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Camogiechat

with Mary Newman

Cork and Tipperary set for Croke Park Showdown

SUNDAY is ladies' day in Croke Park when Cork and Tipperary renew rivalry in the camogie final. Twelve months ago Cork denied Tipperary's bid for a historic four in a row and now they are aiming to reverse that result and stop Cork's quest for title number twenty one.

Since last season Eithne Duggan and Linda Mellerick have retired while the back room team has also changed with former inter-county star Sandie Fitzgibbon joining Pa Finn and Kathleen Healy as a selector. During the week I spoke to Sandie about her new role.

"Certainly there is different pressure being a player and a selector but I am enjoying it and hopefully on Sunday we will retain our title and make it all worth while, preparations have gone well and we are ready for the challenge ahead."

This year there has been a change of format to the championship; two teams came out of a group which consisted of four teams to contest the semi-finals.

Cork's semi-final clash with Galway could be best described as a non event with the westerners putting up little opposition to the

champions. On the other side of the coin, Tipperary did record a four goal winning margin but received a stern test from an ever improving Limerick outfit. Tipperary's ability to grab goal proved vital and it is here that the Cork defence will need to be on their toes.

Emer Mc Donnell will prove a handful for any defence while Deirdre Hughes and Clare Grogan are also capable of troubling the best of defenders.

Looking back at last season's clash Tipperary as champions went in wearing the tag of favourites, this time out the roles are reversed and would this worry his side, Cork Manager Pa Finn, "We are just concentrating on the job ahead and that is to retain our title, while a lot of people are making us favourites we must remember that already this year we lost to Tipperary in the Munster final and while we defeated them in the league final the sides are very evenly matched and we are very aware of their strength."

Strength is something which Tipperary certainly have and when one considers that Emily Hayden who captained the county to All



Allish Claassen Punch and Co. Sponsors of The Cork Camogie Team for next Sunday's All Ireland final against Tipperary at Croke Park. Picture: Tony O Connell Photography

Ireland glory in 2001 was only introduced as a substitute against Limerick it gives an indication of the talent available to the challengers.

Cork struck for goals at vital stages in last years final and the game was over as a contest long before the final whistle and now to some extent that element of surprise is gone but Cork are capable of repeating this performance.

Certainly looking at the team going through their paces under the watchful eye of Coach Jim McCarthy one gets the impression that they are well focused on the challenge Tipperary will pose.

Captain Stephanie Dunlea is a seasoned campaigner and she will drive the side on from her customary role in defence where she will be aided by one of the game most experienced campaigners and the teams longest serving player Denise Cronin who lines out at full back seeking her seventh Senior Celtic cross.

Joanne O' Callaghan and the O'Connors, Mary, Gemma, and Paula will be expected to make up the remainder of a defence that will front Ger Casey who is continuing to show tremendous form between the posts.

At midfield Rachel Moloney will

be starting in her first final having come on as a substitutes last season where she performed well she has fitted smoothly into the starting line out this year and will be partnered by the experienced Vivienne Harris who is seeking her fifth senior All-Ireland medal.

In attack Cork will again look to Fiona O Driscoll to be scored in chief while outside in the half forward line last years captain Una O' Donoghue, Emer Dillon and Jennifer O' Leary will ensure a

steady supply to an inside line where Caoimhe Harrington and Orla O' Sullivan are goal poachers who will not need a second chance.

It all points to another thrilling clash and while I confidently expect the O'Duffy Cup to be resting safely in Stephanie Dunlea's hands come 5.45pm, it has the hallmarks of being a much closer affair than last time out so get to Croke Park on Sunday next and roar on the girls.



Cork Camogie team Selectors Kathleen Healy, Pa Finn and Sandy Fitzgibbon



Lto R: Eadaoin Farrell, Mary Newman and Emma Newman who will be shouting for the Cork Camogie Team next Sunday. Picture: Tony O Connell Photography.

Finn names an unchanged Cork side against Tipp

by Therese O'Callaghan

CORK have named an unchanged side for Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie championship final against Tipperary in Croke Park.

As expected, boss Pa Finn has kept faith with the starting 15 that easily disposed of Galway in the semi-final.

Twelve months ago against Sunday's opponents, three wondrous goals from

corner forward Fiona O'Driscoll decided the shoot-out between two sets of highly skilled forwards. Once again the Ballymacoda star leads the Rebel attack from left corner forward.

Caoimhe Harrington, who was also a key figure in last season's victory, retains her place in the number 14 shirt while Orla O'Sullivan fills the right corner forward position.

Stephanie Dunlea, who captains the

team, is named at left corner back She will be joined in the last line by Denise Cronin at full back and Joanne O'Callaghan in the other corner.

Unsurprisingly, Cork's lethal half back line remains intact with Paula, Mary and Gemma O'Connor.

Midfield also has an air of familiarity with Vivienne Harris and Rachel Moloney facing Tipperary's new pairing of Angie McDermott and Emily

Hayden. The half forward trio of Una O'Donoghue, Emer Dillon and Jennifer O'Leary are entrusted with the job of delivering to the inside line while the Rebels once again place their trust in number one choice keeper Ger Casey.

Colette Desmond, Nora Ahern, Brieger Corkery, Sara Hayes and Catriona Foley are amongst the substitutes.

Aine Derham of Dublin has been

appointed to referee her sixth All-Ireland senior final, while Tipperary's Eamonn Browne officiates at the junior decider between Galway and Clare.

(CORK v Tipperary): G Casey; J O'Callaghan, D Cronin, S Dunlea (capt); P O'Connor, M O'Connor, G O'Connor; R Moloney, V Harris; U O'Donoghue, E Dillon, J O'Leary; O O'Sullivan, C Harrington, F O'Driscoll.

Subs: A Murray, C Healy, S Hayes, B Corkery, C Foley, R Curtin, E Burke, L O'Connell, N Ahern, C Desmond.

Tipp ace Emer facing old friends

by Diarmuid O'Flynn

IT'S becoming a bit of a habit at this stage, team-mate against team-mate in All-Ireland finals. Last Sunday it was Kilkenny's Tommy Walsh on Cork's Tom Kenny, both also involved with the UCC Fitzgibbon team.

In this Sunday's senior camogie All-Ireland final, ace Tipperary corner-forward Emer McDonnell will face a number of erstwhile UCC team-mates in the Cork opposition.

"I know a load of the Cork girls, Una O'Donoghue, Elaine Burke, Sarah Hayes, Rachel Moloney, Joanne O'Callaghan, Sinéad Buckley and Ciara Healy," she said. "We won the Ashbourne this year and last year. I'm heading for Dublin next month, after three years in UCC, and I'm really going to miss the place."

Because of those long-term friendships, Emer will, of course, be taking it easy this weekend, especially in light of tenderised Cork feelings, following last week's events. "God I don't know

about that now," she laughs, "probably as easy as they'll be taking it on us."

"It's not easy when you're directly marking someone, but you have to deal with it. You're playing for your own team, aren't you?"

No apologies then, if she should happen to score one of her trademark goals. "Apologise to [Cork keeper] Ger Casey? Definitely not! If you get the chance it has to be done, I just hope I get that chance."

Take it as read that Emer will get the chance. In Tipperary's semi-final win over Limerick no one looked sharper, no one looked more threatening, than the exceptionally skilful Burgess player from Nenagh.

If Cork can put the shackles on McDonnell, cut off the supply, they will have gone some distance towards retaining their title. If not, there could be trouble ahead.

"Of course we believe we can win; no point in going up there otherwise," reckons Emer, "but this is a good Cork side, if you let them run at you,

their speed, skill, they can take you apart." They did look very intimidating in their dismantling of Galway in the other semi-final, a lot like Tipp themselves, no discernible weak link. "Yeah, when they connect, especially that forward line, lethal. I don't think even a men's team would stop them. It's a matter of preventing the ball going into them, and we have a big job to do in the forwards, trying to stop their backs from clearing the ball."

Tipperary will be trying to avenge the loss in last year's final to the same opposition, when they were looking to complete a four-in-a-row. Well beaten in a tired-looking display, but it could have happened, reckons Emer.

"On the day they were the better team, no excuses, but little things can affect a game. Just before half-time we had a goal called back for a free. That could have made a difference, we would have been further ahead at half-time. They got goals fairly quick in the second half and that was it."

"We thought we still had the

LAST WEEK, in the build-up to this Sunday's camogie final between Cork and Tipperary, we went along to their press-nights. What a contrast to the hurling final equivalents. Every player available for interview, every player more than willing to talk, every player more than able to express themselves. Now their final is just as important to those girls as was last Sunday's to the lads. But I guarantee you this Sunday, those girls will express themselves far more ably on the field than did the lads.

Will their interviews affect them? Will anything written or said, by them or about them? No, because they are much more mature in their approach to their sport, more confident, more able.

Cork hoping to topple Tipp again

Double will be complete if Pa Finn's charges win in Croker on Sunday

CORK will be bidding to complete the two-in-a-row when they throw down the gauntlet to Tipperary in the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park next Sunday.

Twelve months ago, the teams were involved in a memorable battle for glory, and the honours went to the Leaside ladies, who owed much to the brilliance of key forward Fiona O'Driscoll for their success.

That result foiled Tipp's bid for a fourth consecutive title, and both teams have brushed aside all opposition en route to Sunday's showdown.

They have already crossed paths twice this year, with Cork coming up trumps in the National League final, and Tipp taking the spoils in the Munster final, so the general perception is that next Sunday's showdown is a wide open affair and that another titanic tussle is on the cards.

Cork coach Pa Finn is quietly confident that his charges can prevail again this time, and he isn't worried that Tipp were decisive winners when the teams last clashed in the provincial decider at Portlaoise.

"We just didn't perform in the second half of that match, but the All-Ireland is a completely different kettle of fish, and, to be honest, we don't regard our Munster final defeat as a major setback."

"Our preparations have gone very well, the girls have trained very hard under Jim McCarthy, and I'm delighted with the way they have performed in this championship up to now."

"I think it's a 50/50 game on Sunday, but if our backs play to their full potential, I feel we should have the edge on Tipp again."

"We have some top class forwards in Fiona O'Driscoll, Emer Dillon, Caoimhe Harrington and Una O'Donoghue, who



Noel Horgan looks forward to Cork's quest for a two-in-a-row of All-Ireland camogie titles as they take on Tipp in Sunday's final at Croker

captained the team last year, we have an excellent midfield pairing in Rachel Moloney and Viv Harris, and if our defence, which will include the outstanding Mary O'Connor at centre back, can do a reasonable containing job on the Tipp forwards, I see no reason why we can't win the match."

"But Tipp are a well balanced side, and they will be very determined to atone for last year's defeat, so we know that it's going to take a huge effort on our part to prevent them from turning the tables," said Finn, who, now in his third season at the helm, has already steered Cork to two league titles and an All-Ireland triumph.

Team skipper Stephanie Dunlea, who will be hoping to win a fifth All-Ireland medal, says that Cork are every bit as hungry for victory as they were last year.

"We want to prove that our victory in 2002 wasn't just a flash in the pan, and the fact that Tipp beat us in the Munster final has given us extra

motivation."

"We have lost two very experienced players in Linda Mellerick and Eithne Duggan from last year, but the new players that have come on to the team have slotted in very well, and I'm convinced that they will be capable of doing a good job for us on Sunday."

"Tipperary have a very talented full forward line, and I think we will have our hands full trying to contain them, but we held them to just one goal in the final last year, and, hopefully, our backs will perform every bit as tightly this time."

Fiona O'Driscoll made a massive contribution to Cork's victory in last year's final.

And the seasoned full forward, who won the first of her six All-Ireland medals in her debut season in 1992, was at her brilliant best when inspiring her club Fr O'Neill's to a historic victory over Inniscarra in the county senior final a few weeks ago.

She regards that as the main highlight of her illustrious career to date, but she is obviously hop-

ing to crown a momentous year by helping Cork to register a 21st title on Sunday.

"I'm expecting it to be a very tight game, because there has been little or nothing between ourselves and Tipp over the past few seasons."

