect your chance next Sunday?

We now know how good Derry are. We travelled up to play them three or four months ago in that semi-final, a game in which they beat us by four points. Former Antrim Senior Hurler Dominic McGinley is in charge of them, so we can be assured that they have trained hard since. That game was very tough, but I also felt it was fifty/fifty up to the

Pride of Eire Og will lead out the Rebel girls



When Saturday Comes
Therese O'Callaghan

very end. We will have to play our best on the day to win.

Who are your heroes/heroines?

I am very patriotic really; my heroes are close to home. It would have to be Sandy Fitzgibbon as a camogie player, and Jimmy Barry Murphy.

I remember as a young eight-year-old in primary school getting Jimmy's autograph - it was the highlight of my year.

What do you admire most about this team?

This team has great spirit, we have had it from the start. Everybody puts in one hundred and ten percent in training, nobody shirks from their responsibility, and we really fight for each other.

We've had a few hard games both in the League and Championship this year, and when the chips were down it was a case of all backs to the wall.

What do you consider to be a captain's role?

A captain has to take responsibility, and for me that means pushing myself that extra bit harder in training. I try and stay out near the front, and keep going no matter what.

It is important too, to keep the spirits high, which isn't

difficult with this bunch of players.

When did preparations actually start for Sundays All Ireland Final?

We played our first league match of the season before Christmas. Training picked up around the same time with just one night a week, basically to keep fit over the winter months. When we qualified for the knock out stages of the league, the sessions were increased to two nights a week. They have grown in intensity and duration as the games progressed.

Do you mind losing out on your social life, or do you?

You can combine both training and socialising together. But as you get closer to the championship, you have to curtail your

I vividly recall as an eight year old getting Jimmy Barry Murphy's autograph

nights out, get plenty of rest, and keep an eye on the diet as well. Above all else you have to be sensible.

My family are great, especially my mother. She provided the transport to training and matches when I was younger. From home and the club, there will be a few buses travelling up.

What do you do when you are not training or playing matches?

I love to go to the cinema. But to be honest, over the last two months nothing has been on my mind only camogie.

How did you get involved in camogie?

I went along to a summer camp with some of my cousins when I was eight years old. Jimmy Brohan was the man in charge. They gave me a hurley, and that was the start of it.

Have you a realistic chance of winning your first All Ireland Medal next Sunday?

I know the team is well capable of winning an All Ireland this year, but we will have to play to our full potential on the day. Derry are League Champions, they beat us on route to that title.



Top: Cork captain, Helen Walsh, ready for the fray and above: Criona Harte, Ciara Healy and Rachel Moloney during training at the Mardyke.



CAMOGIE

IN AN EPIC ALL IRELAND SEMI-FINAL, SARAH HAYES OF CORK GETS NO CHANGE FROM KILKENNY'S KELLY LONG AND JILLIAN MAHER.

NOVEL PAIRING TO SERVE UP ALL Ireland cracker

By Mary Moran

Tipperary have seen the two sides of camogie this season. They motored through their section of the national league with impressive wins over Clare, Limerick, Kilkenny and Wexford. In the league semi-final, they produced a first-class performance to oust a fancied Galway 15 by seven points.

As a result, they were labelled potential champions. In the league final at Semple Stadium in Thurles, a big performance was expected of them against old rivals Cork. On a glorious afternoon and a perfect sod, all went horribly wrong for the

the game from the outset and never found their rhythm.

To their credit, they picked themselves up after that defeat. Just 10 days after the final, they were back to their usual form in the Munster Championship, exerting pressure on Cork and picking off some fine scores. The short-lived nightmare was over and they were back on track again.

Tipperary mastered Clare by 12 points in the opening round of the All Ireland championship. Their semi-final clash with Down was a mismatch, with the northerners falling well short of senior standard. Tipp-

of reaching the All Ireland final but they must realise that those whom they have dispatched from the competition so far were not serious contenders for the title.

Low Profile

The other half of the draw contained the big names - Cork, Galway, Wexford and Kilkenny. While many fancied Cork and Galway, the counties that dominated this championship for the past four years, it was Kilkenny who emerged.

The Cats kept a low profile in the early part of the season. While news filtered through that they were taking



THE '99 TIPPERARY SQUAD

TIPPERARY MIDFIELDER
ANGIE McDERMOTT

failed to qualify for the play-off stages of the National League. Kilkenny have always been outstanding championship competitors with an uncanny ability to spring from nowhere.

Final Record

So, the Tipperary/Kilkenny pairing makes for a novel All Ireland final. Kilkenny's record in finals is most impressive: they have carried home the O'Duffy Cup on 12 occasions from 15 starts. Tipperary have enjoyed nothing like that. This will be the Premier County's eighth appearance in the senior final and their first since 1984. They have yet to engrave their name on the prized piece of silverware.

Much has changed in Tipperary since Centenary Year. The county has enjoyed success at all other levels, with the majority of the players to line out against Kilkenny having made the breakthrough at minor, junior and intermediate grades. No Tipperary senior side has ever stepped into Croke Park with that record and confidence behind them.

Experience

Though Kilkenny have been out of the limelight for the past few seasons, it is significant that 11 of the present panel won senior medals in 1994.

Anne Downey is chasing her 13th All Ireland which would put her ahead of her famous sister Angela and level with a Dublin star of yesteryear Una O'Connor. Anne's experience, ability and drive are big pluses for Kilkenny.

Jillian Maher, a daughter of former Kilkenny great Pa Dillon, captains the side. She is an outstanding all-round player and commands the pivotal centre-back position. Sinead Millea is a classic striker of the ball both in general play and from placed balls. The speed of Martina Downey, the finishing of Bridget Mullally, the steady play of Margaret Hickey and the strength of Sinead Costello are all key factors.

Exciting Newcomers

Kilkenny have introduced a number of newcomers to the side since their last appearance in Croke Park on All Ireland final day. Kelly Long has been a real find in the middle of the field. Mianam Holland proved her worth in the semi-final against Cork. Her tremendous save from Linda Mollenck was a turning point in the game. Martina Maher and Margaret Comerford make the score-sheet on a regular basis. Although injury did not permit Lizzie Lyng to start against Cork, she is a very exciting



prospect and certainly one for the future.

Tipperary Stars

From her school days with St Mary's, Nenagh in the early days of this decade, Noelle Kennedy has looked the part. She is an elegant striker and an immaculate free-taker. At full-forward, Deirdre Hughes will require a lot of watching. Good to win possession, she has only thing on her mind as she heads for goal. Young Emer McDonnell - niece of former Cork football captain and manager Billy Morgan - is always good for a few scores.

It was obvious at the league final that Tipperary had a goal-keeping problem. Jovita Detaney,

who has fielded in a number of positions, was called upon to solve the dilemma. So far, she has done very well. Una O'Dwyer, Claire Madden, Sinead Nealon and Ciara Gaynor are fine defenders. Angie McDermott and Emily Hayden will have to play key roles in midfield.

Curtain Raiser

The Cork junior team scored a narrow win over an enthusiastic Offaly team in the semi-final of the championship and meet the winners of Derry and Roscommon in the curtain raiser on All Ireland final day. Cork field a very young side and have good performers in Rachel Moloney, Helen Walsh, Jill Hannon, Sheenagh Morley and Clara Healy and will hope to keep the flag flying in the absence of the senior team.

Championship '99



Kilkenny and Tipperary meet today in the first 15-a-side All-Ireland camogie final. **KIERAN SHANNON** talks to Kilkenny's Tracy Millea who is proud to publicise her sport

Tracy's labour of love

IT happens, Tracy Millea reckons, at least once every working day.

The two-time All-Ireland winner will be working as a field sales representative for John Player & Sons, having a casual conversation with a client, when her favourite pastime is mentioned. At that point she is rarely asked how her team is going or at what position she lines out. Most of the time, the clients will look at the attractive 25-year-old and quizzically react: "You don't play camogie."

"They seem to think that camogie is only for half-men, half-women; that the players are all very butch," says Millea. "They can't comprehend that you can take care of yourself and play camogie."

Millea rarely lets such perceptions go unchallenged. She previously worked with Radio Kilkenny, during which time she became PRO for Kilkenny camogie. In that role, she grew to value the importance of promoting the sport. These days, she still doesn't hesitate to take the opportunity to educate people about her sport.

"When people say, 'You don't play camogie', you're immediately

telling them about the sport. They're asking you what headgear you wear and, from that, you're describing the way camogie is played.

"If I'm up working in Dundalk and they're talking about Kilkenny hurling, I'm not going to go all shy and say, 'Ah, I play a bit of it myself.' I put enough effort into it for nine months of the year, it is a huge part of my life."

It always has been. Her father, Joe, played for Kilkenny, scoring a crucial goal in the 1969 All-Ireland final victory over Cork, while mother Helen was also passionate about the sport. When Tracy and sister Sinead showed an early interest in the sport, Joe and Helen didn't hesitate to utilise their acre-big back garden in Ballycallan as a hurling pitch. On summer evenings, it was customary for dozens of neighbours to meet there at eight before proceeding to play a match. Joe would mind one goal; Helen the other. Out the field, Sinead and Tracy, both barely in their teens, would mix it with Ned Brennan, a neighbouring farmer in his thirties, current Kilkenny senior hurler Denis Byrne, and their brothers Niall and Sean. Only when darkness descended would they head

back into the house, shins bleeding from the fare. And then Joe would dissect their game. "Tracy, you have to get out in front more."

It was an apprenticeship that served them well. By 1991, 17-year-old Tracy and 16-year-old Sinead had broken on to a Kilkenny senior panel that was seeking its seventh consecutive All-Ireland title. When the remarkable feat was achieved that September, Sinead was playing in the forward line, while defender Tracy was in the dug-out. Three years later, both started and starred in the All-Ireland success over Wexford.

THEIR level of success has since waned, but their love for the game hasn't. Even though Sinead teaches in Cork, she often commutes to Kilkenny during the winter to train with the county. Tracy could often be training four or five times a week.

"You have to train with the club as well," she explains. "See, we have six players on the county panel; that's the backbone of the club. If we didn't train, it would dishearten the

other girls."

At times, it was asking too much. Earlier this year she took up a new job that involved being on the road. She remembers travelling three and a half hours from Dundalk to make training, wondering was she mad; she also remembers missing some sessions.

"At the start of this year, Dave Mahedy (former Limerick hurling trainer and Munster rugby trainer) was involved. Sinead and himself are great pals from her days at University of Limerick, so when we had trouble finding a trainer, Sinead asked him. Dave agreed, but he simply didn't get the commitment from us. He also had a lot on his plate with UL, developing their facilities, so, in the end, he felt he couldn't give the necessary commitment either."

Mahedy's departure shocked the panel. They realised that his time was precious and that with Kilkenny, it was being wasted. "At the time, a lot of the girls were doing exams," says Millea. "I also had to put up my hand; I had changed jobs and was aware that while camogie was great, it didn't put money in your pocket. But when we lost Dave back in June, I think we realised something serious

had to be done."

Something was. Bobby Jackman, who had coached the Kilkenny minor hurlers to two Leinster titles the previous two seasons, was appointed coach and Michael Fennelly became trainer. Numbers at training increased. That more players were based in Kilkenny for the summer was only partially the reason; the commitment levels of everyone improved.

It paid off. Last month, they beat Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final, thanks to a last-minute goal from Sinead. It was a magnificent victory. Prior to the game Cork had appeared invincible. They had won the previous two All-Irelands, beaten Tipperary by 36 points in the league final and had cruised to victory in every other game this year. A Cork win seemed a formality.

"If Cork had won the All Ireland this year, I think you'd have been back to 12-a-side right away," admits Millea. "They had hammered so many teams that people were beginning to feel there wasn't a strong enough team to beat their 15. But I had a gut feeling we'd win. We got it into our minds that we all had one player to mark and if we won our

own position, we'd win. I think we hit them so hard in the opening minutes they didn't know what was happening."

Although Sinead was the match-winner, Tracy played a huge role. Her direct marker, Mariam Deasy, was held scoreless before being substituted. "Even dad was impressed," she smiles. "He said 'Great game, Trace. But one thing - you have to get out in front more.'"

Today, she has the chance to do that - and camogie has the chance to promote itself. It is only the second time a camogie match has been televised live. Last year's Cork-Galway final impressed the masses; a poor final today will alienate them.

"The priority today is to win; I mean, five years without an All-Ireland win is a famine by Kilkenny standards. But we are also aware that it's the first 15-a-side final and that Tipperary and ourselves have to produce a very good game to promote ourselves to the media and the public. We need to show them that we're up there with hurling and football, that we can take the knocks as well as the men."



Kilkenny should regain title

All-Ireland senior camogie final: Kilkenny v Tipperary, Aine Derham (Dublin), 3.30. At first, it seems a complete run-in. In May, Cork re-defined the term 'humiliating' when beating Tipperary 9-19 to 2-4 in the national league final. Last month, Kilkenny beat the same Cork side in the All-Ireland semi-final. After that epic match, Cork coach Tom Nott said it would have been the perfect All-Ireland final. Anyone who had witnessed the league final fiasco in Thurles would have agreed.

A further analysis suggests a Kilkenny win is not a formality. Tipp knocked Kilkenny out of last year's championship. They beat the same opposition by ten points in the league this year. They absorbed the lessons of the league final defeat, bringing All-Ireland winners Colin Bonnar and Michael Cleary into the management set-up. A new goalkeeper was found. Within a month of the league final, they pushed Cork hard in the Munster final. Th

Tipp have some lethal forwards. In the game against Down, Deirdre Hughes scored 4-3, Emer McDonnell notched 1-7, while Niamh Harlin chipped in with 1-1. Down were dismal but the return of the Tipp full-forward line was still impressive. The Kilkenny full-back line will have to reproduce the form that stifled Lynn Dwyer & co last month.

Still, it has to be Kilkenny. It would be foolish to read much into last year's championship clash between the two sides. Kilkenny were without their five Freshford players that day; that dispute has long been resolved. In Sinead Millea, they have the outstanding forward in the country. They also have the perfect blend of experience and hunger; five years without an All Ireland is an eternity in Kilkenny.

Tipp have made enormous progress since the league final, but not enough. Kilkenny to win.

Kilkenny: M Holland, T Millea, M Hickey, U Murphy, S Costelloe, G Dillon-Maher (capt), M Costelloe, K Long, S Millea, S Gleeson, B Mullaly, M Downey, M Comerford, M Maher, E Lyng. Subs: A Downey, C Durno-Power, B Samville, M E Butler, P Comerford.

Tipperary: J Delaney, S Kelly, U O'Dwyer, C Madden, M Stokes (capt), C Gaynor, S Neslon, E Hayden, A McDermott, N Kennedy, T Brophy, H Kely, E McDonnell, D Hughes, N Harkin. Subs: L Ryan, C Hennessy, P Fogarty, S Howard, M Harkin.

All-Ireland junior camogie final: Cork v Derry, John Morrissey (Tipperary), 1.40 Cork to win.

Cork: G Casey, M Harrington, R Holland, S Buckley, R Cahalane, J Harmon, L O'Connell, H Walsh (capt), S Morley, O O'Sullivan, M Corkery, E Burke, C Hart, C Healy, R Moloney. Subs: A Murray, C Gilman, E O'Sullivan, E O'Herlihy, V O'Sullivan, C Meaney, A O'Regan, G Collins, T Murphy.

Derry: A Crilly, C Scullin, G Maguire, P McKenna, C McDonald, S Convery, C Doherty, M Mulholland, A O'Loughlin, S McCauley, A Tohill, P McAtamney, C Molloy, M O'Kane (capt), K Raftery. Subs: C O'Kane, A O'Kane, R Molloy, S Stevenson, M McAuley, O Downey, B Eir, N Rarkin.

Meadbh hoping for Medal Hat-trick

(By JOHN GUITON)

UNLIKE many of her team mates, Tipperary captain, Meadhb Stokes, simply cannot get away from the hype surrounding next Sunday's all-Ireland camogie final. The snag is she resides and works in 'enemy territory'.

Meadhb lives in Kilkenny and is employed as a teacher with Teagasc at Kildalton Agricultural College, in Piltown, on the Co. Waterford border. Piltown is not very far from her native place Kilsheelan in South Tipperary, but, her work mates and friends across the border are quick to remind her that she is based mainly in Black and Amber land!

The genial Meadhb, sister of former Tipperary hurler, Liam Stokes, is cool, calm, and well able to deal with the 'slagging'. "It's all part and parcel of the build up, and you have to learn to put up with it," said Meadhb.

The subject of much fun and banter from her friends in Kilkenny where she resides, Meadhb told me that she attended a wedding last week and was the butt of all the jibes concerning next Sunday's

clash. "When I go training to Tipperary, naturally enough, all the talk is on the game, and then

a mammoth task. "Kilkenny are a great team and well deserve the recognition they

to them on Sunday next. "I know the atmosphere surrounding the senior final is so different, but we have played in Croke Park before on all-Ireland day and that should be a big help," she added.

The captain, who plays with the Cashel club, is happy that Tipperary "regained their confidence quickly" following the league final defeat. "I suppose that brought us down to earth with a bang and stopped us from getting cocky. It made us realise just what we have to do to win a senior all-Ireland," Meadhb said.

She is no stranger to several Kilkenny players, and is impressed by their record over the years. They have so much experience going into the final, and it will mean a great deal. Hopefully, our determination and will to win will make up for what we lack in experience," the captain added.

Meadhb Stokes has been one of the game's luminaries in the last decade or so, and she certainly deserves to lead Tipperary to the promised land on Sunday next. Good luck to her.



Tipperary camogie captain on Sunday is Meadhb Stokes, representing Cashel club and a native of Kilsheelan.

when I go back to Kilkenny I hear it from their side. It's a bit hard to listen to all the time, but, I try to remain focussed on the game," Meadhb said.

Doubtless, Meadhb would love to have the last laugh on her Kilkenny friends next Sunday evening, but she knows that her side face

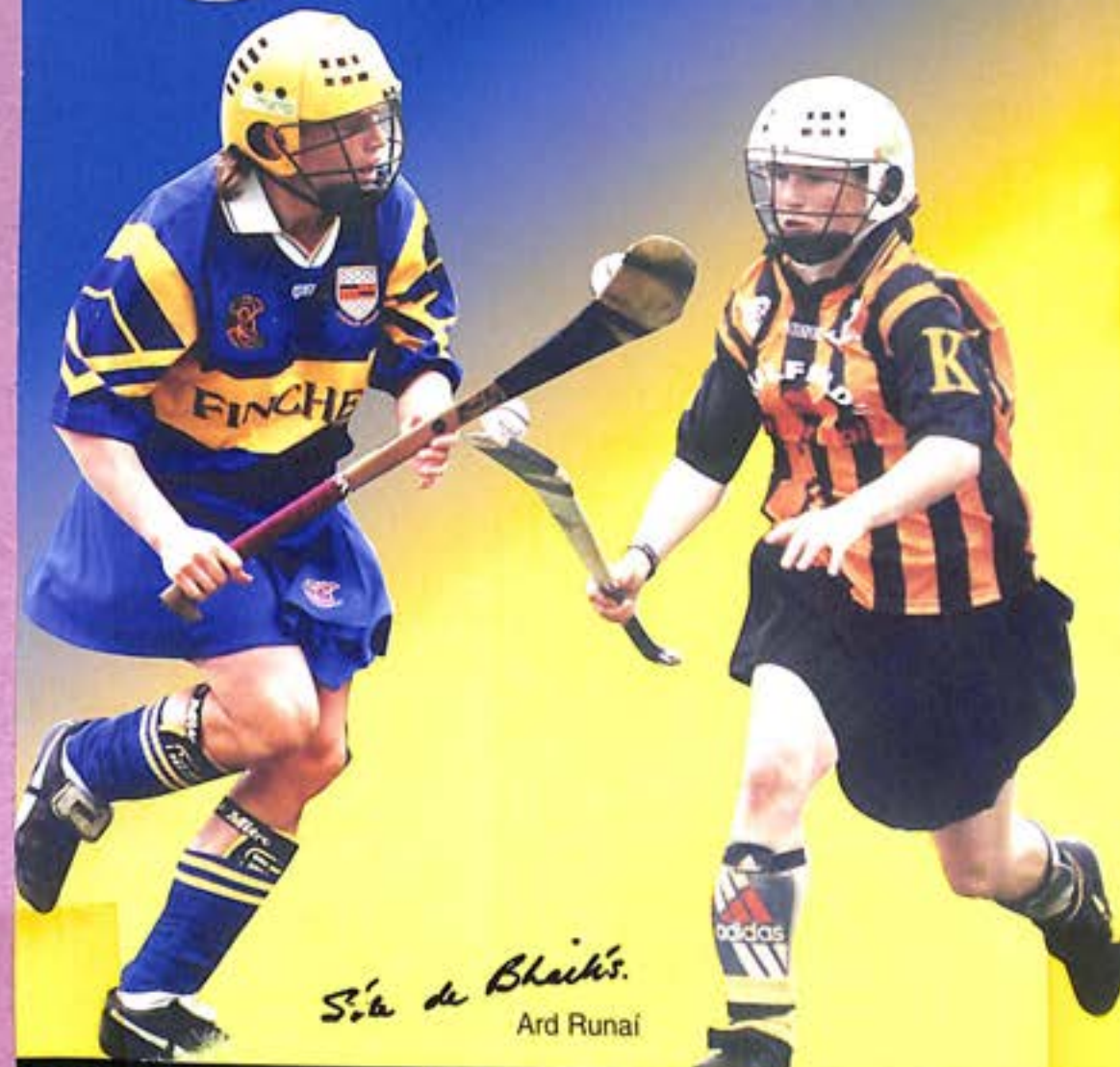
have received. Certainly we are up against it, but we are ready to give the game our very best," she said.

Meadhb, who has junior and intermediate all-Ireland medals to her credit, is keeping her fingers crossed that the experience garnered by many of the side in those grades will stand

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael

Cluichí Ceannais na hÉireann

faoi urraíocht
ag
Bord na Gaeilge



Síle de Blachís.
Ard Runaí

Páire an Chrócaigh - 05 Meán Fómhair 1999 - Clár Oifigiúil - Luach £2.00

Focal ón Uachtarán

Cuirimse fíor-chaoi fáilte roimh chách chuig Cluichí Ceannais na hÉireann de Chraobhchomórtas na Sinsear agus na Sóisear. Is breá linn é sibh uilig a bheith anseo, idir ár gcuid aoidheanna speisialta, na foirne, na Réiteoirí agus na Maoir, lucht leanúna na bhfoireann agus lucht leanúna na camógaíochta i gcoitinne. Go raibh an-lá agaibh uilig.



Fileas Ní Bhreastlín

It is with a deep sense of the history of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, and with pride in that history, that I welcome all of you to the last Senior and Junior All-Ireland Finals of this century. Our Association is, itself, almost a century old and, through the idealism, enthusiasm and contribution of generations of players and administrators, continues to go from strength to strength. That development will be carried on into the next century by the present generation, some of whom you will see today in the colours of Cill Chainnigh, Tiobraid Árann, Corcaigh agus Doire and, also, in the Cluiche Idirbhunscoileanna. Ní baol dúinn agus a leithéid inár measc.

Cuireann sé go mór leis an ócáid seo úr-scéim a bheith ag teacht ar an saol agus sinn ag druimim le deireadh ré. For the first time, the Twenty-Five Year Jubilee Team will be honoured. Is mór agam é fáilte a chur roimh Chill Chainnigh a bhuaidh Corn Ua Dubhthaigh don chéad uair ariamh i 1974. Déanaim comhghairdeachas leo ó chroí.

Táimid go mór faoi chomaoin ag **Bord na Gaeilge**, príomh-urraí an Chumainn. Maraon lenár geluiche ársa féin, tiocfaidh ár dteanga ársa féin linn ón sean-mhílaois go dtí an úr-mhílaois. Go dté sí slán.

Fearaim fáilte roimh R.T.É. agus rompu uilig a bhaineann leis na meáin chumarsáide a chuireann an camógaíocht os comhair an phobail.

Is mór ar fad againn é an tacaíocht a thugann Cumann Lúthchleas Gael dúinn i gcónaí agus gabhaim buíochas faoi leith le foireann Pháire an Chrócaigh.

Go mbaine sibh spórt agus ceol as imeachtaí an lae.

Fileas Ní Bhreastlín, Uachtarán.

Clár an Lae

Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear:

Corcaigh v Doire

An Réiteoir: Seán Ó Muiríosa, Tiobraid Árann.

An Taoiseach ag teacht i léthair.

Foireann Iubhail Chill Chainnigh, 1974.

A Solase, Uachtarán na hÉireann, ag teacht i léthair.

Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear:

Cill Chainnigh v Tiobraid Árann

An Réiteoir: Áine Derham, Áth Cliath.

Camógaíocht Idirbhunscoileanna.

Is é Banna Ceoil Ard Aidhín a bheidh ag seinm.

Na Bainisteoirí agus na Roghnóirí

Na Sinsir

Cill Chainnigh: Roibeard Mac Siacais (Bobby Jackman), Bainisteoir
Roghnóirí: Micheál Ó Fionnalaigh (Michael Fennelly)
Máire Uí Choistealbha (Maura Costelloe)

Tiobraid Árann: Bríd Mhic Philib (Brid Mhic Philib), Bainisteoir
Roghnóirí: Tadhg Ó Maolomhnaigh (Timmy Moloney)
Séamas Ó Madáin (Jim Madden)

Na Sóisir

Corcaigh: Pádraig Ó Muirthe (Pat Murray), Bainisteoir
Roghnóirí: Lillian Zincant, Cáit Uí Dhuinn (Kay Dunne)
Mairéad Ní Cheallacháin (Mairéad O'Callaghan)

Doire: Doimín Mac Fhionnlaigh (Dominic McKinley), Bainisteoir
Roghnóirí: Mairéad Ní Bhrollaigh (Mairéad Brolly)

Thar barr - na foirne bainistíochta

Bobby Jackman, Michael Fennelly and Dominic McKinley are no strangers to the big occasion on the playing fields. Bobby (Windgap) and Michael (Ballyhale Shamrocks) played hurling with distinction for both their clubs and county, and Dominic gave outstanding service to Aontroim as a hurler and manager.

Maura Costelloe (nee Cassin) and her twin sister, Breda, made a major contribution to St. Paul's Club Championship successes and to Cill Chainnigh. Tá a hiníonacha, Sinéad agus Mairéad, maraon lena neacht, Martina Ní Mheachair, ag imirt inniu.

d'Imir Kay Dunne le sinsir Chorcaí. She is registrar of An Coiste Contae while Pat Murray is its Rúnaí. Pat was a senior selector with Corcaigh in 1998 and '99. Lillian Zincant won a Junior All-Ireland medal with Corcaigh in 1996 when they last won the title. Margaret Brolly was on the Doire team which last won the All-Ireland Junior Championship in 1978.

Brid Mhic Philib is one of the foremost Réiteoirí at national level. She has refereed the finals of all national competitions including the Senior and Junior finals.

Óg-mhuinirí
Átha Cliath

Gabhann Ardchomhairle buíochas faoi leith le hóg-mhuinirí Átha Cliath atá ag cabhrú linn inniu. Is imreoirí idir-chontae faoi-14 iad. Go raibh rath orthu.

Na Craobhchomórtais Idirchontae

Na Sinsir

1932 Áth Cliath
1933 Áth Cliath
1934 Corcaigh
1935 Corcaigh
1936 Corcaigh
1937 Áth Cliath
1938 Áth Cliath
1939 Corcaigh
1940 Corcaigh
1941 Corcaigh
1942 Áth Cliath
(athchluiche)
1943 Áth Cliath
1944 Áth Cliath
1945 Aontroim
1946 Aontroim
1947 Aontroim
1948 Áth Cliath
1949 Áth Cliath
1950 Áth Cliath
1951 Áth Cliath
1952 Áth Cliath
1953 Áth Cliath
1954 Áth Cliath

1955 Áth Cliath
1956 Aontroim
1957 Áth Cliath
1958 Áth Cliath
1959 Áth Cliath
1960 Áth Cliath
1961 Áth Cliath
1962 Áth Cliath
1963 Áth Cliath
1964 Áth Cliath
1965 Áth Cliath
1966 Áth Cliath
1967 Aontroim
(athchluiche)
1968 Loch Garman
1969 Loch Garman
1970 Corcaigh
1971 Corcaigh
1972 Corcaigh
1973 Corcaigh
1974 Cill Chainnigh
(athchluiche)
1975 Loch Garman
1976 Cill Chainnigh

1977 Cill Chainnigh
1978 Corcaigh
1979 Aontroim
1980 Corcaigh
(athchluiche)
1981 Cill Chainnigh
(athchluiche)
1982 Corcaigh
1983 Corcaigh
1984 Áth Cliath
1985 Cill Chainnigh
1986 Cill Chainnigh
1987 Cill Chainnigh
1988 Cill Chainnigh
1989 Cill Chainnigh
1990 Cill Chainnigh
1991 Cill Chainnigh
1992 Corcaigh
1993 Corcaigh
1994 Cill Chainnigh
1995 Corcaigh
1996 An Ghaillimh
1997 Corcaigh
1998 Corcaigh

Áth Cliath (26); Corcaigh (19); Cill Chainnigh (12);
Aontroim (6); Loch Garman (3); An Ghaillimh (1).

Na Sóisir

1968 An Dún
1969 Doire
1970 Áth Cliath
1971 Áth Cliath
1972 An Ghaillimh
1973 Corcaigh
1974 An Clár
1975 Áth Cliath
1976 An Dún
1977 Luimneach
1978 Doire
1979 An Ghaillimh
1980 Corcaigh

1981 An Clár
1982 An Lú
1983 Corcaigh
1984 Corcaigh
1985 An Ghaillimh
1986 An Clár
1987 Cill Dara
1988 An Ghaillimh
1989 Cill Dara
(athchluiche)
1990 Cill Dara
1991 An Dún
1992 Tiobraid Árann

1993 Ardmhacha
(athchluiche)
1994 An Ghaillimh
1995 Luimneach
1996 Corcaigh
1997 Aontroim
1998 An Ghaillimh

Chun tosaigh

An Ghaillimh (6)
Corcaigh (5)

Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear

Áine Derham Áth Cliath

Don cheathrú huair atá Áine i mbun na feadóige ag Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear. As well as three Senior Finals, Áine has refereed at all levels of the Association including the Finals of all national competitions. Imríonn sí a cuid camógaíochta le Cumann Celtic, Áth Cliath.

Ionadaí: Caitríona Ní Eaghra
Aontroim

Na Maoir Chúil

Gráinne de Búrca, Paula Ní Cholmáin,
Caitríona Ní Eideáin, Máire Ní Nuanáin
(Áth Cliath)

Na Maoir Líne

Caitríona Ní Eaghra
Gearóidín Ní Dhuinn,
(Áth Cliath)



Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear

Seán Ó Muiríosa Tiobraid Árann



Réiteoir oile eile atá i Seán agus é anseo i bPáire an Chrócaigh don tríú bliain as a chéile. Seán was a line-umpire and stand-by Réiteoir for the Junior Final in 1997 and refereed the Senior Final in 1998. Like his colleague, Áine, Seán has refereed at every level of the Association. Is ball den chlub Camógaíochta i nDúrlas Éile é agus d'imir sé iománaíocht le Naomh Mhuire, Cluain Moala.

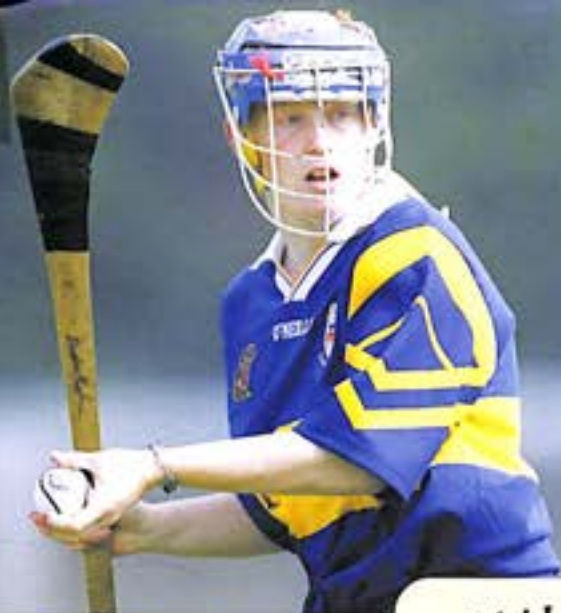
Ionadaí: Celine Ní Dhubhda, Luimneach

Na Maoir Chúil

Síle Uí Dhubhair, Cairméal Uí Bhriain,
Síle Uí Dhubhshláino, Siobhán Níe an Ghail
(Tiobraid Árann)

Na Maoir Líne
Celine Ní Dhubhda
(Luimneach)
Karen Níe Eoin
(Áth Cliath)

Na Réiteoirí



Cluichí Leathcheannais na hÉireann 1999

Deirdre Nic Aodha, Tiobraid Árann, thuas, in iomaíocht le Contae an Dúin sa Chluiche Leathcheannais. It has been suggested that the next sticker to adorn her helmet will read

"Tipp, Tipp, Hurrah".

Sinéad Ní Mhaolaidh, Cill Chainnigh, ar chlé, agus poc saor á thógaint aici sa Chluiche Leathcheannais eile. That free, taken with the second last poc of the match, ended in the Corcaigh net and gave Cill Chainnigh a two-point winning margin over their old friends and keen rivals.

Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear

Cluiche Ceannais deireannach an chéid ach an chéad cheann idir Chill Chainnigh agus Thiobraid Árann

Cill Chainnigh agus Tiobraid Árann have waited for the last Senior Championship of the millennium to meet each other in the Final. They have also waited for the first Final to be played on the G.A.A. size pitch and on a fifteen-a-side basis and, unless there is a draw, will play the last Camogie Final with the old Hogan Stand in place. Ba mhór ag Cill Chainnigh é Corn Ua Dubhthaigh a bhreith abhaile leo don tríú huair déag agus ba mhó fós é ag Tiobraid Árann an corn seo a bhuachaint don chéad uair ariamh. Pé scéal é, sár-chríoch a bheidh le stair na gCluichí Ceannais sa chéad seo.

Tiobraid Árann, contesting its eight Senior Final, has had the disappointing experience of never having won the title. Bhí an contae seo go mór chun tosaigh ar Chill Chainnigh chun an Cluiche Ceannais a bhaint amach. Tiobraid Árann contested its first Senior Final in 1949 while Cill Chainnigh did not reach its first Final until 1970.

Between 1949 and 1965, Tiobraid Árann won its way to five Finals only to meet, on each occasion, an Áth Cliath team which won sixteen titles during that period. Aontroim a bhuaigh ar Thiobraid Árann i 1979 agus, aig go leor, Áth Cliath a bhuaigh ortha arís i 1984, an uair dheireannach a bhaineadar Cluiche Ceannais na sinsear amach.

Cill Chainnigh, on the other hand, has reached the Final for the sixteenth time since 1970 and, since its first victory in 1974, has won twelve titles. Corcaigh is the only county which has defeated Cill Chainnigh in a Final.

Sraithchomórtas na Sinsear

Tiobraid Árann a bhuaigh an chéad Chluiche Ceannais de Shraithchomórtas na Sinsear i 1977. That Senior National League title was the first All-Ireland title which the county won. Cill Chainnigh and Tiobraid Árann met in only one League Final, that of 1980, which Cill Chainnigh won. The Noreiders have won eight League titles. Tiobraid Árann a bhí chun tosaigh i mbliana áfach nuair a chasadar ar a chéile san sraithchomórtas - 4-5 go dtí 0-9. Seans go bhfuil ar a gcumas a leithéid a dhéanamh arís.