"They beat us in a semi-final replay two years ago, we got it right in last year's final, and it's one win apiece so far this year, so it's very difficult to assess how Sunday's match will unfold."

"All we can do is go out and give it our best shot, and the probability is that the team that gets the greater share of the breaks on the day will come out on top."

"It was immensely satisfying to win last year after being out of the limelight since '98."

"But it would be great to put two titles back to back, and, since expectations are higher than was the case going into the 2002 final, I think it would be a more outstanding achievement if we can pull it off this time," said the prolific Cork scorer.

The Cork backroom

team is completed by selectors Kathleen Healy of Cloughduv and former camogie great Sandle Fitzgibbon of Glen Rovers, and the full squad for Sunday's eagerly awaited final comprises Stephanie Dunlea, Una O'Donoghue, Aoife Murray, Breige Corkery and Joanne O'Callaghan (Cloughduv), Emer Watson, Regina Curtin and Anna Geary (Milford), Vivienne Harris, Clara Healy and Jean O'Sullivan (Bishopstown), Jemma O'Connor, Orla O'Sullivan and Linda O'Connell (St Finbarr's), Fiona O'Driscoll and Nora Aherne (Fr O'Neill's), Rachel Moloney and Sarah Hayes (Courcy Rovers), Paula O'Connor and Caoimhe Harrington (Newtownshandrum), Denise Cronin and Niamh Goulding (Glen Rovers), Ger Casey (Inniscarra), Mary O'Connor (Killeagh), Jennifer O'Leary (Barryroe), Emer Dillon (Ballygarvan), Colette Desmond (Newcestown), Elaine Burke (Valley Rovers), and Catriona Foley (Rockbawn).



LEFT: The North Cork connection . . . members of the Cork senior camogie team who are members of North Cork clubs. From left: Caoimhe Harrington, Newtownshandrum; Regina Curtin, Milford; Anna Geary, Milford; Paula O'Connor, Newtownshandrum and Emer Watson, Milford.

"We want to prove that our victory in 2002 wasn't just a flash in the pan, and the fact that Tipp beat us in the Munster final has given us motivation"

— Cork camogie captain, Stephanie Dunlea (below)



Dillon-Gaynor duel could decide title

by Diarmuid O'Flynn

EVEN as Cork romped to their facile 4-16 to 0-3 win over Galway in the All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final just under four weeks ago, one player in particular stood out for the victors. Emer Dillon was at centre-forward that afternoon, closely guarded by Tracey Laheen, one of Galway's best players, but it didn't matter. The flying Ballygarvan girl was unstoppable, created chance after chance, destroyed the confidence of Laheen, made a series of scorching runs through the heart of the Galway defence, ended the game with five superb points from play.

This Sunday in Croke Park, in the All-Ireland decider, Emer will be attempting to do the same thing against another outstanding player, Tipperary's Ciara Gaynor, in a duel which could well decide this eagerly-awaited affair. No-one is more aware of this than Emer herself.

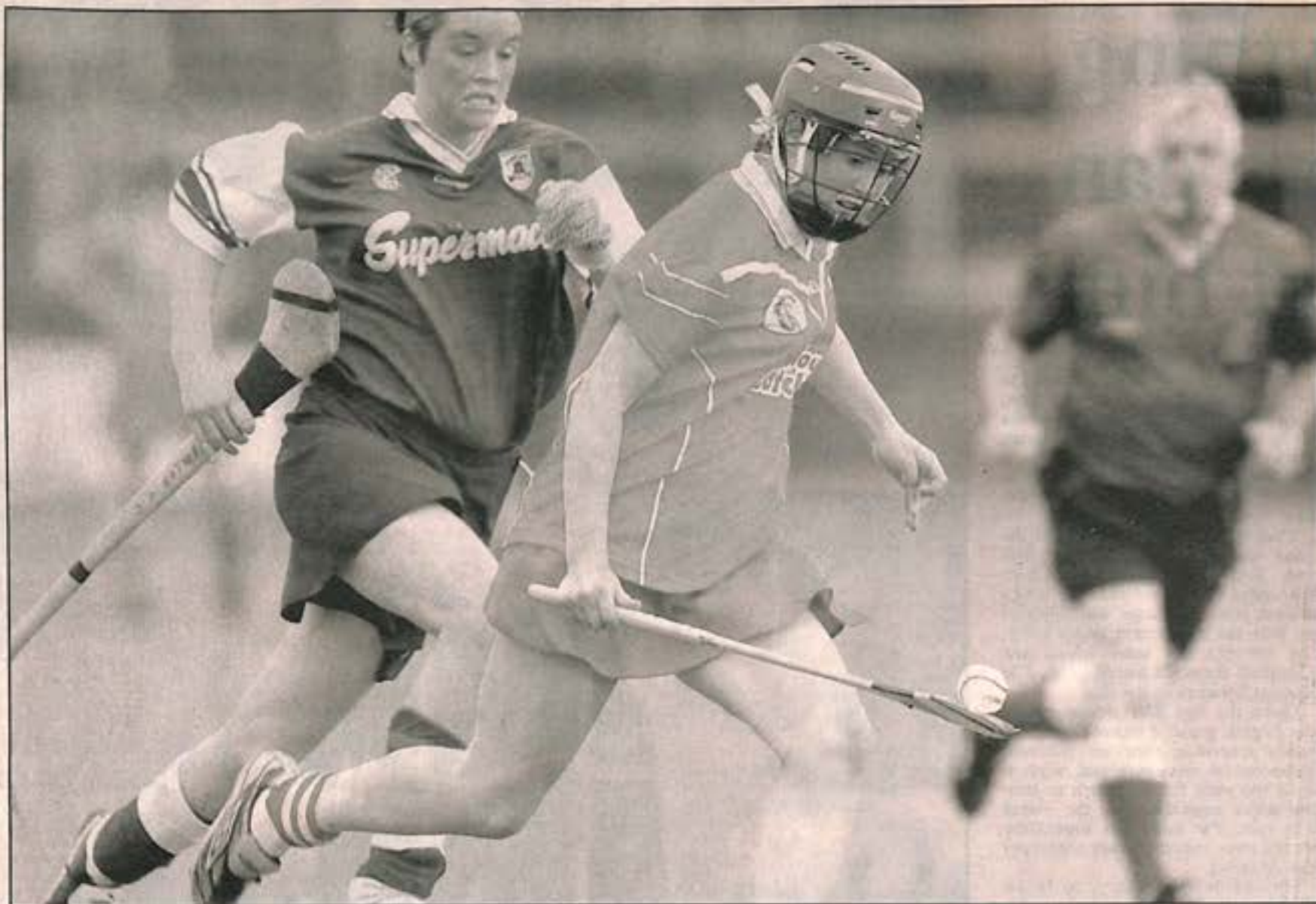
"I only came across her once before and that was in the final last year. She's a brilliant player, the toughest person I've ever played on and I'd have great respect for her. I was injured for the Munster final this year, but I was watching her, she was so strong, fit, she has everything. Hopefully I can curtail her a small bit. That will probably be my job to limit her as much as possible."

Damage limitation will probably also be on the mind of Gaynor, and it could well be that they just cancel each other out. If either should gain the upper hand, however, that advantage could be a game-breaker. Obviously, Emer is hoping it will be her and hopes also that a win will help save the wounds of Sunday last.

"Hopefully all those who couldn't get tickets for the hurling All-Ireland will make it up for our game. There won't be any shortage of tickets that day, but it's still an All-Ireland final and it's a brilliant day out, especially for the younger kids. They'll be looking at the likes of Fiona O'Driscoll, thinking, that's going to be me in a few years' time. It's a great way of getting the kids interested."

Emer's own interest in camogie was sparked by her father, whom she used to trail since the age of four down to the hurling field in Ballygarvan, where he trained the local underage sides.

A few years later, however, she also developed an interest in another sport, a sport for which she now has an equal talent. That pace, athleticism, hand-eye co-ordination, courage, so obvious on the camogie field, has helped her to international honours in



Emer Dillon: hoping to produce a performance in the All-Ireland final to compare with her great showing in the semi-final against Galway.

Dillon: 'She's a brilliant player, the toughest I've ever played on.'

hockey and a cap at U-18 level. With the Irish women having performed so well in the recent World Championships, with the Athens Olympic games around the corner and qualification already assured, a decision on her playing future will have to be made. It's a decision she's dreading.

"I don't know which I prefer, I change my mind a couple of times a year! I like both of them, I suppose that's the problem. They both have their good points, in camogie you're playing with your home parish, the village, the pride in the jersey."

"I'm from Ballygarvan, born and bred in the centre of the village, so there is a buzz about wearing your own jersey, same as there is playing

with Cork. There's pride in the jersey in hockey as well, but it's different. Hockey is more objective, you have to be more tactical, there's more brain-work involved, it's not the same as playing with your home place. I play with Harlequins, they'd be local enough for me but you have people travelling from all over the place to play for them, so there's not that parish element to it. It's more restrictive than

camogie as well, a bit more frustrating to play.

"In camogie you can run around the place 'til you get the ball. In hockey it's far more structured, you're more stuck to your position. I get in awful trouble too, because of the non-contact element of it. Camogie is supposed to be non-contact too, but there's sort of a blind eye turned to it, especially nowadays. You have to, to give it your all."

Which way is she leaning at the moment? "It depends, I wish I could do the two, but it's one or the other. It is a hard decision. The challenge would be greater in hockey, I know the training they do, and it's second to none, even compared to the GAA hurlers. We'd have club training Tuesday and Thursday, but they'd have been out for an hour-and-a-half beforehand. . . I had to make a choice between the camogie and hockey last year, and it's camogie for the time being. I'll have to wait and see."

Over 25 years ago another dual star had to make a similar decision, and Dublin's Kevin Moran choose Manchester United.

Catch Emer, while you still can.

All-Ireland down to toss of a coin, says Hughes

by Therese O'Callaghan

DEIRDRE HUGHES is one of the most feared attackers in the country. Now in her 14th season as a Tipperary player she has experienced good and bad times. She won a junior medal in 1992, captained her county to intermediate honours in 1997 and played a huge part in Tipp's three-in-a-row success during 1999-2001.

However, it is all achieved at a huge cost. Training is reduced to the minimum for fear of further aggravating a back problem that has interfered with her preparations over the last decade.

"It is on-going," she explains. "It is a physical problem that seemingly I have had since birth, but it started to affect me in the last eight or nine years. My vertebrae got pushed forward and that puts pressure on my hamstrings to the extent that they get so tight I have to ease off in training. The situation is monitored on a regular basis to ensure that my vertebrae are not slipping too much."

"It is gradually getting worse. I avoid a lot of the heavy running and use the swimming pool instead. I did a fair bit of swimming earlier in the season to strengthen my legs and get my fitness up. I do as much as I can now but cannot do any of the hard slog. I will have to take it year by year. It's all down to the legs - if they stay going so will I."

Now turned 30, there is huge mileage on the Hughes clock. At the age of three she caught her first hurley

and hours of practice was shared with neighbour's kids - in a house of four boys where some of the most epic battles were played out. After her 11th birthday she joined Toomevara and that is where her affection for the game developed.

With them she has six senior county championships and one Munster club medal. However, her biggest regret was losing an All-Ireland club final before a huge home attendance in 1995. Another disappointment was suffered in recent weeks when her club lost the county final after a replay to Drom and Inch.

The focus is presently firmly rooted to Sunday and winning the All-Ireland. However, Deirdre feels that her county have never got the proper respect for emerging as senior stars. She feels the Kilkennys and the Corks are still regarded as the top teams. Three-in-a-row teams, you'd imagine, should qualify for a Hall of Fame. Why not them?

The record books tell that Dublin, Antrim, Kilkenny and Cork are the four big names in camogie. While the sting from last season's defeat at the hands of the Rebels still remains, you get a feeling that she has a sort of a fondness for the red and white - a sort of liking and dislike in equal measure.

"I'd have to say they are a fair team and always have been. We would at all times be wary of them and I would bow to them. I have fierce respect for the Cork girls. Their forward line is



Deirdre Hughes: despite pain, a fighter to the bitter end.

we were brilliant, only the All-Ireland that matters at the end of the day."

She is sceptical about the outcome of this year's intriguing battle. Over the last few years the results have ebbed and flowed before eventually being decided by a hop of a ball. Her career so far has been measured with three pieces of gold. Some of her rivals this Sunday have notched five and six. Reluctant to go back over games she has played in herself, the sales assistant says it is down to a toss of a coin.

For all the tributes to Cork, she still will not fall into the trap of blowing up her own team. Past history doesn't allow either for assumptions.

"Honestly, none of us could pick the team. This is the first year that something like this has happened. Our panel is stronger mainly because a lot of girls impressed with their colleges over the winter and now are staking a claim for first choice positions. We have 30 on our squad and each one is an able replacement for whoever starts."

"We started out as a clean sheet with players fighting for their places," she said. "Nobody is sure anymore. Maybe that is what happened last year - people became too casual."

Twelve months later and the madness started all over again. But, she wouldn't change it for the world. Despite the grief and aching limbs she is a fighter to the bitter end.

on fire, all of them. Emer Dillon is playing her best camogie ever. Indeed the whole lot of them are doing so well. Our lads will have it all to do to stop them. There is no point in saying otherwise."

Deirdre is named at corner-forward, though she is likely at some stage to move to the edge of the square where Denise Cronin would be her marker. They have come face to face in the National League and in the Munster championship. "Denise has been around for a while and knows every trick in the book. She has captained Cork to All-Ireland victory so will not

lack in experience. If I am marking her, I will have to be on my toes."

In their six-point win over the Leesiders in the Munster championship the number 14 recorded an incredible four goals - for the last two she combined with corner forward Eimear McDonnell. "You would never get in for goals like that in an All-Ireland final. They had us on the rack in the first half and we got a few lucky shots. We also had the crowd behind us in Portlaoise (played before the hurling qualifier between Tipperary and Laois). While it was a great win for us, and our supporters thought

Dressed 4 success



Tipperary camogie stars Angie McDermott, Therese Brophy and Joanne Ryan model outfits from the Marie Therese boutique, Thurles, at the Anner Hotel in Thurles. Picture: Kieran Clancy



Cork Camogie players Rachel Moloney, Vivienne Harris and Stephanie Dunlea do a spot of modelling at Brown Thomas in Cork. Picture: Gerard McCarthy

When we dressed up the camogie stars of Cork and Tipperary ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland final it proved a welcome distraction for all concerned — not to mention the chance to "glam up" for the day. **Therese O'Callaghan** explains

AROUND THE time last week that journalists were desperately seeking some sage words from Cork and Kilkenny, six other hurlers from Tipperary and Cork were strutting their stuff for a fashion photo-shoot.

There were striking similarities between the players — pressure, expectation, revenge and self-doubt — but one key difference.

The would-be models were camogie-playing women, keen to lure some well-earned publicity for Sunday's All-Ireland decider at Croke Park.

That the finalists have the nous to exploit their feminism is neither surprising nor tacky — no one is accusing Setanta O hAilpin of such a charge. However, it does underline the belief that camogie authorities have in their product that they are prepared to go outside convention to sell it. Sunday is camogie's opportunity to hog the limelight and promote the game in the best possible fashion — in every sense of the word.

Thus, three of Cork and Tipp's top players took time out from grooming themselves for success to sprucing themselves up in layers of Autumnal wear.

In an existence camogie players can barely comprehend, sports stardom brings designer labels as a matter of course. However, nearer to home, the most women can hope for is an odd interview. The public never sees the hard work or the unglamorous side to success.

Taking time out to getting dressed-up, getting made-up and having one's hair styled is a welcome escape in any lady's hectic schedule.

Peeling off the track-suit and stepping into those cosy knits is more of a pleasure for these highly skilled and dedicated girls. It allows players to be seen in a different light.

President Miriam O'Callaghan is driving a more autonomous camogie organisation these days, one that is playing to its strengths and consequently, developing at pace. A mother of two camogie-playing daughters, she is keen on players retaining their femininity.

"Sports people are generally stereotyped by virtue of the profile in their chosen path. Our girls are no different in this regard. They have a life beyond the game and they need to be able to express themselves as individuals to non-sport people.

"I believe things like a fashion shoot highlights their individuality. Having given so much to the sport, it is nice to see them being fussed over and treated in this manner.

With so much dedication required, burn-out is always a danger. Not just for the players, but for the people who devote so much effort to ensure that everything is efficiently run."

Cork captain Stephanie Dunlea is sampling life in the media fast-lane these days with a host of radio, television and press demands. This latest project was a welcome diversion.

"All three of us were very excited about this fashion-shoot. The idea of being pampered and getting our make-up applied professionally was such a treat. It seems like an age since I went all glam — sport is a full-time job.

"It is also a novel way of publicising camogie. Especially younger girls, they look at players as role models. If you have somebody who looks well they will take notice. It is important to show that as well as being skilful a girl can also look well."

Despite demanding the same devotion as their male brethren, camogie like all other female sports, lacks exposure and support from the media, except on All-Ireland Day.

Notwithstanding this, Cork and Tipperary have succeeded in cornering some attention for their efforts — the likes of Fiona O'Driscoll, Eimear McDonnell, Deirdre Hughes, Ciara Gaynor, Emer Dillon and Mary O'Connor are comparable to the Henry Shefflins, the Eddie Brennans, the Joe Deanes, the Diarmuid O'Sullivan's, and the Setanta O hAilpins of this world.

Their backgrounds are similar too.

Explained Dunlea: "There were times when I thought I would never make it. I came onto the Cork panel in '93 and though we won an All-Ireland, I was not involved. Twelve months later we lost the semi-final to Kilkenny and though we triumphed in '95, I was taken off in the final. I was doing well all year but the occasion just got to me. They were a few disappointing years — in spite of winning two medals I did not feel that I had contributed much.

"I was on the panel again in '96 but had a problem with my knee. We lost the final and I decided to have my cruciate done. Between travelling to my job up the country and recuperating the following three years were a disaster. I remained on the panel, won two more All-Ireland medals but never returned to the player that I was.

In 1999, after battling to win her place back, Dunlea was a loser to Kilkenny in a semi-final thriller at Parnell Park.

"We led by two points until Sinead Millea got in for a goal. I decided then to take a year out and go to Australia to my sister Lynn."

Despite the idyllic surrounds of Whitsunday Islands, the sisters frequently reverted to camogie and Stephanie's unfulfilled ambitions.

As Lynn was deciding to halt her playing career, Stephanie returned home a year later full of gusto and zeal.



Tipperary camogie star Joanne Ryan models an outfit from the Marie Therese boutique, Thurles, at the Anner Hotel in Thurles.

Picture: Kieran Clancy

"When I came back in 2001 all I wanted to do was get a job in Cork, settle back into the county team, and stay on the field for the whole of a game." All three goals were fulfilled but Tipperary ended any hopes of an All-Ireland medal.

Twelve months later, she achieved her goal; "Even though it was my fifth medal, it was definitely the one that meant the most to me. From '95 to 2002 is a long time. I am 28 and getting the captaincy is a huge bonus."

Employed at Amersham Health where she works in junior management, the Cloughduv star has some interesting beliefs on the entire captaincy issue and its requirements.

"It is unique to the individual," she stresses. "You never know what is expected of you — whether to speak or not, when to speak. It has grown on me and it is a privilege that a lot of great players never get. I am lucky because there are many leaders on this Cork side. People would consider Fiona O'Driscoll to be a great leader. She is somebody that the girls would always look up to. So my job is made easy. In fact, the attitude and commitment of all the girls is exceptional."

Continuing to raise the profile of sport will remain an uphill battle. At times one wonders if sport is asking too much of its athletes. A recent promotion by a national camogie committee entitled 'Chicks with Sticks' drew a mixed response among rank and file, yet generated huge exposure and media attention. Stephanie was amongst its supporters.

"I thought it represented a new approach for camogie. It made people look twice — something you would not do if the three girls were dressed in jerseys and skirts."

"Because most of the backing within GAA is for men, sometimes you have to be creative about promoting the game. I thought this was an innovative idea and certainly was a talking point all over the country."

"Having high-profile sportsmen or women involved in management is another means of gaining notice. It gets people thinking that our game is up there with our male counterparts. Michael Cleary and Raymie Ryan are such examples with Tipperary and when you look at what Cleary did for camogie, you have to hand it to him."

In All-Ireland week, the doubts chisel away. But the Cork skipper knows she has made good choices and if defeat is Cork's lot, she's has seen enough to deal with it.

Victory, though, might bring a few more reasons to glam up.

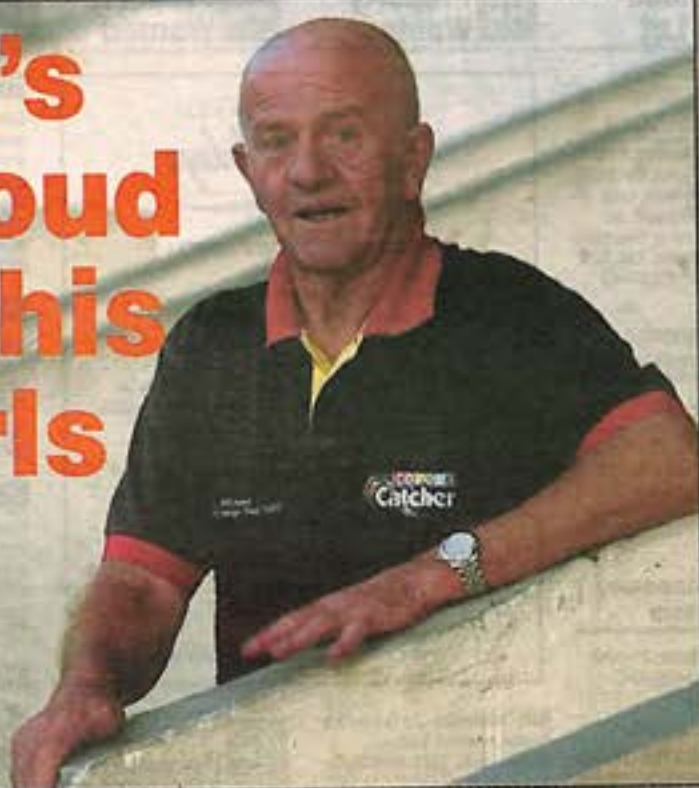
● Clothes provided by the Marie Therese boutique in Thurles and Brown Thomas in Cork.



Stepping out: Cork camogie captain Stephanie Dunlea modelling a Brown Thomas outfit in their Cork department store.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy

Pa's proud of his girls



John Horgan

PA FINN has been there and done that during an illustrious hurling coaching career but his time with the Cork senior camogie team is as rewarding as anything he has achieved in the past.

Next Sunday in Croke Park he will don the managerial bib again as the Rebel girls attempt to put back-to-back All-Irelands together against their arch rivals from the Premier County of Tipperary.

So how did this 'True Blue' from the 'Barr's become involved in the Cork camogie set-up and how does he view this eagerly awaited collision that is expected to attract over 20,000 fans to the field of dreams next Sunday.

"I was involved in the hurling scene all my life and I happened to be approached by a couple of the girls and they asked me would I be interested in training them," he said.

"Now camogie was alien to me but I agreed eventually.

"I knew that it was the same as hurling and that they trained and worked as hard as any of the men.

"They are every bit as skilful but still it was new to me and I didn't know how to treat the girls.

"You can have a few fs and blinds with the men but I found out that the girls are no different and it has been a joy to work with them.

"It has gone exceptionally well so far. We were very unlucky in 2001 but last year they played absolutely superbly. They played out of their skins but now they must do it all over again."

Finn admits that there's not a great difference between coaching males and females and that makes his job all that bit easier.

"These days there's fierce contact in camogie whereas before you couldn't touch a person without a foul being called.

"Now they are going in as hard as anyone and the coaching side of things is

no different.

We do the same things as they do in hurling, you coach the girls the same as the men.

Looking towards the big day, he believes that Tipperary will be very difficult to beat two years on the trot but Cork are ready to give everything in the cause.