Cluichí Leathcheannais na Sinsear, 1999

Cill Chainnigh 2-12 Corcaigh 1-13

Tiobraid Árann 6-22 An Dún 1-03

Banlaochra an chéid

Boinn Uile-Éireann Roll of Honour of All-Ireland Senior Medal Holders

15 Medals

Kathleen Mills, Áth Cliath

13 Medals

Úna O'Connor, Áth Cliath

12 Medals

Angela agus Ann Downey, Cill Chainnigh

10 Medals

Kay Ryder, Áth Cliath

9 Medals

Gerry Hughes, Áth Cliath
Kay Lyons, Áth Cliath
Bridie McGarry, Cill Chainnigh
Deirdre Malone, Cill Chainnigh



Úna O'Connor, Áth Cliath



Kay Mills, Áth Cliath

8 Medals

Sophie Brack, Áth Cliath
Eileen Duffy, Áth Cliath
Eithne Leech, Áth Cliath
Marion McCarthy, Corcaigh
Jo Dunne, Cill Chainnigh
Biddy O'Sullivan, Cill Chainnigh

7 Medals

Kathleen Cody, Áth Cliath
Annette Corrigan, Áth Cliath
Pat Moloney, Corcaigh
Liz Neary, Cill Chainnigh
Anna Whelan, Cill Chainnigh
Marie Fitzpatrick, Cill Chainnigh
Breda Holmes, Cill Chainnigh

Camogie is a wonderful game and, for every player, a first appearance at Croke Park makes for a splendid occasion. Mine was in 1989. It was a memorable day, which still holds precious memories for me. We didn't win. Kilkenny beat us by seven points. (Ann and Marina Downey were involved that day too). But, for me, the excitement and thrill of that day will remain forever. Of course too, it was twelve aside then.

Cumann Camógaloicta na nGael is a growing and developing organisation. Therefore, many decisions will, and have, been taken to move along with such a rate of growth. To progress, as has been done over the past ninety-six years, one has to be willing to make and accept change. That is why we have become the strong and thriving organisation that we are today.

Today's All-Ireland Finals are historic for two reasons - they are the first ever fifteen-a-side Junior and Senior Championship finals, and secondly the winners will take their respective honours into the new millennium.

I believe the new format has to be the way forward (I am referring only to inter-county level here). With the level of fitness, skill and strength at a premium, it was very obvious that the pitch dimensions also needed to be adjusted accordingly. Now, there will be no more squinting to try to pick out the tiny uprights when you have just a second to do so. Neither will there be any more sighs from the crowd when you hit a mile wide, and all the while you were hitting straight over the other posts.

Camogie is
a
wonderful game"

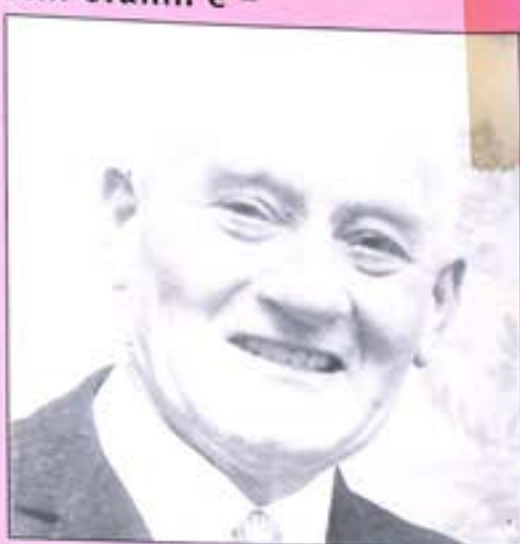


At all levels, there have been tremendous advertisements for the game since this new format has been introduced. You need look no further than last Sunday week's All-Ireland Minor Final also remembering that these players are all under the age of sixteen. This game was a spectacle. Both Cork and Galway used up every inch of available space. Between them they scored five goals and twenty points. Also, think of the six additional players, who because of the bigger size pitch, got to play in an All-Ireland Final. The same applies here today. The big day has arrived. What else could compare to the anticipation of selectors, the ever-changing pre-match strategy discussions, the tagging out in your favourite corner of the changing room, the challenge of commitment that awaits you on the pitch, and above all else the endless post-mortems either in victory or defeat. All of us here today, be it sitting in the stand or the players in the field, will be laden with ferocious pride. Mentors and spectators alike will throw everything into the game - maybe at times, the crossfire will ricochet off each other. Glares of disapproval too will be exchanged, with sometimes the backcat continuing throughout the sixty minutes. We are all guilty. But when that final whistle goes, it will be handshakes all round. Isn't that the beauty of sport? Camaraderie too is a great thing. The quality of the friendships which have developed over the years, reflect for me the true meaning of this wonderful game.

Therese Ní Cheallacháin

d'fuir Therese le Sinsir Chorcaí ó 1989 go dtí 1996. Bhí sí ina captaen ar an bhfoireann i 1991 agus arís i 1996. Imreod den chéad scoth a bhí inti. Tá trí bhonn Uile-Éireann aici.

Corn Ua Dubhthaigh agus Seaghan Ua Dubhthaigh - an fear a bhronn orainn é -



Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann, 1996

Thógfadh sé croí Sheaghan Ua Dubhthaigh ach a bheith i láthair nuair a bhuaigh An Ghaillimh an corn don chéad uair ariamh i 1996. Corn Ua Dubhthaigh was brought to Connacht for the first time on that historic day and Mayoman, Seaghan, would have rejoiced. Gan amhras, bhí an-áthas ar an gcaptaen, Imelda Ní Oibicín agus ar Uachtarán Tofa Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, Seosamh Mac Donncha, go raibh an corn ag dul siar go Gaillimh.

Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann, 1974. Cill Chainnigh v Corcaigh

Bhí gá leis an athchlúiche chun Cill Chainnigh agus Corcaigh a scarúint óna chéile i 1974. Cill Chainnigh had never won Corn Ua Dubhthaigh while Corcaigh was seeking its fifth title in a row and eleventh in all. Corcaigh had defeated Cill Chainnigh in 1970 and 1972. In the third drawn final since the inauguration of the Championship in 1932, Cill Chainnigh managed to hold Corcaigh on a scoreline of Cill Chainnigh 3-8 Corcaigh 4-5.

d'Éirigh le Cill Chainnigh san athchlúiche. An scór a bhí ann ná:

Cill Chainnigh 3-3 Corcaigh 1-5.

An Réiteoir:

Sinéad Uí Bhlaithigh, An Ghaillimh.

The Cill Chainnigh team of 1974 has contributed much to Cumann Camógaiochta na nGael both on and off the field. Máire Ní Fhionnalaigh, who captained the victorious 1976 team, graced the office of Uachtarán from 1982 to 1985 and is, at present, a member of An Coiste Bainistíochta, Ardchomhairle.

Máire, Helena O'Neill, Bridie Martin and the Downys all have refereed at inter-county level, and Helena was in charge of the Senior All-Ireland final of 1978.

Many of the team became involved in coaching, whether at club or colleges level, and Teasie Brennan, Mary Conway and Carmel Doyle have all been selectors with Cill Chainnigh senior teams. Áine Ní Chearúil has contributed enormously to coaching at national level and is the Director of Coaching.

Na Coláistí

The O'Neills, Liz Neary and Carmel Doyle were members of the Presentation Convent team which won the inaugural All-Ireland Senior Colleges Final in 1969.



Cúig is fiche bliain ag fás

Áine Ní Dhúnaigh, Cill Chainnigh, won her first Senior medal twenty five years ago. Should her team win today, she will join Una O'Connor, Áth Cliath, in joint second place in the medals Roll of Honour. Áine's obvious delight with Sinéad Millea's winning goal in this year's semi-final against Corcaigh indicates that she is as enthusiastic about a possible thirteenth medal as she was about her first. Is lá stairiúil é seo di.

Cúrsaí clainne

Tá an-chuid desna cailíní gaolmhar le fir mhóra na hiománaíochta. Ursula Grace's father was Paddy Grace, famed hurler and County Secretary for many years. Is é athair Angela agus Áine ná Shem Downey. Mary Purcell's brother, Willie, also won All-Ireland Senior medals with Cill Chainnigh, while Máire Ní Fhionnalaigh is a first cousin of the Fennelly brothers. Peggy Carey is an aunt of D.J. of present fame. Bridie Martin's cousin James, is the present Cill Chainnigh goalkeeper. Beidh a dtíriall ar Pháirc an Chrócaigh go minic i mbliana.

Mar eolas duit

An chéad chluiche poiblí Idirchontae

The first official inter-county match took place at Jones's Road, now Páirc an Chrócaigh, on 12 July, 1912. Áth Cliath agus An Lú a bhí páirteach sa chluiche. Ba é an scór a bhí ann ag an deireadh ná:

Áth Cliath 2-1, An Lú 0-0.

Captaen den scoth

Sadhbh Ní Bhric, Áth Cliath, atá chun tosaigh mar chaptaen an chéid. Sadhbh captained Áth Cliath to All-Ireland success on six occasions - 1948 and 1951-55. Ocht mbonn ar fad a bhuaigh sí.

An tarna Club sa Chumann

Late in 1903, a team was formed in Newry with M. Lavery as captain and Rose McNulty as Rúnaí. This County Down club was the second to be formed in the Association.

Uachtarán lena Saol

- Sráir an Chumainn lena saol -

Síghle Nic an Ultaigh attended her first All-Ireland Camogie Final in 1933. Áth Cliath agus An Ghaillimh a bhí i gcomórtas lena chéile agus bhí an cluiche ar siúl i gCill Easra, Áth Cliath. Síghle has attended many Finals since and had a particular interest in the 1948 Final because of the involvement of her own county, An Dún.

During her term of office as Uachtarán an Chumainn from 1949 to 1953, Síghle presented Corn Ua Dubhthaigh to Áth Cliath on four occasions. As Ardrúnaí from 1953 to 1975, Síghle witnessed Áth Cliath win ten-in-row Senior titles between 1957 and 1966, Aontroim win in 1956 and 1967, at either side of that feat, and Corcaigh win four in a row between 1970 and 1973.

Bhí sí i láthair ar an lá stairiúil i 1968 nuair a bhuaigh Loch Garman Craobh na hÉireann don chéad uair ariamh agus, arís, i 1974 nuair a dheim Cill Chainnigh amhlaidh.

Síghle saw An Dún win the inaugural Junior and Minor Championships in 1968 and 1974, respectively. She also welcomed first ever All-Ireland Championship titles for several counties in the Junior Championship - Doire, An Ghaillimh, Luimneach, An Clár, An Lú, Cill Dara, Tiobraid Árann agus Ardmhacha.



Síghle Nic an Ultaigh

Bronnadh an gradam

"Uachtarán len Saol" ar Síghle Nic an Ultaigh ag an gComhdháil Bhliantúil, 1999.

Síghle is a Trustee of Cumann Camógaiochta na nGael, a member of Ardchomhairle and of An Coiste Bainistíochta.

Sár-imreoirí i gCraobhchomórtas Ghael Linn



Peter Munton, Schwarzkopf, and Máire Uí Chonchubhair, Leas-Uachtarán, present the "Player of the Competition" awards at the Gael Linn Finals. Ba iad na buaiteoirí ná Fiona Ní Dhrisceoil (Corcaigh), Mumha, Sínear, agus Éilís Ní Loinn (Cill Chainnigh), Laighean, Sóisear. Na tánaistí a roghnaíodh ná Éilís Ní Dheín, (Tiobraid Árann), Mumha, Sóisear, agus Áine Ní Irguille, (An Ghaillimh), Connachta.

Is as Áth Cliath agus Tiobraid Árann, faoi seach, dosna Réiteoirí, Áine Derham agus Seán Ó Muiriosa, atá i bhfeighil Chluichí Ceannais na hÉireann inniu. They follow in the footsteps of other noted Réiteoirí from their counties who refereed All-Ireland Finals.

Réiteoirí Átha Cliath agus Tiobraid Árann i gCluichí Ceannais na hÉireann

Caitlín Uí Dhubhthaigh was the first representative of Áth Cliath to referee a Senior All-Ireland Final. A native of Omagh, Caitlín was in charge of the 1956 Final between Aontroim agus Corcaigh. Tá daoine cáiliúla eile ann a bhí i mbun na feadóige ag na Cluichí Ceannais. Our Uachtarán, Filcas Ní Bhreasláin, has refereed both Senior and Junior Finals. Bhí an t-Ardrúnaí, Síle de Bhailis, i gceannas ar Chluiche Ceannais na Sóisear. Sheila Murray and Ann Redmond both refereed Senior Finals, while Rita Whyte and Rose Ryan took charge of Junior Finals. Sár-imreoirí a bhí ionta leis.

Filcas, Síle, Ann and Rita all won Junior medals with Áth Cliath while Síle, Ann, Rita and Sheila represented their county at Senior level. An t-Ardrúnaí captained Áth Cliath in 1976 and was a selector with the victorious team of 1984.

Brid Mhic Philib, Bainisteoir Tiobraid Árann, has refereed Finals of all of our national competitions. Beirt eile as Tiobraid Árann a bhí i gceannas ar Chluiche Ceannais na Sínear - Tomás Ó Riain (1934, '35) agus Seán Ó Glasáin (1945).

Ó ghlúin go glúin

Is ón gcliaibhán atá scileanna na camógaithe ag an-chuid desna himreoirí atá ann inniu.

Doire: Cathy McDonald's mother represented Doire while Karen Rafferty's mother, Mary Lee, and Aileen O'Kane's aunt, Martina O'Kane, were on the All-Ireland Junior winning team of 1978.

Corcaigh: Sheenagh Morley's mother, Joan Clancy, represented her county.

Tiobraid Árann: Niamh and Maria Harkin are nieces of Sheila Delaney who played for Tiobraid Árann. Is neacht i Sheena Howard le Liz Howard a d'imir le Tiobraid Árann agus le hÁth Cliath. She is a grand-daughter of Garrett Howard of Luimneach and Áth Cliath hurling fame. Sinéad Nealon and Ciara Gaynor are daughters of the great hurling exponents Donie and Len, respectively.

Cill Chainnigh: Jillian Uí Mheachair is a daughter of hurler, Pá Dillón, and Sinéad and Mairéad Costelloe are daughters of Maura Cassin who, with her twin sister, Breda, played for Cill Chainnigh. Is neacht i Martina Ní Mheachair le Maura.

Deirfiúracha agus Deartháireacha

Doire: Claire Doherty's brother, Damien, plays with the Doire hurling team. Aileen Tohill is a sister of Anthony Tohill, Doire football star while Orla Downey is a sister of dual players Séamas and Henry.

Corcaigh: Marie Corkery's younger sister, Catherine, captained the county's Minor team to All-Ireland Championship victory in 1998. Aoife Murray is a sister of current Corcaigh senior hurler, Kevin.

Tiobraid Árann: Is deirfiúracha iad Niamh agus Máire Ní Earcáin.

Cill Chainnigh: Is deirfiúracha iad Sinéad agus Tracey Millea. Their father, Joe Millea, won All-Ireland Hurling medals with Cill Chainnigh. Brigid Mullally's brother, Paddy, is on the present Cill Chainnigh hurling team.

WATERFORD INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Wishes all its students involved in today's senior final every success



Bridget Mullally



Mary Ellen Butler



Waterford



Sinéad Nealon



Kelly Long



Kathleen Atkins

Our institute is delighted to be associated with Camogie and in particular with the highly successful GAA Educational Awards Scheme which enables promising young players a unique opportunity to access Third Level Education, while also ensuring committed graduates to promote Gaelic Games in future years. To date camogie players from the counties of Limerick, Waterford, Kilkenny, Tipperary and Wexford have benefitted from the scheme at WIT.

An chéad Chluiche Ceannais - Sinsear

Áth Cliath agus An Ghaillimh a bhí in iomaíocht lena chéile sa chéad Chluiche Ceannais i 1932. Áth Cliath a chuaigh an cluiche. The venue was the Sportsfield, An Ghaillimh. Máire Nic Giolla, was the Áth Cliath captain and, as she was also Uachtarán an Chumainn, Corn Ua Dubhthaigh was presented to her by Seaghan Ua Dubhthaigh who had donated the cup. Seaghan a bhí ina Réiteoir ar an gcluiche. We had, therefore, an unusual beginning with the Referee presenting the cup to a captain who was also the Uachtarán.

Foirne an lae inniu

Cuireadh tús le Craobhchomórtas na Sóisear i 1968. Corcaigh agus An Dún a bhain an Cluiche Ceannais amach. Corcaigh had reached its first Senior Final in 1934. Doire reached only one Senior Final, that of 1954, and contested its first Junior Final in 1969. Caoga bliain ó shoin a chéad-bhain Tiobraid Árann Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear amach. Its first Junior final was in 1990. Cill Chainnigh first reached the Senior final in 1970 and has yet to contest a Junior Final.

An chéad Chluiche Ceannais i bPáirc an Chrócaigh, 1934

Corcaigh agus An Lú a bhí in iomaíocht lena chéile nuair a chéad-imríodh Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. Corcaigh won the first of its nineteen titles.

Captaen na Linne i gCúige Connacht

Lúcháir gan chuimse a bhí i bPáirc an Chrócaigh i 1996 nuair a ghlac captaen na Gaillimhe le Corn Ua Dubhthaigh. Imelda Ní Oibicín became the first Connacht captain to lead her team to Senior All-Ireland Championship victory. Imelda had already won five Senior and two Junior All-Ireland Colleges medals with Naomh Rafael as well as All-Ireland Junior, Minor and Club Championship medals. Bhí sí ar fhoireann na Gaillimhe a bhualadh Sraithchomórtas na Sinsear i 1994.



Imelda Ní Oibicín, Captaen na Gaillimhe, 1996.

An chéad Chluiche Ceannais, 1932, Áth Cliath v An Ghaillimh



"Nothing stands still"

arsa

Máire Ní Mhóráin

As we gather to watch the last All-Ireland Camogie Finals of the century, let us reflect on how our game developed over the years and call to mind the outstanding players and teams that graced the game. Huge changes have taken place in organisation, on and off the field, in presentation, style of play and preparation of teams.