"They are an excellent team, they were that last year and you don't go bad overnight."

"They beat us this year already in the Munster championship and on the day we played very average while they played real Championship stuff.

"But that didn't really bother us all that much because the All-Ireland now are the be all and end all.

"At the start of the year you begin preparing for that and that is your main focus from day one.

"Now that we have arrived here we are ready. Jim McCarthy has done a great job and he has trained the girls exceptionally well.

"I believe we have a great chance of retaining our title. If our backs play up to the level that they are capable of we'll be halfway there.

"We have very good forwards but so have they so our backs will have to mark very closely.

"We will have to be very tough with controlled aggression throughout because they will be fired-up to the last but I'll tell you but so will we.

"I would hope that we will get great support up in Croke Park on Sunday. I will never forget last year and that is something we want to repeat again this time.

"I have been fortunate to win championships with my own club the 'Barr's, Kilbrittain, St Catherine's and Castlelyons but I am deriving great joy from being involved with these girls and I know that they are going to give everything on Sunday to bring this trophy back to Cork."

Behind enemy lines

Therese O'Callaghan

Talks to Tipperary's Claire Madden as she prepares for the All-Ireland camogie final against Cork in Croke Park and finds out what it's like to live in the enemy camp.

PREPARING for an All-Ireland final is a considerable enough assignment.

Planning for it while living in another county makes it ever harder. But when you are getting ready for the biggest day in your sporting career residing in enemy land, it can become quite an ordeal.

Yet, Claire Madden cheerfully shrugs it off as just another day at the office. The Tipperary cornerback, now living in east Cork following her marriage to local Paul O'Callaghan, even won a medal in the Rebel County this summer.

Moving to Leeside meant transferring her club allegiance from Portroe to Fr O'Neills. Her presence with the Ballymacoda club helped them to their first Cork County Senior Championship title the first week in August.

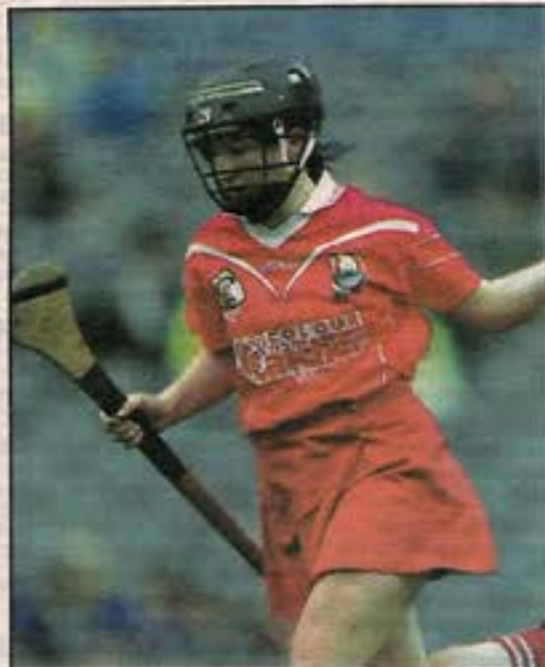
Her associate on that team is Cork's dashing forward Fiona O'Driscoll who scored 1-11 in that victory over newcomers Inniscarra.

Claire and Fiona are the best of mates and, no matter what happens on Sunday, Claire insists this is the way it will remain. It is likely too that they will cross paths with O'Driscoll in the other corner wearing the number 15 shirt.

"It is all a bit of crack. The slugging goes on at training but that is in great jest and just adds to the banter. I wore the Tipp jersey the morning after the semi-finals in Ennis to club training and I got a bit of a ribbing over it.

But sure I was only doing it to get them going. Fiona and I are both playing long enough to know that the outcome is not going to affect our relationship. We will go out and play our own game and won't be thinking of anything else."

And that is exactly how it will be. Cork and Tipperary on All-Ireland final day are the true aristocrats of camogie. It is a final that will be viewed



Cork's Fiona O'Driscoll will face her Fr O'Neill's club-mate in Sunday's final against Tipperary.

by thousands. It was widely watched last year when these two same sides met.

The slate will be wiped clean for this match — they have one title each this year. Cork won the league and Tipperary won the Provincial title.

Stats don't count for much says Madden.

"We will not be focussing on getting one up on Cork. That can distract you and shift your concentration. You are better off giving your attention to



Tipperary's Claire Madden chases down Cork's Una O'Donoghue in last year's final between at Croke Park which Cork won.

your own game.

"Last year was a major blow to us. It was our first time tasting defeat in a final.

"However, you cannot keep winning and we appreciate the opportunity to get back having won and lost.

"You cannot stay going at top flight for ever. You have to be realistic about that. So, hopefully we can turn the defeat around to our benefit. I think the break has rejuvenated us. We have a change in management too that will freshen things up for us."

Former hurler Raymie Ryan took over at the beginning of the year and last Autumn they gave way to a hungrier Rebel army.

It appears to be pay-back time. Conor Ryan and Marion Graham are new selectors. All three know Cork camogie inside out.

"I don't know if it is good to be dwelling too

much on the opposition. We will continue with our own preparations and work on any weaknesses that were exposed against Limerick in the semi-final.

"Our forward line isn't settled either so there will be much to play for over the next couple of weeks."

The stakes are already high but in making a round trip from Cork to Thurles three times a week the investment is even greater.

Two of the most famous hurling counties are linked every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning by a round trip of 150 miles.

It is not considered an errand but more of a responsibility and duty to the blue and gold. In fact, the quietly spoken defender is probably one of their unsung heroes.

However, she goes about her work in a subtle kind of way and has pinned down the number

four slot since Tipperary's emergence to the big times.

"Travelling does not bother me. When I worked in Dublin I did the same journey and that was a longer road. I am now working in Pfizer in Ringaskiddy so can head off in the evening.

When you get to this time of year there is a great buzz around with the build-up. Living in Cork is adding that extra bit of spice."

How does she think it will go? "A hop of a ball. That is all that is ever between us. It could be the sliotar coming back off the post or a decision by the referee that could turn this game in one or other's favour."

Either way Claire Madden will get on with life — whether it be on a roof-top bus in Thurles Square or settling back to a winter of content in Cork.

Claire Madden:
"We will not be focussing on getting one up on Cork. That can distract you"



Eimear McDonnell in action in the Munster Camogie Final

Learning lessons from

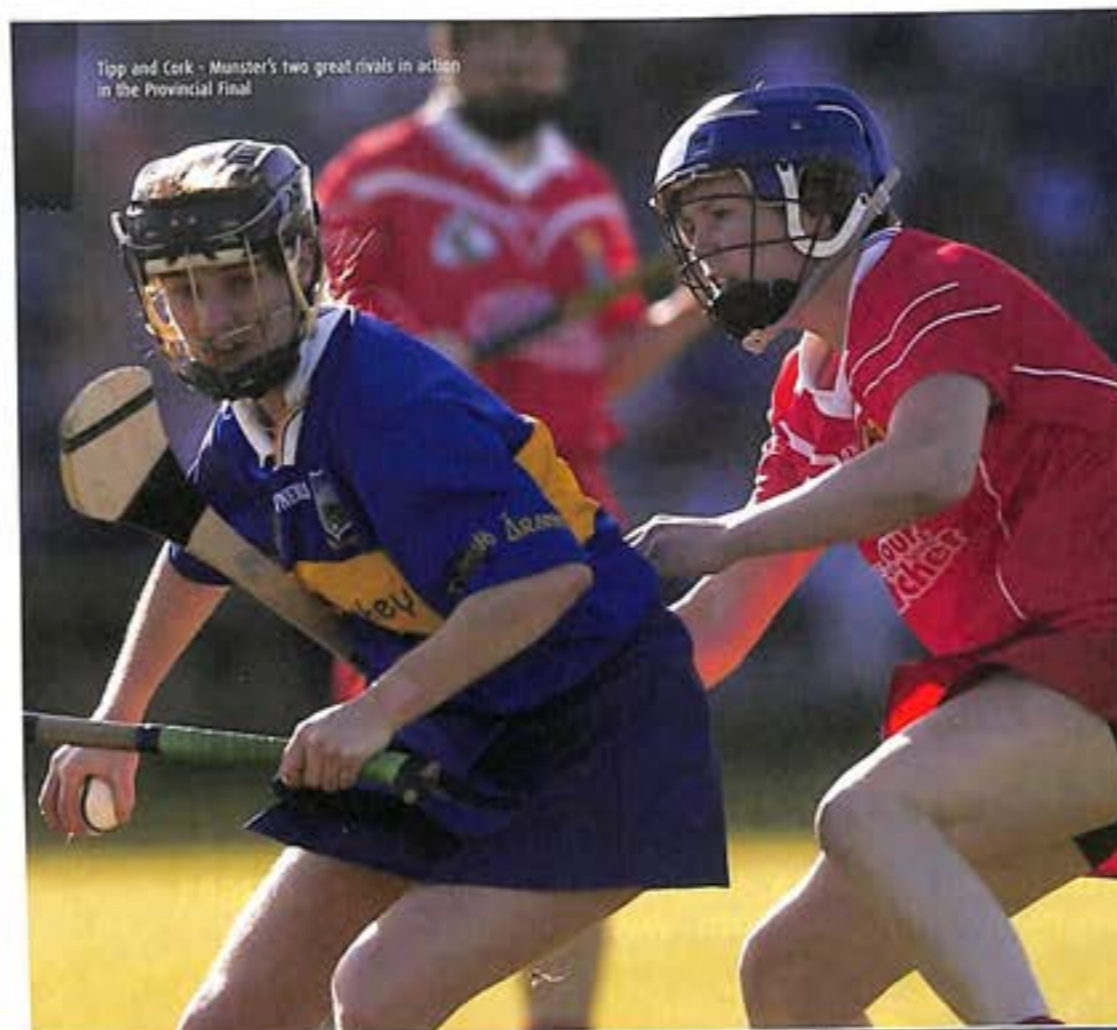
life's hard knocks By Therese O'Callaghan

Eimear McDonnell could just have easily been a horse-woman. Reared on an equestrian centre at home in Tipperary her love of animals was only surpassed by watching a group of youngsters poking a ball round a field. At 14 years she joined Burgess, and winning an All-Ireland senior colleges medal with St Mary's Nenagh steered her into a sporting career that has blossomed, rewarding her with three All-Ireland senior medals with Tipperary, one Munster championship, two Ashbourne Cup medals and an Irish Examiner Youth's award. Now Eimear McDonnell has grown to be an icon in the camogie world. She is rated as one of the top forwards in the country and undoubtedly is currently enjoying some of the finest moments in a thrilling career. When I caught up with her she was traipsing off the pitch after scoring 11 points for UCC in a Cork County senior championship quarterfinal where, remarkably, she was on the losing side. The 22-year-old Arts student from Ballintoher, Nenagh says

learning to cope with a loss is every bit as important as dealing with success. "Losing any match is never very nice – no matter what level you are at. But if you are to take any plusses from defeat it makes you appreciate the winning a lot more. It also helps you appreciate how fortunate you are to arrive in the winner's enclosure and to realise how hard victories are to achieve. "Losing the All-Ireland to Cork last year was tough because it was the last hurdle and we had got to Croke Park. But, again, if we can dwell on the positives from that day, hopefully it has given us the appetite to get back on top again. "Starting out I had to suffer my fair share of losses. I played minor for two years losing the All-Ireland final to Galway the first year, and then we went under to Cork in the Munster final the following year. In '98 I made my senior debut on the county team and we were beaten by Galway in the semi-final. However, it was to be a learning curve that would stand her in good stead. The competitive streak in Eimear is flowing through her veins. Sport has

always been a way of life in the McDonnell household and since knee high to a grasshopper she grew up playing with her sister, brothers and cousins. Her father Brian has numerous Fitzgibbon medals with UCD and Eimear says he is the greatest influence on her career. However, her mother Mary is sister to well-known Nemo Rangers and former Cork football captain and coach Billy Morgan. And as if that was not enough, her god-mother Sile Dunne is holder of four All-Ireland camogie medals with the red and white. And her sister is actually her twin-sister Deirdre – in 2001 they created history when Deirdre won an All-Ireland junior medal with Tipperary and a couple of hours later Eimear was celebrat-

ing a senior win. Fate, though, is not always so kind. A few years ago in an Ashbourne tie UCD were pitted against UCC, and with Eimear a forward and Deirdre a defender, the chances were that they could be marking each other. However, a few positional switches and the dreaded duel never materialised. Now in her prime, it is almost impossible for Eimear to comprehend such a thrilling and varied career that started out eight years ago. "I joined Burgess at the start of my teenage years and around the same time I began secondary school in St Mary's Nenagh. Ger Dullea was my coach and he was another who had an authority on my career. We won ultimate honours in '99/00 when capturing