Seven counties entered for the inaugural All-Ireland Championship in 1932. Run on an Open Draw basis, the competition dragged on until August, 1933, when the Final was staged between Dublin and Galway at the Sportsfield, Galway. Dublin captain, Máire Gill, accepted the O'Duffy Cup that bears the name of one of the most outstanding promoters of the game, Mayoman, Seaghan Ua Dubhthaigh.

The 1932 Final was a forty minute match. The players wore gymfrocks that covered the knee, long black stockings, black boots, white blouses and belts. Some added a fashion note of the day in the form of a beret. A second crossbar joined the top of the posts to form a points space. Any ball travelling over the top crossbar was waved wide.

Four months later, Galway and Dublin contested the 1933 All-Ireland Final at Killester, Dublin, with the home side taking the spoils by a comfortable margin. The first stars of the game to make newspaper headlines were Dublin players Máire O'Kelly, Angela Egan, Brid Kenny, Emmy Delaney, Jean Hannon, Queenie Dunne and Mary Walsh. Galway midfielder, Peggy Morris, could claim the title of Camogie's most unlucky player. She captained Galway in five All-Ireland Finals and yet retired without a medal.

Bailiann brobh beart

With the setting up of the Provincial Councils in 1934, the format of the All-Ireland Championship changed. The Provincial Champions emerged to play in the All-Ireland Semi-Finals. Playing time was increased to fifty minutes. Cork, who did not contest the first two championships, entered the fray and made a huge impact. Fielding some of the best players that the game has known, they won six of the next eight championships. Peggy Hogg, Kitty Buckley, Josie McGrath, Eileen Casey, Joan Cotter, Lil Kirby and May McCarthy were household names.

The game was played much more on the ground in the early days than at present. The shape of the stick lent itself to good ground strokes. In later years, the nose of the stick was thinned to facilitate lifting. Players concentrated on scoring goals. Points from play were few and far between. A special feature in the early days was the pre-match parade from the city centre to Croke Park. The participating teams and referee were lead by a pipe band and the supporters marched alongside.

Antrim made a breakthrough in 1945 and held Corn Ua Dubhthaigh for the next two years. Marjorie Griffin, Celia Quinn, Peg Dooley, Kathleen Rainey, Winnie Storey, Marie O'Gorman and Nancy Murray inscribed their names in the annals of camogie. In 1948, the C.I.E. Club represented Dublin and carried off Corn Ua Dubhthaigh.

Áth Cliath chun tosaigh arís

A multi-talented Dublin side monopolised the inter-county scene from 1948 to 1967. Eighteen All-Ireland Championships were won in nineteen years. Under the coaching of Nell McCarthy, Dublin developed stickwork and teamwork that no other county could match.

Una O'Connor, Kathleen Mills, Kathleen Cody, Sophie Brack, Eileen Duffy, Gerry Hughes, Ally Hussey, Kathleen Ryder, Eithne Leech, Judy Doyle and Annette Corrigan were among the many truly great stars to wear the blue and white.

Antrim interrupted Dublin's run in 1956 and put an end to it in 1967. Amid great scenes of excitement, Moya Forde, Teresa Kearns, Maeve Gilroy, Deirdre O'Gorman, Marion Kearns and Madge Rainey caught Dublin in the 1956 semi-final. Over a decade later, Mairéad Mc Atamney, Sue Cashman, Kathleen Kelly, Lily Scullion and Mairéad Quinn brought Corn Ua Dubhthaigh to Ulster once more.

Úr-ghluín

The rise of Wexford brought new faces to the scene. Five Kehoe sisters, Brigid, Kit, Grotta, Annie and Josie carved their names in history as the Model County won three titles in an eight year period. Mary Sinnott, Margaret O'Leary, Joan Murphy, Mary Walsh, Elsie Walsh, Bridie Doran and Maggie Hearne gave stylish performances in the purple and gold.

A new generation of Cork players hit the scene in the early seventies. Liz Garvan, Mel Cummins, Marie Costine, Pat Moloney, Betty Sugrue, Marion Sweeney, Rosie Hennessy and Marion Mc Carthy bridged a twenty seven year gap. Sandie Fitzgibbon, Claire Cronin, Mary O'Leary, Cathy Landers, Linda Mellerick, Denise Cronin, Fiona O'Driscoll, Eithne Duggan and Lynn Dunlea were instrumental in bringing Cork's tally of All-Ireland Senior titles to nineteen.

Dubh agus ómra

A new force, which was to make a massive impact on the Championship, arrived on the scene in 1974. In the following two decades, Kilkenny produced top class teams and outstanding individual performers.

Angela Downey, Liz Neary, Helena O'Neill, Bridie McGarry, Ann Downey, Biddy O'Sullivan, Marie Fitzpatrick, Claire Jones and Breda Holmes delighted their supporters and pushed Kilkenny into third spot on the Roll of Honour.

An Ghaillimh Abú

Galway fulfilled in 1996 the promise created by excellent Minor and Junior sides. Imelda Hobbins led Sharon Glynn, Denise Gilligan, Pamela Nevin, Dympra Maher, Olive Costelloe and Martina Harkin up the steps of the New Cusack Stand to collect Corn Ua Dubhthaigh.

Mar atá anois

We have seen the gymfrocks and black stockings replaced by today's playing uniform, the points bar deleted, playing time extended to sixty minutes and the pitch enlarged. Live radio broadcast has at last been joined by live television coverage. A colourful programme has long since replaced the printed sheet.

The game itself has become closer to hurling. Tactics and training schedules are based on the men's game. Protective gear such as helmets, shin guards and the new hurling glove are commonplace. Today, camogie takes another big step closer with the first fifteen-a-side game on the full size hurling pitch. Nothing stands still. One can only imagine what camogie and camogie players will look like in 2099.

Leabhar a bheadh uainn chun cur síos a dhéanamh ar Mháire féin. Máire, a Senior All-Ireland medal winner with Corcaigh, graced the offices of Uachtarán and National P.R.O., and is a National Coach as well as Rúnaí Chomhairle na nIarlbhunscolleanna.

Máire Ní Mhóráin



ar chúl, ó chlé: Á. Ní Chearúil, C. Ní Dhúill, M. Ní Chiardha, É. Ní Náraithe, M. Ní Chaomhánaigh, Áine Ní Dhúnaigh, Á. Ní Bhuaidín, M. Ní Chinnéide. chun tosaigh, ó chlé: M. Ní Conbhui, Aingeal Ní Dhúnaigh, T. Ní Bhraonáin, M. Ní Fhionnalaigh, T. Ní Néill, (captain), B. Ní Mháirtín, U. de Grás, E. Ní Néill, M. Phuirséil.

Foireann Chill Chainnigh, 1974.

- 1 Treasa Ní Néill
Teresa O'Neill, St. Paul's
Captain
- 2 Áine Ní Chearúil
Ann Carroll, St. Paul's & U.C.D.
- 3 Éilis Ní Náraithe
Liz Neary, St. Paul's
- 4 Brid Ní Mháirtín
Bridie Martin, Lisdowney
- 5 Máire Ní Chaomhánaigh
Mary Kavanagh, St. Paul's
- 6 Eibhlín Ní Néill
Helena O'Neill, St. Paul's
- 7 Mairéad Ní Chiardha
Peggy Carey, Gowran
- 8 Máire Ní Fhionnalaigh
Mary Fennelly, Carrickshock
- 9 Ursúil de Grás
Ursula Grace, St. Paul's
- 10 Máire Ní Conbhui
Mary Conway, St. Paul's
- 11 Aingeal Ní Dhúnaigh
Angela Downey, St. Paul's
- 12 Cairmeál Ní Dhúill
Carmel Doyle, St. Paul's

Na hIonadaithe

13. Áine Ní Dhúnaigh (Ann Downey, St. Paul's)
14. Treasa Ní Bhraonáin (Tessie Brennan, St. Paul's)
15. Máire Ní Chinnéide (Mary Kennedy, Gowran)
16. Máire Phuirséil (Mary Purcell, Lisdowney)



Brid Mhig Phocraigh (Ní Mháirtín), Cill Chainnigh, agus Hannah Mhícheál (Ní Dhúnaigh), Corcaigh, in iomaíocht lena chéile i gCluiche Ceannais na Síneair.

Foireann Chorcaí, 1974.

- 1 Deirdre Ní Shurtáin
Deirdre Sutton, Glen Rovers
- 2 Máire Ní Choistín
Marie Costine, Cloyne
- 3 Siobhán Uí Choitir
Hannah Cotter, South Pres.
- 4 Síle Ní Dhuinn
Sheila Dunne, Canovee
- 5 Máire Ní Uelton
Mary Whelton, South Pres.
- 6 Máire Ní Cárthaigh
Marian McCarthy, South Pres.
- 7 Pádraigin Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh
Pat Moloney, U.C.C. & Kilkenny
- 8 Éilis Ní Shiochrú
Betty Sugrue, South Pres.
- 9 Máire Ní Suibhne
Marion Sweeney, Kilkenny
Captain
- 10 Áine Uí Riain
Anne Ryan, Old Als.
- 11 Nuala Ní Ghiollaidhe
Nuala Guilly, Cloyne
- 12 Neans Ní Dhrisceoil
Nancy O'Driscoll, Éire Óg

Na hIonadaithe

13. Nuala Ní Sheoinín (Nuala Jennings, U.C.C.)
14. Máire Ní Cheannabháin (Mary Canavan, Saefields)
15. Berni Ní Choistín (Bernie Costine, Cloyne)
16. Áine Ní Chatháin (Anne Keane, Ballymore)

Doire



Dearg agus Dubh

1
Eibhlín Nic Raghallaigh
Aileen Crilly
Glen

2
Clár Ní Scolláin
Claire Scullin
Swatragh

3
Gráinne Nig Uidhir
Gráinne Maguire
Swatragh

4
Paula Nic Cionaoith
Paula McKenna
Swatragh

5
Caitríona Nic Domhnaill
Cathy McDonald
Greenlough

6
Siobhán Nic Ainmhire
Siobhán Convery
Lavey

7
Clár Ní Dhochartaigh
Claire Doherty
Slaughtneil

8
Martina Ní Mhaolchallann
Martina Mulholland
Lavey

9
Áine Nic Lochlainn
Anna O'Loughlin
Swatragh

10
Shauna Nic Camhaoil
Shauna McCaul
Dungiven

11
Eibhlín Ní Thuathail
Aileen Tobill
Swatragh

12
Póilín Nic an Tiompánaigh
Paula McAtamney
Swatragh

13
Clár Nic Niocaill
Claire McNicholl
Swatragh

14
Máire Ní Chatháin
Mary O'Kane
Glen
Captan

15
Karen Ní Raifeartaigh
Karen Rafferty
Bellaghy

An Bainisteoir

Doimnic Mac
Fhionnlaoidh

Dominic McKinley

IONADAITHE

16. Clár Ní Chatháin	Claire O'Kane	Castledawson
17. Eibhlín Ní Chatháin	Aileen O'Kane	Slaughtneil
18. Róisín Ní Mhaolmhuaidh	Róisín Molloy	Glen
19. Sinéad Nic Stiofáin	Sinéad Stevenson	Banagher
20. Máire Nic Amhaláí	Móira McAuley	Castledawson

DOIRE



Ar chúl, ó chlé: D. Mac Fhionnlaoidh (Bainisteoir), E. Ní Chatháin, S. Nic Stiofáin, C. Nic Domhnaill, R. Ní Mhaolmhuaidh, S. Nic Ainmhire, M. Ní Mhaolchallann, E. Ní Thuathail, C. Ní Scolláin, S. Nic Camhaoil, N. Nic Raing, M. Ní Bhrollaigh (Roghnoir).
Chun tosaigh, ó chlé: O. Ní Dhúnaigh, C. Ní Chatháin, M. Nic Amhaláí, P. Nic Cionaoith, P. Nic an Tiompánaigh, M. Ní Chatháin (Captan), E. Nic Raghallaigh, C. Nic Niocaill, Á. Nic Lochlainn, C. Ní Dhochartaigh, K. Ní Raifeartaigh.

Corcaigh has now reached its thirteenth All-Ireland Junior Championship Final and has won the title on five occasions - 1973, '80, '83, '84 and '96. Bhuadar Craobhchomórtas na Mumhan seacht n-uair déag. Corcaigh would also like to achieve a double this year. Tá Craobhchomórtas na Mionúr buaite cheana féin ag an gContae.



Corn na Sóisear bronnta ag Comhlucht na hÉireann um Árachas Teoranta, 1968

Na Cluichí Leathcheannais, 1999.

Corcaigh 2-13 Uíbh Fáighle 2-8

Doire 4-11 Roscomáin 1-3

Sóisir Dhoire

Greenlough

Muireann Harrington
2 All-Ireland Senior Colleges Championship and 2 All-Ireland Junior Championship medals. Bhuaidh sí le Naomh Mhuire, Rath Luirc, iad. She is a student at U.C.C.

Dungiven

Shauna McCaul
1 National Junior League medal. Has won Ulster under 14, Minor and under medals. 1 All-Ireland under 15 and 2 Ulster under 15 Handball medals.

Banagher

Sinéad Stevenson
Is é an chéad di bheidh ag imirt le foireann Sóisear Dhoire.

Bellaghy

Karen Rafferty
1 Junior National League medal

Swatragh

Claire Scullin
She won C.C.I.A. medal with Uewns University Belfast. Has won Championship and League medals with her club. 1 National Junior League medal.

Gráinne Maguire
Has won County and Provincial Championship with her club. 1 Junior National League medal. Is é sin an tríú bhlian bheidh ag imirt le foireann Sóisear Dhoire.

Paula McKenna
Bhuaidh sí Sraithnáisiúnta Sóisear i mbliana.

Anna O'Loughlin
Like other mebers of her club she has won a Junior National League this year.

Aileen Tobill
1 Ulster uner 14 and under 18 medals. Also holds County Championship medals with her club.

Claire McNicholl
1 Junior National League medal and 2 Ulster Minor Championship and League medals. Has won County Championship and League medals with her club.

Paula McAtamney
A talented player Paula has won Championship and League medals with her club. She also won many titles with her school, St. Patrick's Maghera.

Sóisir Dhoire

An Captaen Máire Ní Chatháin Glen

Tá ocht gcinn de bhlianta caite ar fhoireann Dhoire aici. Máire has represented her county at Minor, under-eighteen and Junior level and has played for Cúige Uladh at Senior and Junior level.

Glen

Aileen Crilly
1 Junior National League medal. A coach to under-age teams, she has been with the Junior County team for the last two seasons.

Róisín Molloy
Is e an céad bhlian di bheidh ag imirt le foireann Sóisear Dhoire.

Lavey

Siobhán Convery
She has won C.C.I.A. medals with Jordonstown and has represented her county at Under -18, Minor and Junior levels. Imríonn sí le Cúige Uladh.

Martina Mulholland
1 Purcell Cup medal. She has won County Championship medals with her Club. She coaches under-age teams.

Slaughtneil

Claire Doherty
Won Ulster Minor League and Championship. This is her second year with the Junior panel.

Aileen O'Kane
Ulster Minor League and Championship medals. Senior schools medal. Bhuaidh sí le Naomh Phádraigh, Maachaire Fiolta.

Castledawson

Claire O'Kane agus Móira McAuley
Is e an céad bhlian doibh bheidh ag imirt le foireann Sóisear Dhoire



Corcaigh

1
Gearóidín Ní Chathasaigh
Geraldine Casey
Inniscarra

Dearg agus Bán

2
Muireann Ní Arrachtáin
Muireann Harrington
Newtownshandrum

3
Rosarie Ní Aoláin
Rosarie Holland
Barryroe

4
Sinéad Ní Bhuachalla
Sinéad Buckley
Aghabullogue

5
Rút Ní Chathaláin
Ruth Cahalan
Bishopstown

6
Jill Ní Annaín
Jill Hannon
Glen Rovers

7
Linda Ní Chonaill
Linda O'Connell
St. Finbarr's

8
Léan Bhreatnach
Helen Walsh
Éire Óg
Captaen

9
Sheenagh Ní Mhuraile
Sheenagh Morley
Bishopstown

10
Orla Ní Shúilleabháin
Orla O'Sullivan
St. Finbarr's

11
Máire Ní Chorca
Marie Corkery
Cloughduv

12
Léan de Búrca
Elaine Burke
Valley Rovers

13
Criona Ní Airt
Criona Harte
Inniscarra

14
Ciara Ní Éalaithe
Ciara Healy
Bishopstown

15
Rachel Ní Mhaolomhnaigh
Rachel Maloney
Courcey Rovers

IONADAITHE

16. Aoife Ní Mhuiri	Aoife Murray	Cloughduv
17. Cearúilín Nic Giolla tSeanáin	Caroline Giltinan	Newtownshandrum
18. Eimear Ní Shúilleabháin	Eimear O'Sullivan	Kilbrittain
19. Eibhlín Ní Shúilleabháin	Ellen O'Sullivan	Kilbrittain
20. Val Ní Shúilleabháin	Val O'Sullivan	Fr. O'Neill's

An Bainisteoir

Pádraig Ó Muiríte

Pat Murray

CORCAIGH



ar chúl, ó chlé: Á. Ní Riagáin, L. Ní Chonaill, E. Ní Iarlatha, M. Ní Arrachtáin, M. Ní Chorca, J. Ní Annaín, C. Ní Airt.
sa lár, ó chlé: A. Ní Mhuiri, C. Ní Mhaonaigh, C. Nic Giolla tSeanáin, S. Ní Bhuachalla, S. Ní Mhuraile, C. Ní Éalaithe, R. Ní Mhaolomhnaigh, E. Ní Shúilleabháin, V. Ní Shúilleabháin, R. Ní Aoláin.
chun tosaigh, ó chlé: O. Ní Shúilleabháin, L. de Búrca, R. Ní Chathaláin, L. Bhreatnach (Captaen), G. Ní Choileáin, T. Ní Mhurchú.

Corcaigh agus Doire i gCluiche Ceannais na Sóisear

Previous meetings in the Championship Final

Tá Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear bainte amach faoi thrí ag Doire. As it happens, Doire met Corcaigh in its two previous Final appearances, 1969 and 1978. Muintir Dhoire a rug an lá leo ar an dá ócáid sin.

Sraithchomórtas na Sóisear, 1999

Casadh an dá fhoircann ar a chéile san Sraithchomórtas i mbliana. Doire was again victorious in this year's Semi-final of the National League.

An Scór

Doire 3-8 Corcaigh 1-10

An Scór

1969: Doire 4-2 Corcaigh 2-4

1978: Doire 3-4 Corcaigh 1-4

Doire defeated Loch Garman in the Final. The League and Championship double has been achieved by only four other counties:

An Ghaillimh, 1985; Cill Dara, '89, '90; Ardmhacha, '93, agus Aontroim, '97.

Sóisir Chorcaí



An Captaen Eibhlín Bhreatnach Éire Óg

Bhi Eibhlín ina captaen ar a Club nuair a bhúadar Craobhchomórtas an Chontae, Sinsear B, i 1997. She won a Senior National League medal with Corcaigh and also holds Munster Junior and Intermediate Championship medals.

Bishopstown

Rita Cahalan
Is as Gaillimh di. She has won C.C.I.A. competitions with U.C.C. She won a County Senior medal with her club this year.

Sheena Morley
1 Minor All-Ireland Championship medal and Senior and Junior County Championship medals. Is deirfiúr i le Pat Morley a imríonn sacar le Cork City.

Ciara Healy
Holds 1 All-Ireland Minor Championship medal and Munster Senior, Junior and Minor medals. Has represented Ireland at Squash.

Inniscarra

Geraldine Casey
Won an All-Ireland medal with Sacred Heart, Clonakilty, this year. Munster Junior and Minor Championship medals. Imríonn sí hacai le Cúige Mumhan.

Criona Harte
1 Gael Linn medal and Munster Junior, Intermediate and Under 18 medals.

St. Finbarrs

Linda O'Connell
Munster Intermediate and Junior Championship medals. Won a Cork Colleges Championship medal this year under the guidance of Sínead Millea, Cill Chainnigh.

Orla O'Sullivan
Munster Intermediate and Junior Championship medals. Is scolaire i ag an College of Commerce, Corcaigh.

Cloughduv

Marie Corkery
Munster Intermediate and Junior Championship medals. Bhuaidh a deirfiúr, Catherine, Craobhchomórtas na Mionúr anuraidh.

Aoife Murray
2 All-Ireland Minor Championship medals. Is i an cúlbaire ar fhoireann na Mionúr, Corcaigh, i mbliana i.

Sóisir Chorcaí

Newtownshandrum

Muireann Harrington
2 All-Ireland Senior Colleges Championship and 2 All-Ireland Junior Championship medals. Bhuaidh sí le Naomh Mhuire, Rath Luire, iad. She is a student at U.C.C.

Caroline Giltinan
Bhuaidh sí Craobh Choláistí na hÉireann le Naomh Mhuire, Rath Luire, iad. A member of the Corcaigh Minor team of 1997.

Barryroe

Rosarie Holland
1 All-Ireland Minor Championship medal. Is scolaire i Sacred Heart, Clonakilty, i. Won All-Ireland Senior B Colleges medal with her school this year.

Fr. O'Neill's

Val O'Sullivan
Munster Intermediate Colleges Championship medal. East Cork Championship and Leagues championship hurling medals. Interested in Volleyball.

Aghabullogue

Sinéad Buckley
Munster Junior and Minor Championship medals. Won Corcaigh Féile na nGael medals.

Plays Badminton with the Coachford Club.

Kilbrittain

Eimear O'Sullivan
Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Under 18 Munster Championship medals. Intermediate County Championship medals.

Glen Rovers

Jill Hannon
Munster Intermediate, Junior, Under 18 and Minor medals. Bhi sí ina captaen ar fhoireann Chorcaí a bhuaidh Craobhchomórtas na Mumhan faoi 18.

Valley Rovers

Elaine Burke
Munster Junior and Minor Championship medals. Junior A and B County Championship medals with her Club.

Cill Chainnigh



ar chúl (6 ché): S. Nic Colistealbha, R. Mac Siacais (Bainisteoir), M. Ní Mheachair, B. Bheamabháil, C. Ní Aidicín, M. Nic Cumascaigh, M. Ní Aoláin, A. Ní Dhúnaigh, M. Ó Fionnalaigh (Olltánaí), C. Ní Dhuinn, S. Ní Ghormáin, M. Uí Choistealbha (Roghndóir)
chun tosaigh (6 ché): T. Ní Mhaolaidh, M. Ní Icí, L. Nic Suibhne, M. Nic Colistealbha, L. Ní Chrionáin, J. Ní Mheachair (Captaen), B. Ní Mhaolalaidh, S. Ní Mhaolaidh, S. Ní Ghilásáin, B. Ní Náralgh.

Sinsir Chill Chainnigh

Naomh Lachtain, Freshford

Sinéad Costelloe: 7th season.

1 Senior All-Ireland Championship medal,
1 Senior National League, 1 Minor All-Ireland Championship.

Margaret Hickey: 6th season.

1 Senior All-Ireland Championship medal,
1 C.C.I.A. Combined Colleges medal.

Mairéad Costelloe: 4th season.

2 Leinster Senior Championship medals,
2 Leinster Senior and 1 Leinster Junior Colleges medals.
Is deirfiúir le Sinéad í.

Martina Maher: 3rd season.

1 Junior Gael Linn medal, 1 All-Ireland Senior Colleges and 1 Leinster Senior and 1 Leinster Junior Colleges medals.
Is colceathrar le muintir Uí Choistealbha í.

Mary Ellen Butler: 2nd season.

1 Leinster Senior Colleges Shield medal,
9 County Championship medals at various levels. 4 bhonn ag leibhéal na mBunscoileanna.

Lisdowney

Ann Downey: 27th season.
12 All-Ireland Senior medals, 9 Senior National League, 10 Senior Gael Linn, 7 All-Ireland Club Championship, 4 Player of the Year Awards.
International Squash and Inter-provincial Hockey awards.

Marina Downey: 13th season.
5 All-Ireland Senior medals, 6 Senior National League, 2 Senior Gael Linn, 1 All-Ireland Club Championship.
Tá boinn Choláistí Laighean chomh maith aici.

Brigid Barnaville: 9th season.
2 Senior All-Ireland medals, 2 National League, 1 All-Ireland Club Championship, 2 All-Ireland Minor medals.

Sandra Gleeson: 6th season.
1 All-Ireland Club Championship medal, Leinster Club and Colleges medals.

Catherine Dunne: 5th season.
1 Senior All-Ireland medal. Captained her Club to All-Ireland Club Championship victory in 1994.
1 C.C.I.A. Combined Colleges medal.

Kelly Long: 5th season.
1 Leinster Club Championship medal, 1 Ashbourne medal.

Miriam Holland: 4th season.
2 All-Ireland Club Championship medals, 1 Ashbourne medal.
Cúlbaire oilte í. Bhí sí ar fheabhas sa Chluiche Leathcheannais.

Sinsir Chill Chainnigh

An Captaen Jillian Uí Mheachair (Ní Dhiollúin) Naomh Lachtain, Freshford



This is Jillian's tenth year playing with the Cill Chainnigh Senior team. Tá boinn buaite ag gach leibhéal ó na Bunscoileanna ar aghaidh aici. She has won three All-Ireland Senior, two Minor and two Senior Gael Linn Championship medals, as well as two Senior national League medals. Jillian holds an innumerable amount of medals at colleges, county and provincial levels.

Graigie-Ballycallan

Sinéad Millea: 9th season.
2 Senior All-Ireland Championship medals, 2 Senior National League, 1 Senior Gael Linn, 3 All-Ireland Minor Championship, 1 All-Ireland Senior and 1 All-Ireland Junior Colleges, 1 Ashbourne and 1 C.C.I.A. Combined Colleges medal.

Tracey Millea: 9th season.
2 Senior All-Ireland Championship medals, 1 Senior National League, 1 Senior Gael Linn, 2 All-Ireland Minor Championship medal.
Is deirfiúir le Sinéad í.

Margaret Comerford: 4th season.
1 Senior All-Ireland Colleges Championship medal and 1 Junior All-Ireland Colleges Championship medal. Boinn buaite ag gach leibhéal laistigh den chontae aici, leibhéal na mBunscoileanna ina measc.

Pauline Comerford: 2nd season.
1 All-Ireland Senior Colleges Championship medal. Tá boinn buaite ag gach leibhéal laistigh den chontae aici.

Tullogher

Una Murphy: 5th season.
1 Senior All-Ireland Championship medal.
1 C.C.I.A. Dúthracht le W.I.T., Portlárge.

Glenmore

Brigid Mullaly: 8th season.
3 Senior All-Ireland Championship medals, 2 Minor All-Ireland Championship, 1 Ashbourne Cup and several County Championship medals.
Bhuaidh sí Comórtas na Scileanna i bhFéile na nGael.

Rower-Inistioge

Lizzie Lyng: 1st season.
1 Junior Gael Linn, 2 Leinster Minor Championship, 1 Leinster Junior Colleges Championship, 1 Leinster Minor Colleges medals.
Schwarzkopf Junior Player of the Tournament, 1999 Gael Linn Finals.

Tiobraid Árann



archúil (ó chlé): T. Ó Maolomhnaigh (Roghnóir), L. Chaimpion, C. Nic Aonghusa, F. Ní Fhógartaigh, N. Ní Chinnéide, M. de Stóc (Captaen), A. Nic Dhiarmada, T. Ní Bhróithe, S. Ní Cheallaigh, L. Ní Chadhlá, C. Ní Mhadáin, C. Nig Fhionnbhairr, B. Mhic Philib (Bainisteoir), S. Ó Madáin (Roghnóir).
chun tosaigh (ó chlé): L. Ní Rlain, S. Nic Iomhair, G. Ní Sheancháin, E. Ní Eidhin, N. Ní Earcáin, N. Ní Dhubháin, D. Nic Aodha, S. Ní Nialláin, U. Ní Dhuibhir, E. Ní Dhomhnaill, J. Ní Dhubhshláine, M. Ní Earcáin.

Sinsir Thiobraid Árann

An Captaen Méadhbh de Stóc Cashel

Is í seo an tarna bliain déag do Méadhbh bheith ag imirt dá contaí. She is the longest-serving member of the team. She won a Junior All-Ireland Championship medal in 1992 and an Intermediate All-Ireland Championship medal in 1997. d'imir sí le foireann na Mumhan ag leibhéal na sinsear agus na sóiscar. Méadhbh is interested in Basketball and Cross-country running.

Cashel

Devita Delaney: 10th season.
Intermediate All-Ireland Championship medal, 1 Junior All-Ireland Championship and Minor All-Ireland Championship medal. All-Ireland Senior and Junior Colleges medals. Plays Basketball, Football and Badminton.

Ma O'Dwyer: 3rd season.
Intermediate All-Ireland Championship medal, 1 Junior All-Ireland Championship and Minor All-Ireland Championship medal. Cuireann sí suim sa mharcáiocht agus sa pheil.

Emily Hayden: 3rd season.
Intermediate All-Ireland Championship medal, 1 Junior All-Ireland Championship, Minor All-Ireland Championship and Gael Senior and Junior medals. Her interests include Ballroom Dancing and Deep Sea Diving.

Alomona Fogarty: 1st season.
imir sí ar fhoireann idir-chontae na Mionúir agus na Sóiscar cheana féin. Munster and County Championship medals. Imríonn sí sacar agus cispheil.

Portroe

Claire Madden: 10th season.
Has represented her county at Minor, Junior and Intermediate levels. Munster and County Championship medals. Tá suim aici sa chispheil agus sa pheil.

Kilruane McDonagh

Ciara Gaynor: 3rd season.
2 All-Ireland Intermediate Championship medals, 2 All-Ireland Minor Championship and 1 Gael Linn medal. Cuireann sí suim sa mharcáiocht.

Knockavilla Kickhams

Angela McDermott: 1st season.
d'imir sí le foireann na Mionúir agus na Sóiscar cheana féin. 1 Junior Gael Linn medal and 1 Ashbourne Cup medal with U.C.C. She is interested in swimming and Gaelic Football.

Holycross

Louise Ryan: 2nd season.
d'imir sí le foireann na Mionúir, na Sóiscar agus faoi 18 cheana féin. She represented Cúige Mumhan at Junior level. Imríonn sí hacai agus cispheil chomh maith.

Sinsir Thiobraid Árann

Toomevara

Deirdre Hughes: 10th season.
1 All-Ireland Intermediate Championship medal, 1 All-Ireland Junior Championship, 6 Senior and 2 Junior Gael Linn medals. Imríonn sí hacai le Cúige Mumhan.

Noelle Kennedy: 8th season.
1 All-Ireland Intermediate Championship medal, 1 All-Ireland Junior Championship, 2 Senior and 3 Junior Gael Linn medals. Interested in weight lifting.

Suzanne Kelly: 6th season.
1 All-Ireland Intermediate Championship medal, 1 All-Ireland Minor Championship, 1 Junior Gael Linn medal. Cuireann sí suim i rásaí na gcon.

Drom and Inch

Helen Kiely: 5th season.
1 All-Ireland Intermediate Championship medal, 1 All-Ireland Minor Championship. Interested in badminton and athletics.

Caltriona Hennessy: 3rd season.
1 All-Ireland Intermediate Championship medal, 1 All-Ireland Minor Championship, 2 Junior Gael Linn medals. Interested in football, mountain climbing and Irish Dancing.

Maria Harkin: 1st season.
1 All-Ireland Minor Championship medal. d'imir sí le foireann na Sóiscar chomh maith. Plays Badminton. Won the Recitation competition in Scór na nÓg.

Maria Harkin: 1st season.
Bhuaidh sí comórtas na Scileanna i bhFéile na nGael, 1996. County Championship medals. Interested in Hurling, Ballet and Scuba Diving.

Burgess

Sinead Nealon: 9th season.
1 All-Ireland Intermediate Championship medal, 1 All-Ireland Junior Championship, All-Ireland Minor Championship medal, 1 Gael Linn Junior, 1 Ashbourne with W.I.T. Cuireann sí suim sa snámh.

Therese Brophy: 2nd season.
1 All-Ireland Intermediate Championship medal, 2 All-Ireland Minor Championship, 1 Junior Gael Linn, 2 Ashbourne medals with U.C.C. Interested in poetry, Irish Dancing and fencing.

Emer McDonnell: 2nd season.
1 Senior Gael Linn medal. d'imir sí le foireann na Mionúir chomh maith. Cuireann sí suim sa mharcáiocht.

Sheena Howard: 1st season.
1 Gael Linn Junior medal, Munster Minor Junior and u-18 medals, 2 u-14 Hurling medals. Imríonn sí camógáiocht le Scoil Mhuire, Aonach Urmhumhan.



Cill Chainnigh

Bord na Gaeilge

Tiobraid Árann



	1 Miriam Ní Aoláin Miriam Holland Lisdowney	Dubh agus Ómra	Gorm agus Órga	1 Jovita Ní Dhubhshláine Jovita Delaney Cashel	
2 Tracey Ní Mhaolaidh Tracey Millea Graigue-Ballycallan	3 Mairéad Ní Icí Margaret Hickey Freshford	4 Úna Ní Mhurchú Úna Murphy Tullogher	2 Siobhán Ní Cheallaigh Suzanne Kelly Toomevara	3 Úna Ní Dhuibhir Úna O'Dwyer Cashel	4 Clár Ní Mhadáin Claire Madden Portroe
5 Sinéad Nic Coistealbha Sinéad Costelloe Freshford	6 Jillian Uí Mheachair Jillian Maher Freshford CAPTAIN	7 Mairéad Nic Coisteabhla Mairéad Costelloe Freshford	5 Méadhbh de Stóc Méadhbh Stokes Cashel CAPTAIN	6 Ciara Nig Fhionnbhairr Ciara Gaynor Kilruane McDonagh	7 Sinéad Ní Nialláin Sinéad Nealon Burgess
8 Kelly Ní Longáin Kelly Long Lisdowney	9 Sinéad Ní Mhaolaidh Sinéad Millea Graigue-Ballycallan		8 Eimile Ní Eideáin Emily Hayden Cashel	9 Aingéal Nic Diarmada Angela McDermott Knockavilla Kickhams	
10 Sandra Ní Ghliasaín Sandra Gleeson Lisdowney	11 Brid Ní Mhaolalaigh Brigid Mullaly Glenmore	12 Marina Ní Dhúnaigh Marina Downey Lisdowney	10 Noelle Ní Chinnéide Noelle Kennedy Toomevara	11 Treasa Ní Bhróithe Therese Brophy Burgess	12 Léan Ní Chadhlá Helen Kieley Drom and Inch
13 Mairéad Nic Cumascaigh Margaret Comerford Graigue-Ballycallan	14 Martina Ní Mheachair Martina Maher Freshford	15 Éilís Ní Loinn Lizzie Lyng Rower-Inistioge	13 Eimhear Nic Domhnaill Emer McDonnell Burgess	14 Deirdre Nic Aodha Deirdre Hughes Toomevara	15 Niamh Ní Earcáin Niamh Harkin Drom and Inch

IONADAITHE

16. Áine Ní Dhúnaigh	Ann Downey	Lisdowney
17. Caitríona Ní Dhuinn	Catherine Dunne	Lisdowney
18. Bríd Bhearnabháil	Brigid Barnaville	Lisdowney
19. Máire Eibhlín de Buítléir	Mary Ellen Butler	Freshford
20. Poilín Nic Cumascaigh	Pauline Comerford	Graigue-Ballycallan