Corn Scellege after an absence of six years. The same year (1999) was to be a dream-come through for Eimear as the Premier County made an unexpected breakthrough winning the O'Duffy Cup for the first time ever. However, it was a bolt out of the blue, as a desperate league final four months earlier dared not suggest that the Blue Riband of camogie would wind up in the clutches of the

such a humiliation. "But to pull off the win was amazing. Getting back to Cachel was incredible – we had never been in that situation before. Being welcomed home by thousands of people in the pouring rain. The following few months were spent travelling around the county and country with the cup. It was unreal. "Coming back in 2000 and winning meant a lot because Cork

"A lot of training and commitment is required which is the other side to all of this. However, in particular, playing with UCC has given me the wonderful opportunity to play with girls I usually would be playing against at club or county level. Some of my best friends play with Cork so we have great banter each time we cross camáns."

same Tipperary women. "I suppose Cork thrashing us in the league earlier that year made us realise that something had to be done. Michael Cleary, Colm Bonnar and Sean Hennessy came on board. They brought new ideas but above all they made us believe in ourselves. This was the most important aspect as heads were dropping after suffering

were the kingpins and some fold did not rank us until we had beaten them in the final. Then, we met again 12 months later and had two tremendous tussles before we edged them out after an exciting replay in the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick." As a result, the rivalry that has developed between the two Munster counties since Tipp's



emergence in '99 is immense. Another breakthrough of a seismic nature took place last May with the staging of the Munster final as curtain-raiser to the Tipperary versus Laois All-Ireland hurling qualifier in Portlaoise. This double-header was a massive shot in the arm for camogie and to arrive at the Laois venue and see the crowds streaming in for the ladies match was unforgettable. Some people might think that Cork were at a disadvantage playing before such a big Blue and Gold following. Maybe, but over a period of time this situation will balance itself out. More and more clashes will be staged before hurling and football ties and teams will just have to get used to dealing with this as part of their preparations. Much credit goes to the innova-

tion of Tipperary manager Raymie Ryan and to the co-operation of the Cork back room team who agreed to move the final outside of the province. The Premier County recorded their first win in this competition in almost 30 years. Consequently, 8,000 people witnessed the Tipp girls turn around a six-point deficit at half time into the same margin victory after 60 minutes. That evening Eimear and her colleague Deirdre Hughes destroyed the Cork full back line. "We were thrilled to win this game. Year after year Cork would retain the title. Then we heard it was to be played before the hurling contest in Portlaoise. We were delighted because it gave us an opportunity to see their match and for them and supporters to come early and watch us. "There was a great atmosphere particularly in the second half when we started to come back at Cork. But, I believe this is the way camogie has to go – this must be done to push the game forward. We got a brilliant reception coming off the field and the euphoria was unreal when we were presented with the cup up in the stand." No doubt, this is one event that will stay long in the McDonnell memory. There are many others and all for various reasons. For instance, how a sultry teenager burst onto the inter-county scene, and the toil and sweat that is spilt in the process. "Obviously the All-Ireland senior titles are very special but I also rank the achievements I attained with the second and third level schools right up there with the rest. Winning two Ashbourne medals with UCC rates very highly and after the barren years lifting an All-Ireland senior college's title with St Mary's was an extraordinary experience. "A lot of training and commitment is required which is the other side to all of this. However, in particular, playing with UCC has given me the wonderful opportunity to play with girls I usually would be playing against at club or county level. Some of my best friends play with Cork so we have great banter each time we cross camáns." Evidently, Eimear is a competitor above all else. While winning has become an integral part of a blooming career, she is as much admired for her veracity and honourable approach. Expect to see her in Croke Park in September and witness all that is good about camogie. Once a sportsperson, always a sportsperson.

Meet the players

Jovita Delaney

Jovita who is 29, plays for the Cashel club. Jovita captained the 2000 team to victory in the All-Ireland final. A past-pupil of Cashel Community School, 29 year-old Jovita is a schoolteacher in Tarbert, Co. Kerry. Jovita was the goalkeeper on the Tipperary team that won the All-Ireland 3 in a row in 1999, 2000 and 2001. Medals won Senior (3) Intermediate (1), Junior (1), Minor (1). She has also won three medals representing her province, Senior (2) and Junior (1). Along with this, Jovita has eight County Championship medals, (3) Munster Club and one Schools All Ireland Munster Medal. On the Tipp panel for 14 seasons

Suzanne Kelly

Suzanne who is 26, is a Teacher and plays for the Toomevara club. She was on the winning Intermediate team in 1997 and also won an All-Ireland Minor medal. Suzanne won an Senior All-Ireland schools medal with St. Mary's Nenagh in 1994. Suzanne has 3 All-Ireland Senior medals, 1 intermediate and 1 minor. She played at corner-back on the Tipperary senior team in 1999 and 2000 and at midfield in the 2001 winning team. On the Tipp panel for 6 seasons

Una O'Dwyer

Una who is 22, plays for both the Cashel club and UCC where she is studying Food Technology. Una O'Dwyer came on as a sub in the Intermediate Final 1997 and was the changing point of the game and has since been one of stars of the County. She is a student at present in University College Cork. Una is the regular full-back on the Tipperary camogie team. Her impressive medal tally includes 3 Senior All-Irelands, 1 Intermediate, 2 Munster Club, Two Ashbourne Cup and Senior County Championship. On the Tipp panel for 6 seasons

Claire Madden

Claire who is 29 is Business Analyst by occupation. She was on the winning All-Ireland Junior team in 1992 and was also on the winning All-Ireland Intermediate team in 1997. Claire transferred to Fr. O'Neills Club in Cork, from her native Portroe, which this year won their first County Senior title. She played at corner-back on the successful 1999, 2000 and 2001 Tipp teams. On the Tipp panel for 14 seasons.

Sinead Nealon

Sinead who is 29 plays with the Burgess club. She was on the winning All-Ireland Junior team in 1992 and was also on the winning All-Ireland Intermediate team in 1997. She captained the 1990 All-Ireland Minor winning team. She works in Waterford IT as a Project Manager and is the daughter of Donie Nealon. Won an Ashbourne Cup medal with W.I.T. On the Tipp panel for 13 seasons. Winner of 3 All-Ireland Senior medals.

Ciara Gaynor

Ciara who is 24, plays with the Kilruane McDonaghs club. She was on the winning Intermediate team in 1997. Ciara won an Senior All-Ireland schools medal with St. Mary's Nenagh in 1994. She is the daughter of former Tipperary player and manager Len Gaynor. Ciara is a Garda by occupation. Ciara has won 3 All-Ireland Senior medals, 3 Minor All-Ireland, 1 Intermediate All-Ireland. On the Tipp panel for 6 seasons

Theresa Brophy

Theresa who is 26 plays with the Burgess club and works as a Teacher. She has 3 All-Ireland Senior medals. She played at wing-forward in the 1999 All-Ireland Senior Camogie final and wing-back in the 2000 and 2001 finals. Has 1 Intermediate and 2 Minor medals as well as 1 Junior Gael Linn, 2 Ashbourne Cup medals with U.C.C. Her interests include poetry, Irish Dancing and fencing. On the Tipp panel for 5 seasons.

Emily Hayden

Emily Hayden who is 22 plays with the Cashel Club and works as Sports Rehabilitator in Portlaoise. She has three Senior All-Ireland, one Intermediate, one Minor

All-Ireland and four Munster Minor. She has also represented Munster at Senior and Junior level and has an All-Ireland Colleges and Purcell medals. Emily is on the Tipp panel for 5 seasons

Angela McDermott

Angela who is 25 plays with the Knockavilla Club. Angela was centre-back on the All-Ireland winning team in 1999 and midfield in 2000. Angela starred in the Junior All-Ireland Final 1998 against Galway and has won 2 Ashbourne Cup medals with U.C.C. Interested in swimming and football. On the Tipp panel for 3 seasons

Philomena Fogarty

Philomena who is 20 plays with the Cashel club. Her regular position is wing-forward where she played in the 2000 All-Ireland final. Philomena played at midfield in the 2001 All-Ireland Final. Has 3 All-Ireland Senior medals, 1 Minor, 1 Junior, 2 Munster Club and 1 Gael Linn medal. On the Tipp panel for 5 seasons

Noelle Kennedy

Noelle who is 27 plays with the Toomevara club. She was on the winning All-Ireland Junior team in 1992 and



Jovita Delaney who recently got engaged to Kerryman Tom Heaphy. Let's hope Jovita has a double reason to celebrate

was also on the winning All-Ireland Intermediate team in 1997. Noelle captained St. Mary's Nenagh to the 1994 Senior All-Ireland Schools title. Noelle has played at midfield and in the forwards and was Tipp's leading scorer in the 1999 championship. She works as an IT Technician. Had been on the Tipp team for 10 seasons. Noelle has won 3 All-Ireland Senior medals, 1 Intermediate and 1 Junior. On the Tipp panel for 11 seasons

Joanne Ryan

Joanne who is 20 plays with the Drom and Inch club which this year won the County Final bridging a 21 year gap. She has represented her County at Minor, Junior and has 2 All-Ireland Senior Medals and now 1 Senior County Medal, she has also one Schools Munster Final medal. On the Tipp panel for 4 seasons

Eimear McDonnell

Eimear who is 20 plays with the Burgess club and with UCC where she is a student. Eimear, a niece of Billy Morgan (Cork), is a top class forward with a blend of skill and speed. Played at corner-forward on the 2000 team scoring 2 points in the All-Ireland final and scored 1-2 in the 2001 final getting the RTE player of the match. Has 3 Senior, 1 Junior, 1 Minor All-Ireland medals as well as 1 Senior Gael Linn medal. On the Tipp panel for

5 seasons

Deirdre Hughes

3 All-Ireland Senior medals, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior medal, 6 Senior and 2 Junior Gael Linn medals. Scored 2-2 in the 2000 All-Ireland final. Deirdre was captain of the Intermediate winning team in 1997. On a day when Eirceall honoured members of four All-Ireland winning teams for the months of September and October Deirdre Hughes gave the Premier County its first award under the scheme. On the Tipp panel for 14 seasons.

Claire Grogan

Claire who is 17 plays with the Cashel club. She became the youngest person to win an All-Ireland Senior Camogie medal in 2000 when playing at corner-forward, scoring 2 points from play. Claire won her 2nd All-Ireland in 2001 when scoring 1-2 from play. Her father John played Senior Hurling for Tipperary in the 1980's.

She has just completed her Leaving Certificate this year and will be studying Nutritional Science at UCC.

Claire at a very young has a long list of achievements and medals under her belt two numerous to mention all of them a small sample, 2 Senior, 1 Minor, 2 Munster Club, and has also represented her province at Senior Level. On the Tipp panel for 4 seasons.

Other members of the panel include—

Paula Bulfin

Paula who is 28 plays with the Cashel Club is a teacher. She has two Senior All-Ireland Medals has represented her county at Intermediate and Junior Level. On the Tipp panel for 4 seasons.

Louise Young

Louise who is a 19 year old Business Student, plays with the Toomevara club. On the Tipp panel for three seasons

Sheena Howard

Sheena who is 21 plays with the Burgess club. A Business and Computer Studies Student at UL Sheena has been on the Tipp panel for four seasons.

Michelle Shortt

Michelle who is 17 plays for Drom/Inch. An Arts Student she has been on the Tipp panel for two seasons.