An Bainisteoir

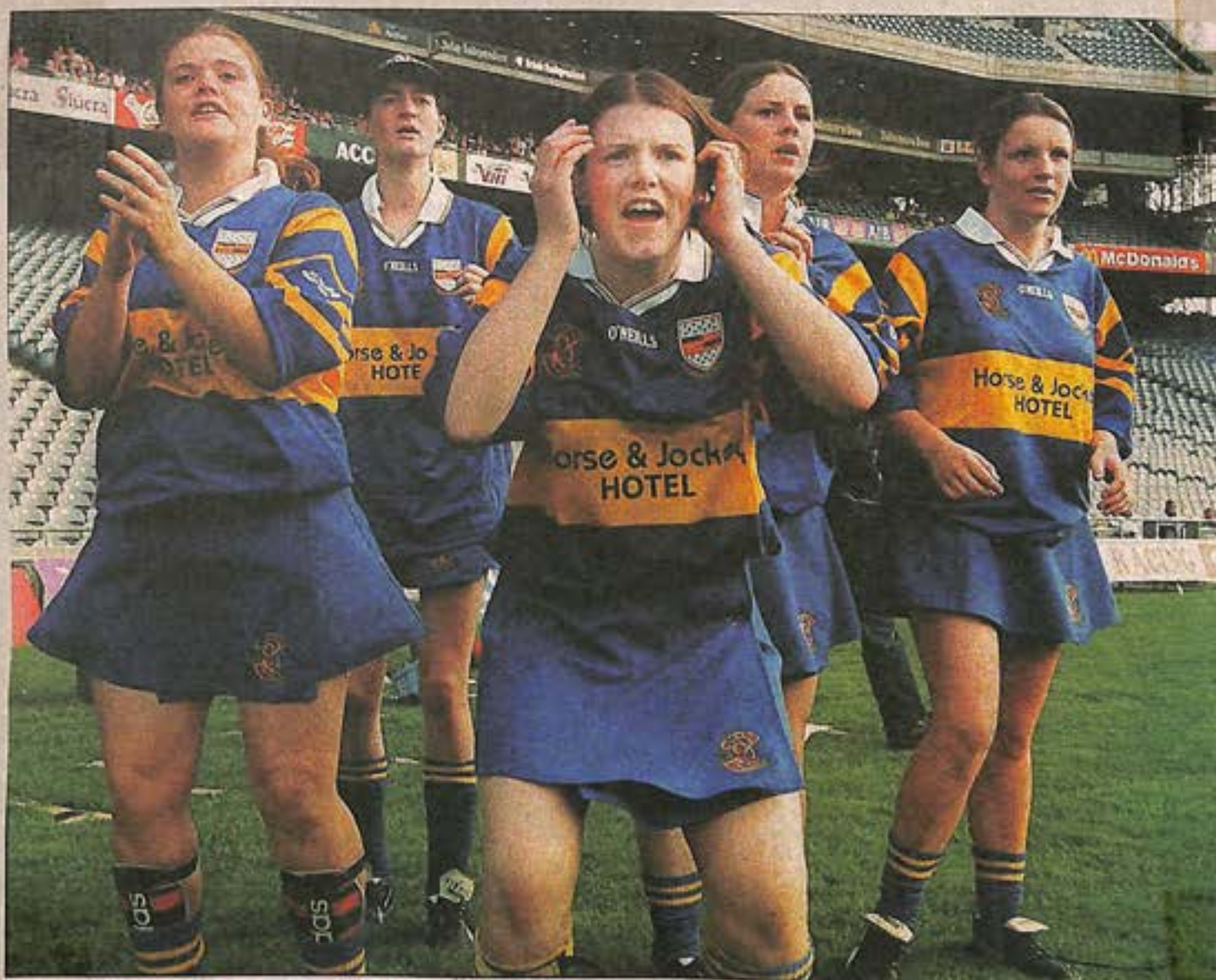
Roiséard Mac
Siacaís
Bobby Jackman

An Bainisteoir

Brid Mhic Philib
Biddy Phillips

IONADAITHE

16. Laoise Ní Riain	Louise Ryan	Holycross
17. Caitríona Nic Aonghusa	Caitríona Hennessy	Drom and Inch
18. Filimíne Ní Fhógartaigh	Philomena Fogarty	Cashel
19. Sheena Nic Íomhair	Sheena Howard	Burgess
20. Máire Ní Earcáin	Maria Harkin	Drom and Inch



Tipperary subs show their anxiety in the last few minutes of the All-Ireland Senior Camogie final at Croke Park yesterday. Tipperary defeated Kilkenny by a point. Photograph: Eric Luke. Tipperary take their first All-Ireland title: SportsMonday.

Tipp's sweet 15 hold out for Premier title

TIPPERARY 0-12
KILKENNY 1-8

IT will be a long way to Tipperary tonight as the Holy Grail of camogie — the O'Duffy Cup — goes to the Premier County for the very first time.

All the hardship of seven previous final losses was wiped away in the glorious sunshine of Croke Park yesterday in the first 15-a-side Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland final.

15,084 spectators saw the last, and certainly one of the best finals, of the century as the underdogs Tipp made a complete recovery from this season's crushing National League Final defeat to Cork (9-19 to 2-7).

Much of the pre-match hype centred on Kilkenny substitute, Ann Downey, who was seeking her 13th All-Ireland medal. She was part of the 1974 jubilee team that was introduced to the crowd before the game.

By NIAL SCULLY

Yet it was the Tipperary substitute, Caitriona Hennessy, who was to make the greater impact as the talented teenager converted two late placed balls to crown the Tipp girls as the new queens of camogie.

After the closely-fought match, Downey announced her retirement after a remarkable 27 campaigns.

"That's the way it goes. Tipp were the better side. They showed more hunger," she said.

"We'll just have to live with that, but I'm disappointed for our young players, so many of whom have never won an medal."

Tipperary manager, Biddy Phillips, raced onto the pitch to embrace her players who had fallen to the turf with joy.

"It was everyone's dream in Tipperary to win the All-Ireland camogie title, and this will be a major boost to the game in the county," she declared.

"I felt it was one of the best All-Irelands that I have seen, and at half-time we told the girls just to keep digging in there and it would come right."

Biddy's success in persuading former Tipp legends, Colm Bonnar and Michael Cleary, to help with the preparation of the squad proved a masterstroke.

1984 was the last occasion Tipperary appeared in the final, but they were the more impressive unit in the opening half as they attacked the Canal End.

Full-forward Deirdre Hughes looked a real class act. Her three points in the hour were all gems, while her team-mate Noelle Kennedy fired over some fine frees.

CLUSTER OF BODIES

Tipp's defence also excelled, and their half-back line included the majestic Ciara Gaynor, Len's daughter, and Sinéad Nealon, daughter of Donie.

At that stage, Kilkenny were too dependent on their brilliant midfielder, Sinéad Millea, the player whose late, dramatic goal knocked out the hot favourites Cork in the semi-final at Parnell Park.

And it was Millea who created the goal, four minutes from the break, that, unjustly, had Tipp behind at the interval (1-5 to 0-7).

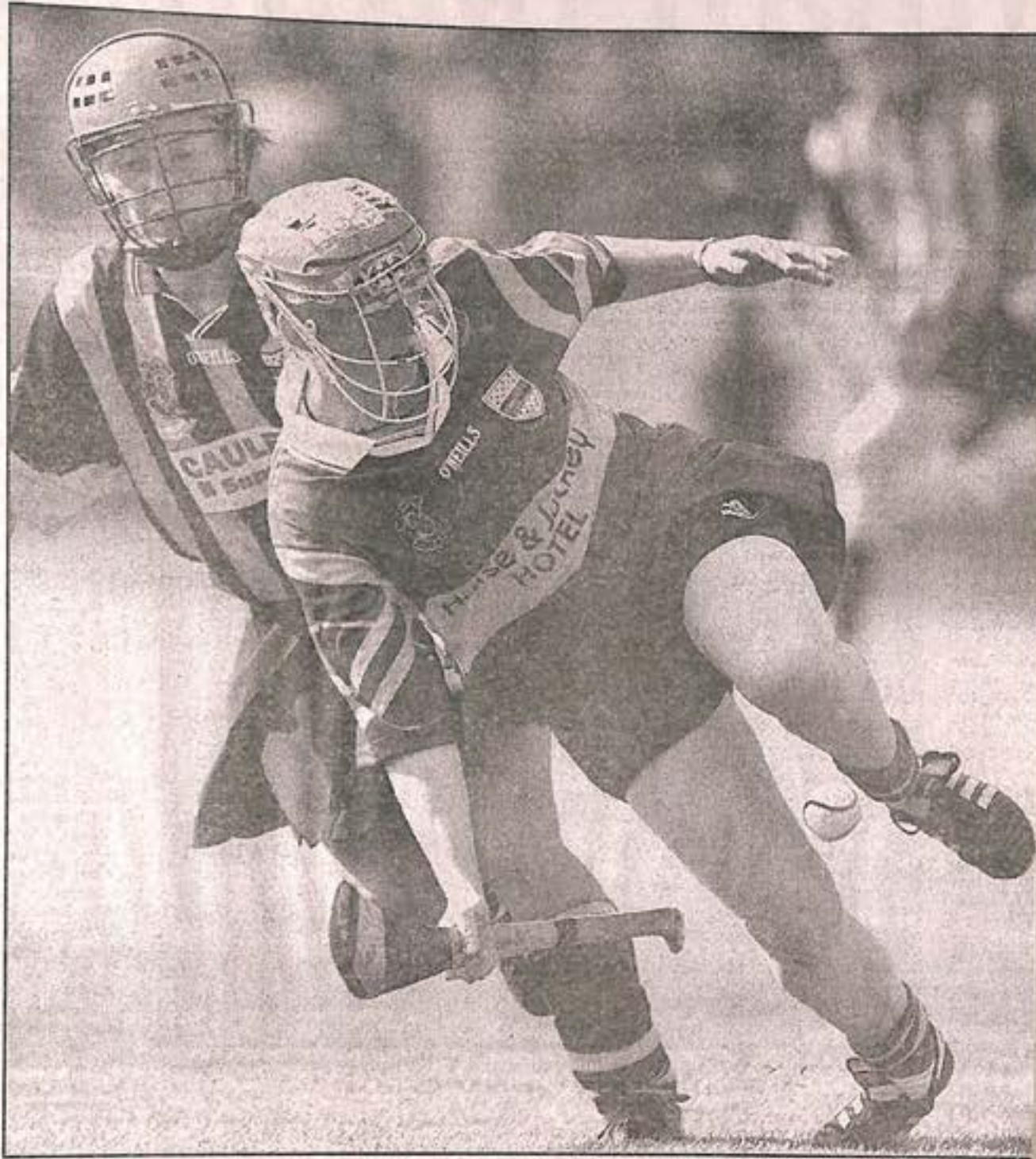
Her free was blocked by a cluster of bodies, and in the scramble, 16-year-old Lizzie Lyng managed to guide the sliotar to the net.

Then in first half injury time, Niamh Harkin's drive was inches away from the Kilkenny net.

Eleven minutes into the second period, as Kilkenny led by two points — 1-7 to 0-8 — the black and amber side introduced their Top Cat, Ann Downey.

Yet, with Angela McDermott enjoying some flourish runs, it was Tipperary who were looking the sharper side and on 43 minutes they were again denied a goal when Eimer McDonnell's strike thundered off the bar.

Two points from Hughes and Kennedy



IN ACTION . . . Tipperary's Deirdre Hughes and Kilkenny's Margaret Hickey during yesterday's Camogie final

— the former's effort a real beauty from a tight angle just in front of the New Stand — tied up the scores at 1-7 to 0-10. It was a scoreline that lasted for 13 minutes.

It was frantic stuff after that and then, two minutes from time, a deflected free from Hennessy produced the save of the day from Kilkenny goalie, Miriam Holland, at the expense of a '45.

Hennessy converted the '45, but, on the hour, another Millea free had the teams on equal billing for the last time.

Two minutes into additional time, Hennessy, from some 30 yards, and to the left of the posts, sent over the golden point to wild acclaim from the Tipperary supporters in Croke Park.

DROPPED SHORT

The Cats still tried to claw their way back, and Millea had a difficult, last chance of forcing a replay, but her free from the half-way line dropped short and the glory went to Tipperary.

Cork are the only other team to have beaten Kilkenny in an All-Ireland final, but this tremendous triumph will insure that the O'Duffy Cup's Trip to Tipp will be a journey to treasure for all-time.

SCORERS — Tipperary: N Kennedy 0-6 (8), D Hughes 0-3, C Hennessy 0-2 (1 '45, 11), E McDonnell 0-1. Kilkenny: S Millea 0-7 (3f, 1 '45), L Lyng 1-0, M Maher 0-1.

TIPPERARY — J Delaney, S Kelly, U O'Dwyer, C Madden, M Stokes, C Gaynor, S Nealon, E Hayden, A McDermott, N Kennedy, T Brophy, H Kelly, E McDonnell, D Hughes, N Harkin. Subs: P Fogarty for Kelly; C Hennessy for Harkin.

KILKENNY — M Holland, T Millea, M Hickey, U Murphy, S Costelloe, J Maher, M Costelloe, K Long, S Millea, S Gleeson, B Mulaly, M Downey, M Comerford, M Maher, L Lyng. Subs: A Downey for Downey.

REF — A Detham (Dublin).

Cork's juniors have final say in thriller

CORK 1-13
DERRY 2-9

THE teams were level eight times in this pulsating Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland Junior Camogie Final at Croke Park yesterday.

A mere point separated the issue in Cork's favour at the end of the hour, but it would have been no surprise had the contest gone to a replay.

DEPRIVED

It's Cork's sixth junior crown, and in winning yesterday's curtain-raiser at Croke Park, they deprived Derry of a noted double as the Northern girls have already secured the National Junior League prize earlier this year.

The sides were on equal terms five times in the opening period which ended with the scoreline at 1-5 apiece.

Derry, attacking the Canal

By NIAL SCULLY

End, scored the game's first goal after 18 minutes when Karen Rafferty's blocked shot was tucked in by captain Mary O'Kane.

A minute later, Orla O'Sullivan's equalising goal was the best score of the contest.

O'Sullivan displayed blistering pace to race through the Derry cover before crashing in a spectacular shot to the roof of the net.

It was still very much stalemate after the break, but Derry grabbed a second goal in the 41st minute when Martina Mulholland's free from the right was prodded in by Paula McAtamney.

That gave the Derry girls a three-point lead (2-7 to 1-7).

But Cork responded with three points in succession from

the extremely accurate Rachel Moloney, and the Leesiders went two points clear thanks to Ciara Healy and another Moloney free.

Mulholland reduced the deficit to a point, but Moloney again pushed Cork two points ahead three minutes from time.

O'Kane pointed for Derry on the hour, but, try as they might, they couldn't force the equaliser in a compelling finale.

SCORERS — Cork: R Moloney 0-9 (8), C O'Sullivan 1-0, C Healy 0-2, H Walsh, C Harte 0-1 each. Derry: M O'Kane 1-2, P McAtamney 1-1, M Mulholland 0-2 (2f), S McCaul, A Tobin, C McNicholl, K Rafferty 0-1 each.

CORK — G Casey, M Harrington, R Holland, S Buckley, R Cahalane, J Hannon, L O'Connell, S Morley, H Walsh, O O'Sullivan, M Corkery, E Burke, C Harte, C Healy, R Maloney. Subs: V O'Sullivan for Morley; C Gilman for O'Connell.

DERRY — A Crilly, C Scullin, G Maguire, P McKenna, C McDonald, S Convery, C O'Leary, M Mulholland, A O'Loughlin, S McCaul, A Tobin, P McAtamney, C McNicholl, M O'Kane, K Rafferty. Subs: A O'Kane for McNicholl; S Stevenson for McDonald.

REF — J Morrissey (Tipperary).



ON THE LINE ... Siobhán Kelly of Tipperary clears under pressure from Lizzy Lyng during yesterday's All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park. — (Photograph: Eric Luke).

Tipperary win first with zest

By Pat Roche

A YOUNG and eager Tipperary team wrote a defining chapter in the history of the game by winning their first All-Ireland senior title with style and panache before a crowd of 15,084 at Croke Park yesterday. The attendance included President Mary McAleese and the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern.

The last camogie final of the millennium was marked by a high standard of play, which reflected how well the game has progressed over the years. In an absorbing and often spectacular match, the issue was not finally decided until well into injury time by a pointed free from Tipperary's second-half substitute Caitriona Hennessey from Drom and Inch.

Kilkenny got a half chance to equalise moments later when Sinéad Millea faced up to a free on the half-way line. Dublin referee Aine Derham advised Millea that it was the last puck of the match, but the Kilkenny woman's shot dropped 20 metres short and her side's hopes of a 13th title disappeared.

Tipperary had contested seven previous finals without success. They were also defeated by a cricket score in the League final this year — but this was completely wiped from the memory bank yesterday.

For two members of their half-back line it was a case of carrying on a great family tradition on All-Ireland day at headquarters — and Ciara Gaynor and Sinéad Nealon, daughters of hurling icons Len Gaynor and Donie Nealon, played five-star roles in the success.

Gaynor and Nealon combined with team captain and right wing back Meadhbh Stokes to snuff out some of Kilkenny's most dan-

gerous attacks.

An elated Gaynor (20) said: "I saw him, my dad, up in the stand. I felt I was walking on air. It's almost 28 years to the day since he won his last medal and it was against Kilkenny as well. I just can't believe it. It is really something else."

Gaynor also pointed out that two Tipperary hurlers of more recent vintage, Michael Cleary and Colm Bonnar, had a major input in the preparation of the team.

"We were well prepared and confident. We were never going to give up," added team captain Stokes.

Star forward Deirdre Hughes was even more ebullient. "We are young and are going to win many more All-Irelands. This is just the

beginning." Hughes scored four valuable points, the best of which was struck from almost an impossible angle to level the scores midway through the second half.

Tipperary's greater fitness levels showed in the hectic closing stages and Emer McDonnell was unlucky with a searing shot which came off the bar at the Railway end.

Kilkenny's bid visibly faded by the minute as the Tipperary girls headed into the home straight, but scores were slow to come for the eventual winners, and this left the issue in doubt.

One of the big reasons why victory was not certain at this stage was off-form shooting by free-taker supreme Noelle Kennedy. She untypically missed two "sit-ers" after knocking over five

great points.

Backup in this department was brilliantly laid on by substitute Hennessey and Kilkenny goalkeeper Miriam Holland then produced a full-length dive to deny Emer McDonnell. Hennessey gave Tipperary the lead from the resultant 45. Millea equalised for Kilkenny at the very end of normal time, but Hennessey then scored the vital point.

Anne Downey, the most experienced player on the pitch — she was introduced in the second half — thought that Tipperary's hunger and stronger will to win won the day. Downey was in line for a 13th medal which would have left her joint second on the honours list with Dubliner Una O'Connor and two behind the illustrious leader Kathleen Mills, who won

15 medals with Dublin.

"That's it now for me," said the Lisdowney woman. "I said I would retire win or lose today."

Before the match Downey was represented by her father, Seán, in the introduction of Kilkenny's winning side of 25 years ago.

In yesterday's match Millea's free-taking was a huge threat to Tipperary. She scored Kilkenny's five first-half points to help forge a somewhat flattering interval lead of 1-5 to 0-7 for the Leinster champions.

But it was their goal, taken well by 16-year-old Lizzy Lyng, that acted as the real morale booster for Kilkenny. Millea sent in a low-trajectory free and from the resultant goalmouth scramble Lyng tapped home.

Martina Maher, Kilkenny's op-

portunist full forward, tucked in an early second-half point to stretch Kilkenny's lead to two. The line score was followed by a discouraging Tipperary wide from substitute Philomena Fogarty and the freeze into which Tipperary were playing must have seemed stronger than it really was.

Kenedy came to the rescue with a reassuring pointed free and Tipperary immediately took heart to launch an all-out attack on the Kilkenny posts. Kilkenny's scoring rate in the second half, they scored only three points, of the from frees by Millea, tells its own story.

Millea will remember the referee tell her the bad news about that last puck of the match. It was the mover of all pressure from but that it proved beyond the Ballycath player's ability in the instance would not cause her any sleepless nights.

So it did in a hat-trick of firsts for Tipperary girls who won the first 15-a-side final, the O'Duyl Cup home for the first time and won the first All-Ireland camogie final on a full-length GA/pitch.

Tipperary manager Bill Phillips, who excited about good that the victory will do for the game, Tipperary's marvellous first All-Ireland senior title, everyone's dream.

Noelle Kennedy was delighted with having missed out on chances from easy free-taking situations, but was happy to see her team out well in the end. "We were out well in the end," she said. "We were out well in the end."

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR FINAL: Cork 1-13, Derry 2-9

Cork's sweet revenge

By Pat Roche

CORK'S AIM was two-fold in this very competitive All Ireland Junior Camogie final at Croke Park yesterday.

The Leesiders had a score to settle with their Derry rivals following defeat in the League, and at the same time Cork were intent on recording a sixth title.

However, it was only after Cork goalkeeper Geraldine Casey saved twice from full forward Mary O'Kane that the Cork defence could breathe a sigh of relief in a hectic finish.

Fortunately for Cork they had an excellent free taker in left corner forward Rachel Maloney from Courcy Rovers. Maloney may have made a couple of mistakes but her overall tally of nine points, seven from frees, was a deciding factor.

Maloney's colleagues in the attack, Ciara Healy and Crona Harte, were also very active and contributed another three points.

This type of score poaching by Cork front runners was imperative especially after Derry's flying left half-forward Paula McAtamney put it up to the Munster girls with a superb goal early in the second half, to give Derry a 2-7 to 1-7 lead.

The work rate throughout the game had to be admired and the sides were level on numerous occasions. The goal frame at the Railway end came to Cork's rescue when Shauna McCaul was denied by the woodwork, before Mulholland got Derry back to within a point.

The Cork defence generally held firm despite each of the Derry forwards finding their way onto the score sheet. Rosmarie Holland and Jill Hannon, in the central positions, got through sound work.

Aileen Tohill, a sister of Derry footballer Anthony, strove relentlessly as Derry's attack leader.

There was also a little nostalgia for Cork soccer fans with Sheenagh Morley, a daughter of Jackie, operating in midfield. But the

Bishopstown player had to retire injured in the second half. Her midfield partner Helen Walsh did well to keep things moving with an early point which halted a promising Derry start.

After Derry's Karen Rafferty and Mary O'Kane contrived a 17th minute goal to send Derry into a 1-4 to 0-4 lead, Cork's right winger, Orla O'Sullivan, popped up on the left for the goal of the afternoon.

The St Finbarr's player raced on to a dropping ball and careered goalwards before unleashing and unstoppable shot to the Derry net.

CORK: G Casey, M Harrington, R Holland, S Buckley, R Cahalan, J Hannon, L O'Connell, H Walsh (0-1), S Morley, O O'Sullivan (1-0), M Corkery, E Burke, C Harte (0-1), C Healy (0-2), R Maloney (0-9 seven frees). Subs: C Giffan for L O'Connell, V O'Sullivan for Morley.
DERRY: A Crilly, C Scullin, G Maguire, P McKenna, C McDonald, S Convery, C Doherty, M Mulholland (0-2), A O'Loughlin, S McCaul (0-1), A Tohill (0-1), P McAtamney (1-1), C McNeill (0-1), M O'Kane (1-2), K Rafferty (0-1). Subs: A O'Kane for McNeill, S Stevenson for McDonald. Referee: J Morrissey (Tipperary).

Rachel's freetaking lands sixth All-Ireland junior camogie triumph for Rebels

Moloney swings final in Cork's favour

Cork
Derry 1-13
2-9

by Tom Higgins

RACHEL MOLONEY was the star of the show when her accuracy from frees proved to be decisive as Cork collected the All-Ireland Junior title for the sixth time at Croke Park yesterday.

Moloney was in truly awesome form as she finished the game with a personal tally of nine points with six of those coming from frees as Cork denied Derry a league and championship double by the narrowest of margins.

Cork's triumph was all to do with their spirit and character after Derry had looked the sharper of the two outfits in the initial exchanges, opening the scoring with the first point of the game after just three minutes.

Cork did manage to fight back in determined fashion following that opening blow and an equalising score from captain Helen Walsh gave the crowd a hint of



Helen Walsh receives the cup for Cork (left) as the Cork Juniors (main picture) celebrate their All-Ireland Junior camogie final victory at Croke Park, yesterday.



the cat-and-mouse game that was to unfold before their eyes.

Cork actually took the lead on the 11th minute thanks to the accuracy of Moloney but once again Derry surged back and an 18th minute goal from Mary O'Kane following Geraldine Casey's initial save from Karen Rafferty gave Derry a commanding 1-4 to 0-4 lead.

However, the cheering had hardly died down when Orla O'Sullivan picked up a ball about 35 metres out and proceeded to leave the Derry defenders in her wake.

Cork's O'Sullivan then unleashed an unstoppable shot that flew to the back of the Derry net with goalkeeper Aileen Crilly given no chance of preventing a goal.

Once again, Derry shaded matters on the restart after the sides turned over level at 1-5 each with a point from Shauna McCaul after only 30 seconds of the half to put her team into the driver's seat.

Derry continued to enjoy the better fortune and on 40 minutes had extended their lead when Paula McAtamney had

the sliotar in the back of the net from close range after Martina Mulholland's 40-yard free had dropped short.

Derry were well and truly in control at this stage but, inexplicably, they slowly began to lose the run of themselves and gave away very silly frees in their back-line that Moloney, predictably, converted to give

Cork a two-point advantage with five minutes of this junior decider remaining.

Derry cut the deficit to the minimum through a Martina Mulholland point to put Cork under severe pressure as the game entered the final three minutes.

With their backs to the wall Cork's true potential, determination and

grit began to shine through brightly and yet another long range free from Moloney re-established their two-point cushion so that even an injury-time point from Derry's Mary O'Kane could not deny Cork the win they so desperately craved.

Scorers: Cork: R. Moloney 0-9 (10-6 frees), O. O'Sullivan 1-4, C. Healy 0-2, H. Walsh, C. Harte 0-1 each.

Derry: M. O'Kane 1-2, P. McAtamney 1-1, M. Mulholland 0-2 (frees), A. Tohill, S. McCaul, M. Rafferty, C. McNicholl 0-1 each.
CORK: G. Casey, M. Harrington, R. Holland, S. Buckley, R. Cahalane, J. Hannon, L. O'Connell, H. Walsh, S. Morley (V O'Sullivan), O. O'Sullivan, M. Corkery, E. Burke, C. Harte, C. Healy, R. Moloney.
DERRY: A. Crilly, C. Scullin, G. Maguire, P. McKenna, C. McDonald, S. Convery, C. Doherty, M. Mulholland, A. O'Loughlin, S. McCaul, A. Tohill, P. McAtamney, C. McNicholl (A O'Kane), M. Kane, K. Rafferty (S Stevenson).
Referee: S. Morrissey (Tipperary).

Dream comes true for Cork's girls

by Tom Higgins

CORK'S left half forward Elaine Burke was delighted after their win over Derry at Croke Park yesterday: "It is a tremendous day but we fought hard and deserved our win".

"It was a very hard game. I missed three frees early in the second half and it was beginning to think I was off form. However the wind was quite tricky but once I judged it everything went right for me. I was playing so hard that I thought there was more time in the game and when the referee blew the final whistle I was delighted said ace free taker Rachel Moloney.

Captain Helen Walsh was totally elated. "It was a dream come true for me. It was a hard match.

"I was worried near the end when there was only a point in it and our defence under severe pressure that they might get a goal. However we hung on in there and the team fought to the bitter end as they did all year.

Selector Lilian Zinzani commented "My heart is in my mouth. The girls fought to the bitter end. There was no way they were going home to Cork to-morrow without the trophy. Derry were favourites going into the game and our side never died. I knew we would get the best out of them. I was a really tough game and we were delighted to have won it.

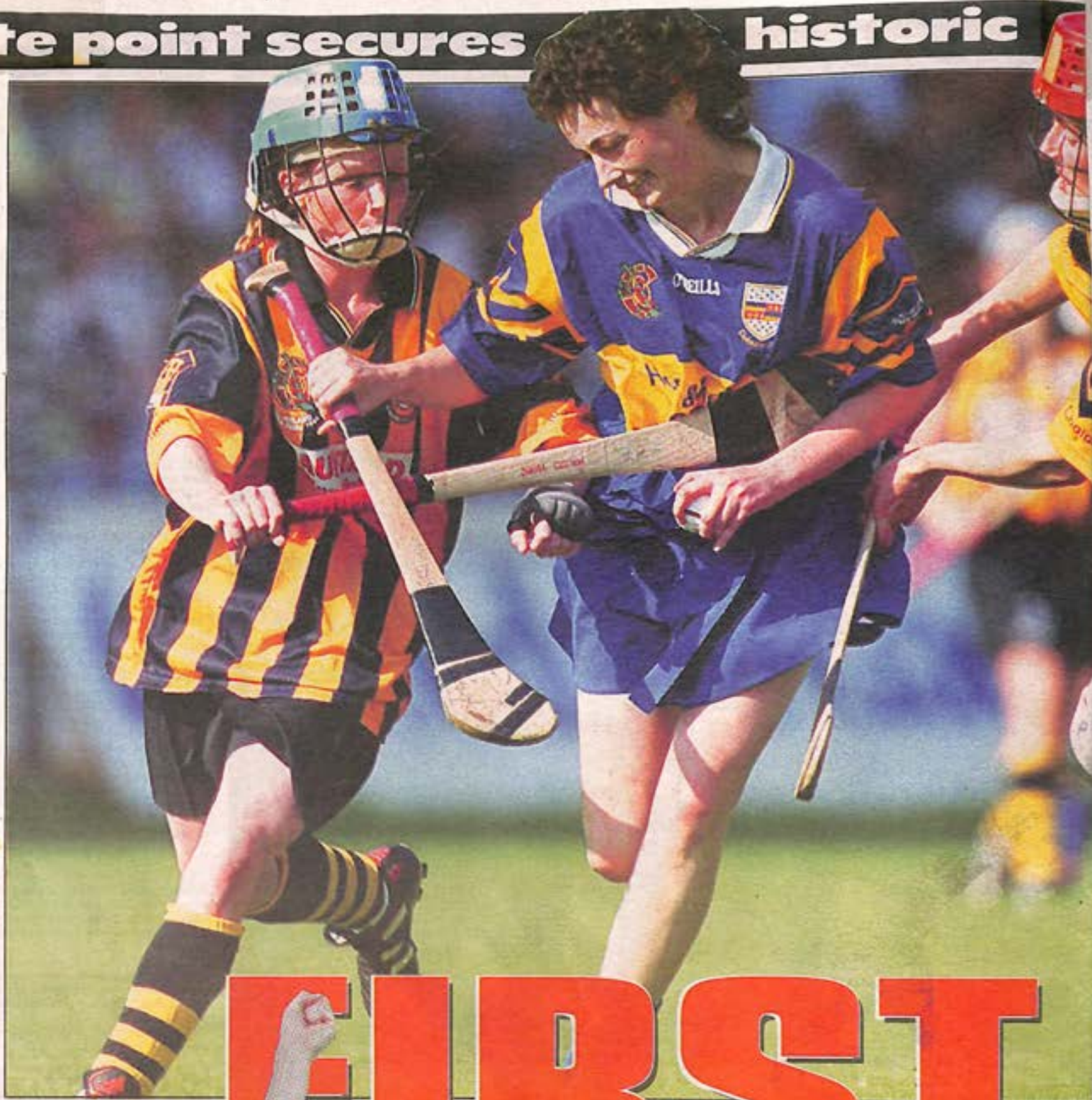
Derry centre half forward had only one thing to say "I am totally gutted"

Picture: INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan

Last

minute point secures

historic



FIRST

Salvation from

Tipperary...0-12  Kilkenney.....1-8

DAMIAN LAWLOR reports

TIPPERARY are the camogie queens of Ireland for the first time ever thanks to pretender to the throne Catriona Hennessy.

The Drom-Inch girl came on as a sub in the 40th minute but ended the game as a legend 20 minutes later shooting two last-gasp frees to snatch a famous victory for the premier county.

Regular free-taker Noelle Kennedy had hit six frees already but missed a few easy ones and manager Biddy Phillips switched roles with Hennessy standing over the last free as anxiety and tension filled the air.

She didn't disappoint. "I dreamed of this stuff in my backyard always practising there and hoping it would all come true some day," said the tearful 19-year-old afterwards.

Soon after Sinead Millea was given a chance to equalise for Kilkenney with the referee Aine Durham telling her it was to be their last chance.

She failed to equalise and as the whistle blew, jubilation spilled out onto the Croke Park pitch.

Ciara Gaynor, Suzanne Kelly and Angie McDermott were powerful throughout while Deirdre Hughes

and substitute Hennessy hogged the limelight upfront for Tipp.

The two Milleas', Sinead and Tracy, were superb while Gillian Dillon-Maher played a captain's role for Kilkenney and was well supported by Kelly Long and Lizzie Lyng.

The Cats sprung a surprise by putting in a Tracy Millea at centre-forward on Ciara Gaynor from the start and it worked.

Edge

But Tipp always had the edge in midfield with Angie McDermott.

In attack Deirdre Hughes looked very dangerous but Kilkenney full-back Mags Hickey will be happy she held the Tippwoman to three points.

With the game swinging in their favour, Kilkenney stepped up a gear and Sinead Millea hit five points to leave them two points behind Tipp

with seven minutes left.

Soon after the DJ Carey-like-Millea went on another solo run before she was fouled by Gaynor.

Her free dropped low and 16-year-old Lizzie Lyng struck for a goal.

McDonald pointed a crucial score for Tipp to leave it 0-7 to 1-5 at half-time.

The second-half was a blazing affair. Kilkenney always seemed to have the edge on the scoreboard, especially when warning signs began to flash after the ultra reliable Noelle Kennedy began to miss some crucial frees in front of the posts.

She did resume normal service in the 40th and 43rd minutes when she brought Tipp to within a point of their deadly rivals and then levelled.

Again Millea pointed for Kilkenney but Deirdre Hughes had the score of the game after 45 minutes when she



first All-Ireland for Premier County

MAKE WAY:
Noelle Kennedy
of Tipperary bursts
through the Kilkenny
defence while (right)
Kilkenny's Tracey
Millea sheds a tear at
the end of the game

Pic: Lorraine O'Sullivan/Inpho



LADIES

the sub Cork blow away Oak Leaf

shot over the most graceful of points from the sideline to equalise the game.

The 15,000 crowd bit their nails as the tension spilled over — Hennessy pointed a 65 to give Tipp the lead but Sinead Millea levelled once again on the 60th minute.

But Tipp were rewarded a free from the tightest of angles when Deirdre Hughes was pulled down yet again on the attack.

The 19-year-old substitute Hennessy stood nervously over the ball, took a deep breath, hit it hard and as the pressure bounced off her she became a Tipp legend in the space of 20 minutes.

TIPPERARY: M. Holland, J. Delaney, S. Kelly, U. O'Dwyer, C. Madden, M. Stokes, C. Gaynor, S. Nealon, E. Haydon, A. McDermott, N. Kennedy (2-4), T. Brophy, H. Kelly, E. McDonald (2-1), D. Hughes (0-3), N. Harkin. **SUBS:** P. Fogarty for H. Kelly 31, C. Hennessy (0-2) for N. Harkin 39.

KILKENNY: M. Holland, T. Millea, M. Hickey, U. Murphy, S. Costelloe, G. Dillon-Miller, M. Costelloe, K. Long, S. Millea (0-7), S. Gleeson, B. Mully, M. Downey, M. Comerford, M. Maher (0-1), L. Long (1-4). **SUB:** A. Downey for M. Downey 42 mins. **REF:** Aine Durham (Dublin)



★ **CORK** finally broke their Derry hoodoo when they beat the northerners in the Junior Camogie Final at Croke Park yesterday thanks to a five-star display from Rachel Maloney.

These two teams have met twice in finals before, in 1968 and 1979, and both times the Oak Leaf county have come out on top.

Then this year Derry beat the Rebels on the way to their League title win.

Maloney was the woman who broke Derry hearts yesterday.

★ The Courcey Rovers girl stroked over nine points in an amazing display of marksmanship that won her the player of the match award.

Every time the Derry girls went ahead or started to whittle away the Leesiders lead, Maloney was on hand to pop over points from all angles — in the end she hit seven frees.