Helen Breen

Helen who is 18 plays for Cashel. She is currently studying Recreational Management and has been on the Tipp Panel for two seasons.

Paula Ryan

Paula is 19 and plays for the Toomevara Club. This is her first season on the Tipp panel.

Niamh Connolly

Niamh is 23 and plays for Templemore. She works as a Trainee Accountant and has been on the Tipp panel for three seasons.

Aine Mulcahy

Aine plays for Burgess and is a student. This is her first season on the Tipp panel.

Danielle O'Connell

Danielle is a student and plays for Cashel. This is her first season on the Tipp panel.

Lorraine Bourke

Lorraine is 20 and plays for Templemore and UCC and is a student nurse. This is her third season on the Tipp panel

Trish O'Halloran

Trish is 19 and plays for Portroe. She is currently studying Legal Studies this is her first season on the Tipp panel.

Crux for players as football and camogie clash

By Féilim McMahon

THE CLASH between this weekend's All Ireland minor football and camogie finals has landed a pair of Cork's dual stars in a serious dilemma.

Both are key players in the ladies football side that will face Mayo in the All Ireland final, on Saturday, in Birr, Co Offaly and neither is on the starting 15 in Sunday's camogie decider, against Tipperary, in Croke Park.

However, Cloghdun's Breige Corkery and Catriona Foley, of Rockbawn, face being dropped from

the camogie panel if they choose to play football on Saturday.

It is believed that both players want to help Cork to victory in Birr, but are reluctant to give up the chance of a senior All Ireland camogie medal.

Neither has made a decision on whether to drop one sport in favour of the other.

Manager of the Cork Minor Football team, Fr Liam Kelleher, has written to the Cork Ladies Camogie Board, pleading with them to allow both players to take part in Saturday's minor football final before joining the subs bench

in Croke Park.

"I am appealing to the Camogie Board and management to think of the players' interests first and give them their blessing to be part of the football panel on Saturday," he said.

"It is vital for Cork to win the camogie final and I wish them every success, but it's unfair to put these two players in this difficult position," he added.

"The girls, who were instrumental in bringing Cork to the final have been told that they cannot play with their football team even though neither seem likely to start

on the camogie team," he continued.

"I am making a personal plea with the Board to let the girls decide to play in the minor football final without the fear of being dropped from the camogie panel." However, the camogie team manager Pat Finn insisted that the girls will not be available on Saturday.

"I have directly stated to Fr Kelleher that both players are on our panel," he said, "Would Alex Ferguson let his players take part in a 'B' game the day before a championship match?"

"I appreciate that both players are greatly important to the minor football team but, at the end of the day," he added, "that's minor and this is senior."

Mr Finn said the camogie panel would travel to Dublin, on Saturday, have a meal there on Saturday night, and would not train that day.

He added that he didn't want 'hassle' and had no intention of putting the girls in an awkward position.

"This is an All Ireland final and we have to make decisions," he said.

Cork bid to retain camogie title

All-Ireland at Croke Park

By Noel Horgan

Cork will be bidding to complete the two-in-a-row when they throw down the gauntlet to Tipperary in the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park next Sunday.

Twelve months ago, the teams were involved in a memorable battle for glory, and the honours went to the Leeside ladies, who owed much to the brilliance of key forward Fiona O'Driscoll for their success.

That result foiled Tippi's bid for a fourth consecutive title, and both teams have brushed aside all opposition en route to Sunday's showpiece.

They have already crossed paths twice this year, with Cork coming up trumps in the National League final, and Tippi taking the spoils in the Munster final, so the general perception is that next Sunday's showdown is a wide open affair and that another titanic tussle is on the cards.

CONFIDENT

Cork coach Pa Finn is quietly confident that his charges can prevail again this time, and he isn't worried that Tippi were decisive winners when the teams last clashed in the provincial decider at Portlaoise.

"We just didn't perform in the second half of that match, but the All-Ireland is a completely different kettle of fish, and, to be honest, we don't regard our Munster final defeat as a major setback.

"Our preparations have gone very well, the girls have trained very hard under Jim McCarthy, and I'm delighted with the way they have performed in this championship up to now.

"I think it's a fifty/fifty game on Sunday, but if our backs play to their full potential, I feel we should have the edge on Tippi again.

"We have some top-class forwards in Fiona O'Driscoll, Emer Dillon, Caoimhe Harrington and Una O'Donoghue, who captained the team last

year, we have an excellent mid-field pairing in Rachel Moloney and Viv Harris, and if our defence, which will include the outstanding Mary O'Connor at centre back, can do a reasonable containing job on the Tippi forwards, I see no reason why we can't win the match.

"But Tippi are a well balanced side, and they will be very determined to atone for last year's defeat, so we know that it's going to take a huge effort on our part to prevent them from turning the tables," said Finn, who, now in his third season at the helm, has already steered Cork to two league titles and an All-Ireland triumph.

Team skipper Stephanie Dunlea, who will be hoping to win a fifth All-Ireland medal, says that Cork are every bit as hungry for victory as they were last year.

"We want to prove that our victory in 2002 wasn't just a flash in the pan, and the fact that Tippi beat us in the Munster final has given us extra motivation.

"We have lost two very experienced players in Linda Mellerrick and Eithne Duggan from last year, but the new players that have come on to the team have slotted in very well, and I'm convinced that they will be capable of doing a good job for us on Sunday.

HANDS FULL

"Tipperary have a very talented full forward line, and I think we will have our hands full trying to contain them, but we held them to just one goal in the final last year, and, hopefully, our backs will perform every bit as tightly this time."

Fiona O'Driscoll made a massive contribution to Cork's victory in last year's final. And the seasoned full forward, who won the first of her six All-Ireland medals in her debut season in 1992, was at her brilliant best when inspiring her club Fr. O'Neill's to a historic victory over Inniscarra in the county senior final a few weeks ago.

She regards that as the main highlight of her illustrious career to date, but she is obvi-

ously hoping to crown a momentous year by helping Cork to register a 21st. title on Sunday.

"I'm expecting it to be a very tight game, because there has been little or nothing between ourselves and Tippi over the past few seasons.

"They beat us in a semi-final replay two years ago, we got it right in last year's final, and it's one win apiece so far this year, so it's very difficult to assess how Sunday's match will unfold.

"All we can do is go out and give it our best shot, and the probability is that the team that gets the greater share of the breaks on the day will come out on top.

"It was immensely satisfying to win last year after being out of the limelight since '98.

"But it would be great to put two titles back to back, and, since expectations are higher than was the case going into the 2002 final, I think it would be a more outstanding achievement if we can pull it off this time," said the prolific Cork score-getter.

The Cork backroom team is completed by selectors Kathleen Healy of Cloughduv and former camogie great Sandie Fitzgibbon of Glen Rovers, and the full squad for Sunday's eagerly awaited final comprises Stephanie Dunlea, Una O'Donoghue, Aoife Murray, Breige Corkery and Joanne O'Callaghan (Cloughduv), Emer Watson, Regina Curtin and Anna Geary (Milford), Vivienne Harris, Ciara Healy and Jean O'Sullivan (Bishopstown), Jemma O'Connor, Orla O'Sullivan and Linda O'Connell (St. Finbarr's), Fiona O'Driscoll and Nora Aherne (Fr. O'Neill's), Rachel Moloney and Sarah Hayes (Courcy Rovers), Paula O'Connor and Caoimhe Harrington (Newtownshandrum), Denise Cronin and Niamh Goulding (Glen Rovers), Ger Casey (Inniscarra), Mary O'Connor (Killeagh), Jennifer O'Leary (Barryroe), Emer Dillon (Ballygarvan), Colette Desmond (Newcestown), Elaine Burke (Valley Rovers), and Catriona Foley (Rockbawn).

Tipperary opt for Hayden at midfield

by Therese O'Callaghan

SUNDAY'S meeting of Tipperary and Cork in the All-Ireland senior camogie final has become the modern game's most longed-for pairing. Over the past four years both these teams have dominated at senior level.

Twelve months ago in Croke Park the Premier faltered in their bid to attain three titles in a row, while the Rebel County marched on to reclaim the glory days of the mid-90s.

Tipperary, anxious to get back to winning ways, announced their team over the weekend and they show one change from the side which defeated Limerick in the semi-final.

Captain from 2001 Emily Hayden will start at midfield slot at the expense of her Cashel clubmate Paula Bulfin.

Otherwise they remained unchanged from that semi-final victory. However, there is one notable positional switch with Deirdre Hughes selected at right corner-forward and Eimear McDonnell at number 15.

Claire Grogan will lead the attack from the 40 with Joanne Ryan holding down the number 14 jersey.

Emily Hayden: in at expense of her Cashel clubmate Paula Bulfin.



Captain Una O'Dwyer remains at full-back flanked by Suzanne Kelly and Claire Madden. Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor and Therese Brophy will front midfielders McDermott and Hayden.

Noelle Kennedy and Philly Fogarty will be alongside Grogan in the half-forward line while the inside trio is Hughes, Ryan and McDonnell.

Cork will announce their team after training tonight.

Tickets for Sunday's all-ticket game will be on sale in Páirc Uí Rinn this evening from 5-8pm.

TIPPERARY (v Cork): J. Delaney; S. Kelly, U. O'Dwyer (capt), C. Madden; S. Nealon, C. Gaynor, T. Brophy, E. Hayden, A. McDermott; N. Kennedy, C. Grogan, P. Fogarty; D. Hughes, J. Ryan, E. McDonnell.



Tipperary meet Cork in the All Ireland senior camogie final in Croke Park on Sunday and hoping to be part of Tippi's fourth title win in five years are Cashel players Claire Grogan, Philly Fogarty, Emily Hayden and Paula Bulfin. • See Match Preview page 24.

Claire looks forward to encounter

by Liza Roche

AT 17 years of age Claire Grogan is a seasoned player on the senior Tipperary panel of which she has been a member for the past four years. For her club, Cashel, Claire has also been one of their main players in recent times and has two Munster Club titles under her belt. She has also played in one All-Ireland Club final not to mention all the medals and achievements she has accumulated over the past number of years.

Claire didn't pick her hurling up from the ground — she is daughter of John Grogan who was a member of the Tipperary senior hurling panel in 1980s. Her sisters, Linda and Helen, also feature prominently on the Cashel club panel and have both played at county level.

For all her achievements and the talent and skill she displays on a camogie field, she hasn't allowed it to go to her head and comes across as a very level headed young woman. In fact just a couple of weeks ago she completed her Leaving Certificate and from the end of this month she is going to study Nutritional Science at University College Cork.

Claire made her name in the 2000 All-Ireland final — her first final — when she was just fourteen years of age and ever since has made the corner-forward position her own despite the fact that she moved out to the half forward line for this year's semi-final against Limerick.

Reflecting on last year's All-Ireland final defeat to Cork last year, Claire said that she is, "Last year things didn't really fall for us but for the past twelve months we have focusing on Sunday next especially since the semi-finals."

However, she said she is looking forward to next Sunday's game. "It's not so much about revenge but making amends for last year. We have spent the last twelve months preparing for this final and I suppose it does make it more appetising the fact that it is Cork we are meeting. It isn't nice to lose to Cork at any time and especially not in an Ireland final and we certainly are hoping not to repeat last year's performance."

Going back to last year's final, Claire explains that the mood is definitely more focused in the camp this year. "It is hard to keep motivated and most of the team



Claire Grogan

had won three All-Irelands. That I suppose would be one of the factors which contributed to what happened but our hunger has certainly be renewed this year."

Claire herself and her Cashel clubmates also have some extra time this year to prepare for the final as they were knocked out of the county championship at semi-final stage. However, while she expressed regret of losing this she explained "I am not complaining but the last couple of years because we have done so well with Cashel we have been playing up to November and then we have been back out training again in February it is not much of a break really and you do get tired."

As so much of her time has been occupied by camogie, Claire explains that she hasn't had a lot of time to pursue other hobbies. "I don't play football or soccer because I don't have the time and also I would be more prone to injury but I do enjoy a game of golf. I am still involved in underage in the club anyway and the under-18 championship hasn't yet started so I won't be idle for a while yet."



Pa Finn: "the second final is always much harder to win."

by Therese O'Callaghan

CORK coach Pa Finn feels no extra pressure going into Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final against Tipperary.

"Last year, yes, I did feel pressure because it was my first time taking a camogie team to an All-Ireland final. Strangely, it is not getting to me this year. The girls are under pressure though," he maintains, "the second final is always much harder to win."

Sunday presents a final opportunity for the Rebels to lift an All-Ireland senior crown this season, but disappointed as he was by the defeat of the Cork hurlers to Kilkenny last Sunday, Finn has a somewhat sardonic view of the haves and have nots of Cork GAA.

"I am involved in GAA all my life and two years ago I took over the camogie team. I said it last year and I will say it again this year, we get no support whatsoever from the GAA in Cork — absolutely nil. We need their backing because the hurling and camogie could have worked well together in the hope of achieving the double."

"I know the hurling final is everything and I have no problem with that. But, we are also in a final and deserve some sort of credit. It is not every day that a team gets to visit Croke Park — in fact it is only great teams get to play there. What annoys me is that we are taken for granted. We have to boost ourselves. All we are asking for is to be acknowledged."

"Last year's final was an exhibition and a great advertisement for the game of camogie. The ladies have to work so much harder to get recognised. I would ask the GAA to put money towards a holiday for the players. Win or lose on Sunday, they will be going around over the winter selling calendars and trying to raise a few bob," he said.

"I would ask GAA president Sean Kelly now to put €10,000 aside for the winners of the All-Ireland final. He is talking about it long enough. Now is the time to do something."

"That sort of money is nothing to them. The women are always supporting the GAA but when it comes to reversing matters there is very little given back."

"Also, the presentation of the player-of-the-match in the grounds immediately after the game is demeaning to the players. RTE should treat the girls the same as the men and visit the winner's hotel on the night of the

Finn: give camogie girls some fair play

function." He addressed the abilities of his own title-chasing side: "Remember Fiona (O'Driscoll) last year. She was unbelievable. Three catches that resulted in three magnificent goals."

"These girls are as skilful as I have seen and they will run around that field all night for you. I would love to see them get the recognition that they deserve. The chairperson of our own camogie board, Marion McCarthy is very good to us and we are very grateful for that."

Greater appreciation and more respect appear to be what Finn is after. This week a new camogie magazine is hitting the shelves 'Camogie Girl' — this, he says is another big step towards promoting the game. He would also like to see the All-Stars introduced for camogie.

Meanwhile, there is no doubting the ability and agility of the two teams taking centre stage at Croke Park on Sunday. Cork and Tipperary have elevated the game to amazing heights. Trainer Jim McCarthy from the St Nick's/Glen Rovers club has put the panel of 29 through their paces for the last six months.

"Jim has done an excellent job. He has worked extremely hard with them on the physical side. He talks to them

and they have a great rapport. They enjoy him, which is important too. It is not all down to me. He deserves as much praise."

"I know our girls and Tipperary work with great intensity. Raymie Ryan said to me recently if we met on 10 occasions it would be five wins each. That is how close we are in terms of ability. So far this year we have won the league final and they have taken the Munster championship. When you are in charge of a team you have a certain responsibility. Players and management have to work so hard to grind a favourable outcome."

It is as if Finn took the job because he has an obligation to fulfil. Cork supporters are selfish when it comes to collecting trophies. They expect to see their teams flat out and dying for the cause. The red and white boss is confident. Actually, so convinced that he does not hesitate when giving a prediction.

"We will beat them," is his emphatic reply. "It will be exceptionally tough. We got the scores at vital times last year — it will have to be the same this year. If we perform I cannot see Tipperary beating us."

An All-Ireland final. Need we say anymore?

Tipperary team

The Tipperary team and substitutes for next Sunday's All-Ireland final against Cork is as follows—

Jovita Delaney
Cashel

Suzanne Kelly
Toomevara

Una O'Dwyer
Cashel

Claire Madden
Fr O'Neill's, Cork

Sinead Nealon
Burgess

Ciara Gaynor
Kilruane MacDonagh's

Therese Brophy
Burgess

Emily Hayden
Cashel

Angie McDermott
Annacathry

Noelle Kennedy
Toomevara

Claire Grogan
Cashel

Philly Fogarty
Cashel

Deirdre Hughes
Toomevara

Joanne Ryan
Drom-Inch

Eimear McDonnell
Burgess

Substitutes — Paula Ryan (Toomevara), Sheena Howard (Burgess), Paula Bultin (Cashel), Trish O'Halloran (Portroe), Louise Young (Toomevara), Lorraine Bourke (Templemore), Meadh Corcoran (Moycarkey-Borris), Niamh Connolly (Templemore), Helen Breen (Cashel), Trish Ryan (Toomevara), Aine Mulcahy (Burgess), Michelle Shortt (Drom-Inch), Danielle O'Connell (Cashel).

Manager: Raymie Ryan (Cashel).

Selectors: Conor Ryan (Nenagh) and Marion Graham (Moycarkey-Borris).

Tipperary ready and eager to make up for last year's disappointment

But champions Cork to provide another big test

For the fifth year in a row the Tipperary senior camogie team find themselves just one hour away from the game's ultimate prize. It's a tremendous achievement for the team and ample testimony to their consistency since their breakthrough in 1999.

Previews:
Michael Heverin

Pictures:
John Kelly

In that time they have both beaten and lost to their greatest rivals Cork in finals and next Sunday the game's big two will clash again for the top honour, the O'Duffy Cup with a 4.30 pm start.

Predicting All Ireland finals to be a classic can be a risky business but this Croke Park decider has all the ingredients.

With Kilkenny's star on the decline, Tipp and Cork have established themselves as the top teams and a final between them has been on the cards since early in the season. It's the fourth major final between them in a year and Sunday's result should finally decide the pecking order. Winner takes all!

What makes Sunday's final special is that will feature some of the game's greatest exponents in the modern era and Croke Park is the ideal setting for the skills of such stars as Deirdre Hughes, Ciara Gaynor, Philly Fogarty, Eimear McDonnell, Claire Grogan, Fiona O'Driscoll, Una O'Donoghue, Jenny O'Leary and Stephanie Dunlea.

The teams are evenly matched and it could take a touch of magic on either side to decide the issue. There has been little between them in recent meetings.

Last year's All Ireland final was decided by a Cork goal burst in the second half after the teams were neck and neck for most of the

game. The league final in April came down to a torrential cloudburst in the last ten minutes when Tipp couldn't overcome the elements to peg back Cork's lead.

And the most recent meeting in the Munster final in June was decided by Deirdre Hughes' brilliance when her four goal salvo destroyed the champions. It all points to another close encounter this Sunday.

It's a new experience for manager Ramie Ryan who has taken his side to the All Ireland final in his first year in charge. Ryan, one of Cashel King Cormacs and Tipperary's most stylish wing backs, had a hard act to follow in Michael Cleary after seeing the Nenagh man guide Tipp to three titles in a row and fail just narrowly to make it four.

But despite having little or no camogie experience before taking over the role, he has quickly found his feet and helped the team to overcome last year's disappointment in the best manner possible - by reaching another final.

Ryan followed the team's performance in the Cleary years through newspaper reports and watching the finals but nothing prepared him for what he found on his arrival.

"The game became totally addictive because of the quality of the players. Michael Cleary had already told me about this but it's only when you train them that you see all the skills and ability that they have", he says.

And the Cashel man continued - "Their skill level is amazing. Every night someone does something that you would love to go home and try yourself in your

club field. The only difference between camogie and hurling is the power, speed and the intensity of the tackles.

"But as regards skill there is nothing the hurlers can do that the girls cannot. They are equally as skilful as the senior hurlers if not moreso. They might not even appreciate themselves what they have", he said in the build-up to the big game.

Ryan attributes these skills to what the girls learned in their club. "Each one has a different skill and it comes from their club and who trained them at u-12, u-14 and u-16 up to junior, minor and senior. Managers cannot coach people who don't have the basics and great credit is due to the clubs for their involvement", adds the manager.

But coming onto the Tipperary scene this season, the new manager didn't just have to involve himself with the girls' hurling ability but also with their mental attitude following last year's defeat - something of wake-up call for the team following three glorious years.

He understands that there was a lot of disappointment last year, many sleepless nights and a lot of tears shed. But now they are prepared both mentally and physically for the new challenge.

"You cannot change what happened last year. You can only influence what's going to happen on Sunday and the girls are just interested in going out to win this year. They know they let themselves down last year and all they want to do now is to play to the best of their ability.

"If they win, they win. But if they lose and play the way they want to play then they will shake the Cork players' hands and say, 'Well done'. They just don't want to play like they did last year."

One area where he certainly wants an improvement is defence - and he thinks the team has gone most of the way towards that already. "I am very happy with the way it has tightened up. Last year we conceded four goals in the All Ireland final, three in the league final and three against Wexford this year. But in the last two or three games we have only conceded points from play and if you stop the leakage at the back you stand a great chance of winning the game. Goals win games".

In the All Ireland semi-final Tipp overcame Limerick with the minimum of fuss and didn't concede a goal in the process. The Shannonsiders never really tested Tipp and Raymie Ryan fully accepts that the only real challenge

for Tipp this year would come from Cork.

Another plus for the team is the strength in depth of the panel. Ryan says - "We like to think we have twenty five or six girls who can play and if you don't give them games in the championship then the management doesn't know if they can do it. You have to keep them up to that standard and the only way to do that is to give them twenty minutes or half an hour of championship play when the opportunity arrives. We now have players on the bench who can also come on and do a job for us and that's vital".

In the Munster final win over Cork in Portlaoise, Tipp fielded without Jovita Delaney, Therese Brophy and Una O'Dwyer and only introduced Claire Grogan and Philly Fogarty as subs. On Sunday next all five will fill crucial roles from the start but it also means that there are ready-made replacements on the bench.

Paula Ryan played in goal in both the league and Munster finals and early rounds of the championship and the manager thinks this might have improved Jovita Delaney's game as she had to work hard to regain her place on her return from injury.

Next Sunday Delaney and her defence will have to be on top of their game to keep out the dangerous Cork attack in which Fiona O'Driscoll will provide the greatest threat but Una O'Donoghue, Jenny O'Leary and Orla O'Sullivan are all potential match winners.

But the Rebels also know that they will get nothing easy from a Tipp defence bustling with skill and experience. Una O'Dwyer and Ciara Gaynor are as good as any in the game in the central positions with Suzanne Kelly and Claire Madden rock solid in the corners and Sinead Nealon and Therese Brophy hard tackling wing backs.

Madden was the only injury concern in the lead-up to the game but she has now recovered from a dead leg and will be keen to put one over her new club team mates in Cork and add another All Ireland medal to the county medal she won earlier this year with Fr. O'Neill's in the Cork championship.

Midfield will be a crucial area and Tipp should have the edge with Emily Hayden getting the nod over her Cashel clubmate Paula Bultin to partner the industrious Angie McDermott.

Fiona O'Driscoll may be Cork's dangerwoman upfront but Tipp boast the game's ultimate goal machine in Deirdre Hughes and the Toomevara player needs the merest sight of an opponents goal to threaten scores. A feature of Hughes' performance is her understanding with inside line colleagues Joanne Ryan and Eimear McDonnell and if they get into a flow they it means real danger for Cork.

TIPPERARY TEAM		
Jovita Delaney (Cashel)	Una O'Dwyer (Cashel, capt)	Claire Madden (Fr. O'Neill's)
Suzanne Kelly (Toomevara)	Ciara Gaynor (Kilmanagh)	Therese Brophy (Burgess)
Sinead Nealon (Burgess)	Emily Hayden (Cashel)	Angie McDermott (Anacarty)
Noelle Kennedy (Toomevara)	Claire Grogan (Cashel)	Philly Fogarty (Cashel)
Deirdre Hughes (Toomevara)	Joanne Ryan (Drom/Inch)	Eimear McDonnell (Burgess)

Captain, Una a key figure in defence

Twelve months ago Una O'Dwyer was hoping to follow in the footsteps of Meadhbh Stokes, Jovita Delaney and Emily Hayden and return to Cashel proudly holding the O'Duffy Cup.