★ In one six-minute spell of the second half, Maloney tapped over four frees to put her side back in front after Paula McAtamney's goal for Derry.

CORK 1-13 DERRY 2-9
PETER SWEENEY reports

Derry started the stronger and moved into an early two-point lead thanks to scores from Martina Mulholland and McAtamney.

A brilliant driven point from over 60 yards by Helen Walsh inspired Cork and it wasn't long before they nosed in front.

★ However, Derry battled back and at the interval the sides were level at 1-5.

In the second half, Cork could have been in trouble after McAtamney's scrambled goal but Ciara Healy then found the net and four Maloney frees steadied the ship.

The teams traded scores in the closing stages but it was too late for Derry.

TEAMS & SCORERS

CORK: G. Casey, M. Harrington, R. Holland, S. Buckley, R. Calahan, J. Hannon, L. O'Connell, H. Walsh (0-1), S. Morley, O. O'Sullivan (1-4), M. Coker, E. Burke, C. Harte (0-1), C. Healy (0-2), R. Maloney (0-9). **Subs:** V. O'Sullivan for Morley, C. Gattman for L. O'Connell.

DERRY: A. Crilly, C. Scullin, G. Maguire, P. McKenna, C. McDonald, S. Conway, C. Doherty, M. Mulholland (0-2), A. O'Loughlin, S. McCaul (0-1), A. Tobin (0-1), P. McAtamney (1-1), C. McNicholl (0-1), M. O'Kane (1-2), K. Raftery (0-1). **Subs:** S. Stevenson for C. McDonald, A. O'Kane for McNicholl.

REF: J. Morrissey (Tipperary)

Magnificent victory all down down to self-belief says Stokes

by Diarmuid O'Flynn

FOR THE eloquent Tipperary captain Meadhbh Stokes, yesterday's heart-stopping one-point All-Ireland senior camogie win, the county's first in eight attempts, all came down to belief.

"We believed we had it in us to win, but we also knew it had to be done on the day. We always believed, right through the hour, that we could win, and even in the last five minutes, I knew if we went ahead, we'd hold out. And we did. We stayed fighting for the whole hour. It was certainly a 17-man effort, but it paid off."

Being written off beforehand helped.

"Of course, it did, it suited us. We had everything to gain, nothing to lose, and the pressure was all on Kilkenny. It certainly did us no harm. This is the breakthrough now that Tipperary camogie needed. We won junior in '92, intermediate in '97, and we're only up senior last year and this year. We knew we could do it, prepared very well, very focused, and we left no stone unturned. We'll definitely be the team to beat next year."

It was a massive turnaround in fortunes for this Tipperary side, walloped in the League final by Cork. One of those credited with inspiring that change is former Tipperary hurling star

Michael Cleary, brought on board the week after that defeat. "Unreal, unreal," he grinned, as Meadhbh made her acceptance speech. "The six backs were tremendous. We created far more chances, and if our shooting had been a little better, we possibly could have won by more. But winning the first All-Ireland is so, so hard. Individually, they might have had confidence, but collectively, they didn't have it prior to today. But they showed steel there, great quality."

Anchoring that defence was centre-back Ciara Gaynor, sitting in for a family photo on the hallowed ground immediately after the game. To her right

in that picture, Len Gaynor, a man who closed down many an attack in his own day. "It's unbelievable," said Ciara. "Just lining up to meet the President, and I could see my mom and my dad outside. Twenty-eight years ago tomorrow, my dad played in this field himself, in the 1971 All-Ireland, and it's unbelievable to think that I could come here and win an All-Ireland with Tipperary. I'm so proud of the girls."

"Absolutely marvellous to be back in Croke Park on All-Ireland final day," said the more restrained Len. "I never thought I'd see this again. I'm very proud of Ciara, and the whole team. It was a fabulous game, great that it was

live on television. The buzz was there all week, and it reminded me of old times. To come up here today then, and win in such fashion, I'm surely delighted." The winning point had come from a 21-yard free won by full-forward Deirdre Hughes. All through, Deirdre had threatened, and she had just one thing in mind when she won that ball. "Just head for goal, try and beat Mags," she said. "She marked me very tightly today, I found it hard to get away from her. But I knew if I could just get a break in, I might be fouled, and I was. Thank God, Caitriona put the point over. I can't believe it, when the final whistle blew, I just couldn't believe it."

The other scoring hero was free-taker Noelle Kennedy, and she explained the tension: "It was unbelievable - I thought the match would never finish! But it's absolutely brilliant. I can hardly describe how I feel. We were confident coming up, we knew Kilkenny weren't going to be easy, that we had it all to do. But we knew it was possible."

Dejection was the lot of the Kilkenny girls, as they made their way back under the Cusack, but Brendan Williams, secretary of the county board, took time out to congratulate Tipperary.

"The better team won on the day, but we didn't play nearly as well as we did against Cork."

camogie champions, and they were against all odds.

Destroyed by Cork in the National League final just months ago, given almost no chance in this final having coming through the softer side of the draw, they came to Croke Park with fire in their eyes, and they were just not going to be beaten. This was their day, and how they deserved it.

From the throw-in, there was very little between two skilled and highly-motivated sides. It began almost as a personal duel between the two sharpshooters, Sinead Millea of Kilkenny, and Noelle Kennedy of Tipperary. Sinead, lining out at centre-forward, opened the scoring inside the first minute with a sharply-struck point, but almost instantly, Noelle replied, with the first of many pointed frees. By the 21st minute, each had added a hat-trick of points, with another from Tipp full-forward Deirdre Hughes making the difference at that stage, 0-5 to 0-4.

Hughes was looking extremely dangerous, and though very tightly-marked by Margaret Hickey, then added another point, a shot that screamed inches over Miriam Holland in the Kilkenny goal.

Tipp were playing with the aid of decent breeze, and were looking to build up a bit of a half-time cushion, but just then, fate intervened. An underhit free from Sinead Millea dropped short, but young Lizzie Lyng was on hand to tap in the loose ball, to put the Cats ahead, 1-4 to 0-6.

They maintained that lead to the interval, with an exchange of points from Emer McDonnell, the Tipp corner-forward, and Millea again, but in the other Tipp corner, Niamh Harkin will surely rue a gift chance lost in the last minute of the half, when her shot from the just outside the corner of the square skimmed across the goal, and wide.

Kilkenny ahead at the half then, and must have been fancying their chances, with the breeze to come. Fancied them even more, when full-forward Martina Maher added a point to their lead, two minutes into the second half. But it was then that

Tipp made their first move towards this All-Ireland title, a sideline move. They were in trouble on the left flank of attack, but Philomena Fogarty was introduced, quickly followed by Caitriona Hennessey, and these two added speed, skill and penetration, to widen the Tipperary attack.

Slowly, they pegged back the two-point Tipp lead, two points from Kennedy and one from Hughes, against a pointed free from, inevitably, Millea, tying the game in the 45th minute.

Millea, in fact, represented by far the biggest scoring threat Kilkenny had, and when she moved to midfield at around that point, it really drew most of the sting from the Kilkenny attack. For the final twenty minutes, Kilkenny scored just one point, another free from the gun of Sinead, though Tipperary weren't faring a whole lot better. Critically however, they WERE better. As the game moved into the final quar-

ter, Tipperary began to carve out more and more chances for themselves. But this was the All-Ireland final, big stage, first title beckoning, and nerves began to show. Philomena Fogarty, while doing much good work, snap-hit a shot wide; Noelle Kennedy, hitherto in marvellous free-taking form, missed two scoreable frees; and even Deirdre Hughes sent wide.

Still, they worked, kept on trying, and with the defence performing absolute heroics in repelling all attacks, especially the half-back wall of captain Meadhbh Stokes, Ciara Gaynor and Sinead Nealon, it was Tipperary making the better chances as the game entered the final, nail-biting, tension-packed five minutes.

It was then that substitute Caitriona Hennessey really showed her worth. First, a 45, to give Tipp a 58th-minute lead, to the cheers of the majority Tipp support in the 15,000 crowd; then, after

Millea had negated that with a fine shot from 35 metres, a nerveless free from the 20. Into injury time, game for the taking, well to the left of centre, but rifled over the black-spot. A score worthy of winning an All-Ireland.

In the 40th minute, Ann Downey, honoured earlier in the day on the 25th anniversary side, but still playing well, seeking her 13th All-Ireland medal, had entered the fray for Kilkenny. And, just as in the semi-final win over Cork, it almost worked. A shot from distance that went inches wide, a lot of spade-work to win the ball, before the final free by Sinead Millea. However, the further she was forced out the field in search of ball, because of the dominance of the Tipp half-back line, the less of a threat she became, as the young Tipp legs took over.

On a day of defensive dominance, on both sides, Tipp took the honours, with the half-line as stated, ably backed by

Suzanne Kelly particularly, Una O'Dwyer and Claire Madden. At midfield, Angela McDermott ran herself, and a few others, into the ground in a huge effort, while in attack, Deirdre Hughes and Noelle Kennedy gave most, abetted by Therese Brophy, Emer McDonnell, and a special mention for subs Hennessey and Fogarty.

For Kilkenny, first mention must go to Margaret Hickey and Mairead Costelloe, who had the unenviable jobs of holding Hughes and Kennedy, respectively, under a torrent of ball, and did so reasonably respectably. Tracey Millea, Una Murphy, Sinead Costelloe and Jillian Maher also did well, and conceding a total of 12 points in any All-Ireland is no disgrace.

At midfield, Sandra Gleeson and Kelly Long also performed doughtily, but it was from here forward that Kilkenny struggled. Sinead Millea is going to score in any company, but she needs

more attacking support than she got yesterday in Croke Park, if Kilkenny are to win more All-Irelands. Little Lizzie Lyng took her goal well, buzzed around, and will be a force when she fills out, while Brigid Mullaly also did well. But these apart, Kilkenny need more scoring power.

A worthy end to the millennium, a worthy first fifteen-a-side camogie, a worthy first senior title for Tipperary.

Scorers for Tipperary: N. Kennedy 0-6 (all frees); D. Hughes 0-3; C. Hennessey 0-2 (45, free); E. McDonnell 0-1.

Kilkenny: S. Millea 0-7 (0-3 frees, 0-1 45); L. Lyng 1-0; M. Maher 0-1.

TIPPERARY: J. Delaney; S. Kelly, U. O'Dwyer, C. Madden; M. Stokes, C. Gaynor, S. Nealon; E. Hayden, A. McDermott; N. Kennedy, T. Brophy, H. Kelly; E. McDonnell, D. Hughes, N. Harkin. Subs: P. Fogarty for Kelly, 32; C. Hennessey for Harkin, 38.

KILKENNY: M. Holland, T. Millea, M. Hickey, U. Murphy; S. Costelloe, J. Maher (capt.); A. Costelloe; K. Long, S. Gleeson; B. Mullaly, S. Millea, M. Downey; M. Comerford, M. Maher, L. Lyng. Subs: A. Downey for M. Downey, 40.

Referee: A. Derham (Dublin).

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL DERRY 2-9 CORK 1-13

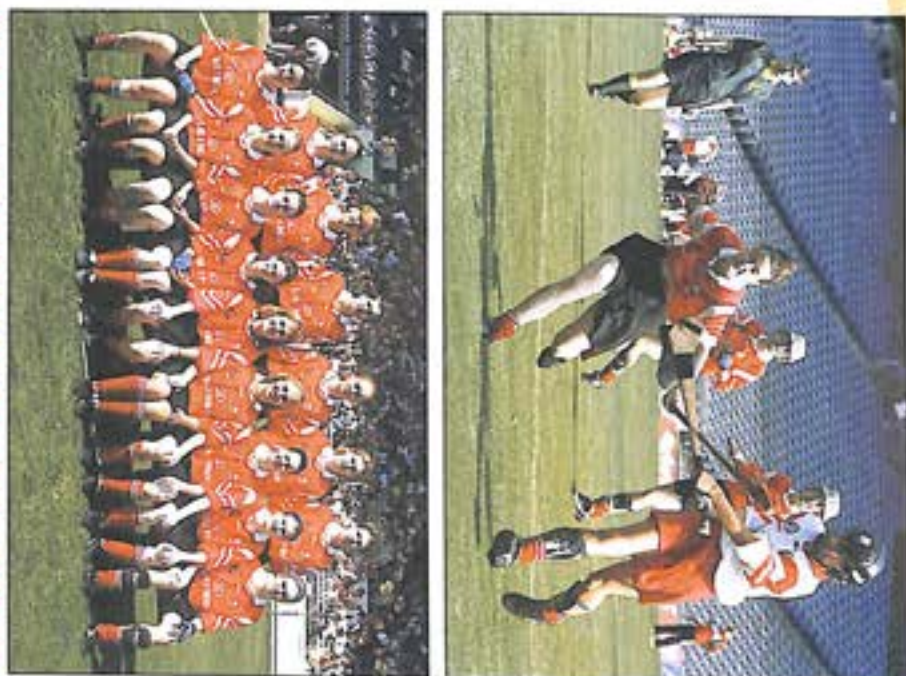
CORK gained revenge for two past defeats to Derry at this stage of the competition when they won by the narrowest possible margin at Croke Park on Sunday 6th September. Derry will be disappointed to have lost a game that they were very capable of winning but they have a good enough team to come back next year and start the new Millennium in style.

DERRY TEAM
Aileen Cilly (Glen), Claire Scullion (Swatragh), Graíne Maguire (Swatragh), Paula McKenna (Swatragh), Katie O'Donnell (Greenlough).

CORK TEAM
Siobhan Convery (Lavey), Claire Doherty (Slaughtneil), Anna O'Loughlin (Swatragh), Martina Mulholland (Lavey), Shauna McCaul (Dungiven), Aileen Tohill (Swatragh), Paula McAtamney (Swatragh), Claire McNicholl (Swatragh), Mary O'Kane (Glen), Karen Rafferty (Bellaghy).

SUBS: Sinead Stevenson (Banagher), Aileen O'Kane (Slaughtneil).

Derry scorers: Mary O'Kane 1-2, Paula McAtamney 1-1, Martina Mulholland 0-2, Shauna McCaul 0-1, Aileen Tohill 0-1, Claire McNicholl 0-1, Karen Rafferty 0-1.



Derry downbeat after narrow loss

DERRY and their manager Dominic McKinley were bitterly disappointed at the end of this All-Ireland Junior final in Croke Park yesterday.

For long periods of the game, they looked to be the better team but never pulled away from a sharp and speedy Cork side which made the break for the tape just after Paula McAtamney scrambled home the Oak Leaf's second goal in the 41st minute.

Rachel Maloney pointed almost immediately from play and then added four further scores from frees as the Derry defence fouled needlessly.

Derry only managed a response in the last five minutes, by which time the Leesiders had begun to crowd defence.

Nevertheless Aileen O'Kane, Mary O'Kane and Sharna McCaul all created goal chances only to be denied by the woodwork or some excellent saves by Geraldine Casey.

The Ulster champions did create many more goal chances over the hour but their failure to take them, combined with the free-taking accuracy of Maloney, means that it

will be another year at least before the bridge to 1978 is crossed.

Derry generally held the initiative in a close exciting opening half-hour with Martina Mulholland and Paula McAtamney grabbing the first two points.

It was four points each when in the 18th minute Geraldine Casey made a great stop from Karen Rafferty but captain Mary O'Kane fired home the rebound for a Derry goal.

To their credit Cork's response was immediate and, while there was a hint of over-carrying, Orla O'Sullivan finished a fine 50 yards diagonal run with a great shot from 20 metres past Aileen Crilly.

Level 1-5 each at the break, the early second half exchanges were also even and it was 1-7 each when Paula McAtamney dived to shoot a Derry goal from the edge of the square with 20 minutes to go.

Again Cork responded immediately and they held the upper hand forcing a pressurised Derry defence into eight or nine scoreable frees from which Maloney pointed five times.

Derry were unlucky not to hit the

net near the end but it was in that crucial spell between the 41st and 55th minutes that Cork won the game.

A single point defeat in an All-Ireland final is very difficult to stomach especially when it could have been so different. Nevertheless Derry have the ability to come back from the experience and record the third title win.

Derry: A Crilly, C Scullion, G Maguire, P McKenna, K McDonald, S Convery, C Doherty, M Mulholland (0-2, both frees), A O'Loughlin, S McCaul (0-1), A Tohill (0-1), P McAtamney (1-1), C McNicholl (0-1), M O'Kane (capt) (1-2), K Rafferty (0-1) **Subs:** S Stevenson for K McDonald (37), A O'Kane for C McNicholl (53).

Cork: G Casey, M Harrington, R Holland, S Buckley, R Cahalane, J Hannon, L O'Connell, S Marley, H Walsh (capt) (0-1), O O'Sullivan (1-0), M Corkery, E Burke, C Hane (0-1), C Healy (0-2), R Maloney (0-9, eight frees) **Subs:** V O'Sullivan for S Marley (40), C Giltinan for L O'Connell (52).

Referee: John Maloney (Tipperary).

● TIPPERARY secured the All-Ireland Senior Camogie title yesterday with a 0-12 to 1-8 win over Kilkenny at Croke Park.

It was the result that the game of camogie needed after years of dominance by Kilkenny and Cork,

but how Tipperary struggled to win and lift the O'Duffy Cup for the very first time.

They will savour this victory for some time, but the unlikely heroine was Caltriona Hennessy, a substitute who came in with 20 minutes to play, contributed little to general play but took over the free-taking duties in the last couple of minutes to eventually turn the game in Tipp's favour.

Noelle Kennedy, who had earlier proved very accurate from placed balls, allowed nerves to beat her.

She missed three close-in frees in the last 10 minutes and then passed the duties to Hennessy, who pointed from 45 metres in the 59th minute.

Sinead Millea shot her seventh point in reply, to tie the game at 1-8 to 0-11.

Deirdre Hughes, a real star at full-forward for the Munster side, was pulled down on the 20 metre line after a great run, and substitute Hennessy sent the Tipperary supporters and all neutrals in the 15,000 attendance into a frenzy of excitement as the last 30 seconds ticked away.