It would have been an historic achievement to become the fourth Cashel club member to captain Tipp to successive All Ireland titles but the dream died on the Croke Park pitch.

The players still received a huge welcome back to the City of the Kings but one important piece of silverware was missing - the cup was heading on another sixty or so miles to Cork.

Now third level student Una has the opportunity to make up for last year's disappointment and captain Tipperary to All Ireland glory. She has retained the captain's armband for this season and will once again lead the side out at Croke Park.

But Una's focus in the lead-up to the final is on her own performance and that of the team and not on any added responsibility that goes with the captain's job.

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to captain the side again. We were gutted last year and are just pleased to get back again and have another go at Cork.

"But as captain I don't really have any extra responsibility because the girls speak up themselves and everyone says what they have to say. There is no extra pressure on me at all and it's only an honour to be captain", says the Cashel player.

She adds that the team have put the disappointment of last year behind them. "Hopefully we will go one better this time.

We don't really know what went wrong last year but we won't worry about it now. It took us a while but it's forgotten about now".

Sunday is a new game



Team captain Una O'Dwyer hopes to make up for the disappointment of last year's final when Tipp meet Cork on Sunday.

and presents a new challenge for the team. O'Dwyer expects it to be as tough as any the side has encountered.

"I expect it to go down to the 59th or 60th minute before it's decided. It's going to be tough but we are prepared for that and if we are in front at the end we will be happy".

Tipperary and Cork have established themselves at the top two teams in the country and Sunday's meeting will be their fourth major clash in a final in twelve months following last year's All Ireland final and this year's League final and Munster decider.

The league and provincial clashes are the most recent, Cork taking the league crown in Páirc Uí Rinn in April and Tipp winning the Munster title in Portlaoise in June.

However the Tipp captain doesn't believe either game will have a bearing on Sunday.

"In the league final we

were just hoping to get one back on Cork and they were hoping to keep us down. I don't think either team showed much in the Munster final.

"While we were glad to get one over them in Portlaoise we won't be taking too much from either game and we will just be going out to play in an All Ireland final based on what we have done in training", she points out.

As full back on the team Una knows what's facing her on Sunday against one of the most lethal attacks in the game.

She says - "We know they are very good and pose a big threat but hopefully we will be up to the challenge. We saw last year that they got the goals and goals win matches but we have tightened up in that area".

And she adds - "Everyone is in great form and with a bit of luck we can win. Everyone needs a little luck to win and hopefully we will have it".



Two key players in the Tipp line-up: top forward Deirdre Hughes and hard tackling wing back Sinead Nealon.

Ciara keeps Gaynor name to the forefront in Tipperary glory

Thirty years or so after the name Gaynor was associated with hurling artistry in the blue and gold of Tipperary, another wielder of the caman with the same famous surname is now indelibly linked with Tipperary camogie's greatest era.

Len Gaynor's contribution to Tipp hurling was immense and now that of his daughter Ciara's to the county's camogie fortunes is no less.

The Limerick-based Garda has been the pivot around which Tipp's outstanding defence has been built and there are few big games where the centre back doesn't stand out for her enormous workrate, characterised by sterling defensive play and huge clearances to turn defence into attack.

If Tipp are to win on Sunday, prise the O'Duffy Cup out of Cork hands and win their fourth All Ireland crown in five years, then another top drawer performance from Gaynor will be vital to their chances.

However the Kilruane girl is modest about her achievements and self critical of some recent displays. Her many admirers in the game think otherwise.

She was unhappy with her own play in last year's final (she carried a leg injury into the game) and feels the team as a unit didn't perform. Sunday provides the opportunity to make up for that.

"We want to go out and prove ourselves. We didn't get stuck in at all last year. We performed very badly on the day and this year we are just focussing on getting everything right. I think we had lost a little of our hunger last year and we weren't up for it as much as we should have been".

And does she believe things have been corrected for this year's decider?

"The change of management has brought a new hunger back into the team because everyone is now trying to prove themselves. There are also new players on the panel and some of those who were fringe players last year have now come on and there is real competition for places."

"And these players haven't just been playing league games but championship games as well and it adds a great buzz to the team. You are always looking over your shoulder and fighting for your position but it's a bonus for the team to have such good players there."

Gaynor has no doubts about the test facing Tipp on Sunday. "Cork are a big barrier. They are All Ireland champions and they are going to be up for this game. I think they will be more confident now than they were last year".

But Tipperary are also ready for the challenge. "Everyone is ready for it. It's not every day you get to play in Croke Park. We have been training together since February and just looking forward to the game now".

She is pleased with the support the camogie team get in the county and the increased profile of the game in recent years. Very often the camogie girls are the last Tipp team left in championship action and GAA fans throughout the county rally behind them.

But she feels part of this is due to the improved nature of the game itself. "It has improved so much over the last five or six years and more people are beginning to appreciate the game and enjoy it more."

"It is a very skilful and fast game and enjoyable to play. It has come on so much from when it was a twelve aside game to a fifteen aside. It has improved the game so much as we are not now playing with small goals. People might have thought it was a bit of a joke but it is now very much on the up".

No one would dare joke about this team now - and certainly not about Ciara Gaynor's input to it. Dad Len is one of the team's greatest supporters and admirers and he knows a thing or two about what it takes to be a great hurler.

Tipp camogie is fortunate that the genes have passed on from one generation to the next



Centre half back Ciara Gaynor is one of Tipperary's most consistent performers on the big stage.



Four of Tipperary's most influential players in Sunday's All Ireland final - Suzanne Kelly, Eimear McDonnell, Angie McDermott and Joanne Ryan.



Hoping to guide Tipp to All Ireland glory are selectors Conor Ryan and Marian Graham with team manager Raymie Ryan.

A clean sheet is Jovita's aim

Last year's All Ireland final wasn't a happy experience for Tipperary goalkeeper Jovita Delaney. Player of the match in the final two years earlier, the Cashel player had to pick the ball out of her net four times against Cork in 2002.

It wasn't her fault, of course, as the Cork attack swung into top gear and ripped the Tipp challenge apart. There was nothing any goalkeeper could have done in the face of such an onslaught.

But keepers don't like to be beaten once, let alone four times, and Delaney wasn't pleased with her own display.

"That wasn't a great performance from me by any standards but we hope to put that right this Sunday. We have a positive attitude and we believe we can do it."

"But Cork are a very good side and it could come down to that bit of luck on the day and hopefully it will be with us", she says.

While the concession of four goals cost Tipp their All Ireland title last year, and with it the dreams of four in a row, a feature of their displays this season has been a very tight defence which has been sel-

dom breached for goals.

Delaney sees that as a positive development and a continuation of the form will be vital in Croke Park this Sunday. But the Kerry-based teacher is one of the game's great custodians and she provides a key last line of defence.

Does she think Tipp can reverse last year's result this Sunday. "The mood is great and everyone is buzzing. Having lost the title last year the hunger is there again now to win it back and hopefully we can do it", she remarks.



Goalkeeper Jovita Delaney will be hoping to deny the Cork attack in the big game.

The Tynan sisters – marvellous camogie ambassadors

Maolmuire Tynan and her sister Siobhan, great camogie exponents from the Drom-Inch club, have great memories of their camogie days, memories elicited in interview by LIAM HOGAN. Maolmuire is a political journalist in Dublin and Siobhan has taken up residence in Burgess parish, as wife of hurling stalwart J.P. McDonnell.

MAOLMUIRE

Drom Inch were playing in the Kilmacud seven a side when Maolmuire Tynan got struck over the right eye and had to be taken to Saint Vincent's hospital which was just down the road from Stillorgan. In those days you did not have to wait for hours in casualty to be stitched. She was stitched up very rapidly and dashed back up the dual carriageway to Stillorgan where the Sevens was played. The final had started at this stage and her late father was waiting on the sideline with her helmet and hurley in his hand. "He gave me the helmet and hurley and instructed me go in and score a goal," said Maolmuire. "We won the game."

This was a measure of how much the parish of Drom-Inch and the people it represented meant to Maolmuire Tynan. She began her hurling career there and despite her work commitments in Dublin she continued to play with the club until she retired in 1987. She joined her sister Siobhan to play a prominent part in Tipperary camogie. She won a Munster and National League medal in '77 and two years later she played in her first and only All-Ireland final losing to Antrim. She played for five more years with her county and then she decided to retire due to work commitments.

The joy has never left Maolmuire and twenty years after losing an All-Ireland she

witnessed Tipp winning in 1999 in Croke Park. All of the memories returned.

"It was hard to stop the flow of tears. It brought back wonderful memories. It is an indescribable sense of excitement to walk out on Croke Park and play for your county and in your county colours."

Playing in your club colours meant a lot too and those tears of joy all stemmed from the influence of her parents Toby and Siobhan who gave great encouragement to Maolmuire and to her three sisters as well.

Maolmuire's career began in good hurling country, in a townland called Rathmoy near Borrisoleigh where her parents farmed. They went to school in Borrisoleigh. There were four girls in the family and it was pretty much a doll free house, the first toy being a hurley. From time to time they played hurling with their cousins the Tynans and the Delaneys who were best friends. Playing was as natural as eating one's dinner.

There was no camogie team in Borris at the time and even though they were Borrisoleigh girls they decided to play in Drom parish where they had strong family links and friendships.

When Maolmuire was just nine, she played her first senior game with Drom-Inch. Drom were short a goalkeeper and Maolmuire was asked to play in the goal. After a lot of persuasion she agreed but there

was one concession. Her father Toby would have to be allowed to stand next to the goal post. She had to wait a number of years for her next game with the club senior team.

"I joined the senior team at the age of sixteen and then I joined the Tipp team from about the age of eighteen." One year later Tipp won their first national title. It was the inaugural league as Tipp defeated Wexford in Thurles to become the first winners of the A.I.B. cup. The league win was terrific. The game was played in Semple Stadium and I always remember the day very well. It was a beautiful sunny evening and we were underwhelmed by the size of the crowd because of the size of the stadium. The little band of followers were small in comparison," said Maolmuire.

Timmy Delaney was the Tipp coach at the time. Under his guidance Tipp reached the All-Ireland final against Antrim in '79. "Tipp should have won that day. We were the better team and Timmy had prepared us very well but we did not jell on the day. Antrim had a terrific goalkeeper," declared Maolmuire.

Maolmuire was a free lance reporter with the Irish Press at the time. So after Tipp had lost to Antrim, Maolmuire had to rush back to her office to write a colour piece on the game. "I walked down O Connell Street with my kit while the rest of the players went to the after match dinner in Malahide.

Afterwards I got a taxi to rejoin some very forlorn team mates that night."

Tipp made it to the All-Ireland in 1984 when they played Dublin. However Maolmuire was not on the team then. "My camogie career was over at that stage. At the time I was a sports feature writer with the Irish Press and I worked on a Saturday night shift until 3.00 am Sunday morning or until the last edition of the paper went out. It was impossible to play a game the next day," said Maolmuire.

Maolmuire continued to play with Drom-Inch until 1987, usually at left wing forward. Despite the disappointments there were some good times too. She recalls great players she played with on the county team. "Monica Butler was a great player and so was Deirdre Lane who is now clerk of the Seanad. Maura Hackett was a tenacious player and there was the stylish Jennifer English, Rosie Ryan and Mona Quigley."

Yet it could have been different if the Tynan sisters decided not to play camogie. At the time, physical sport was deemed unladylike, especially by the nuns. But there was no way Toby and Siobhan Tynan, Maolmuire, would even think of denying their daughters the privilege of playing any sport they liked, physical or otherwise. That they chose camogie made it easy for Toby and Siobhan. Sure, in the heart

of Borrisoleigh and Drom there could be nothing else.

"In the Ireland of the seventies when the marriage bar was still in vogue, it was frowned upon to play physical games. But my father and mother encouraged us to play because it was important for our development. There was a very strong feeling of

representing your community in an energetic and positive way, and we in turn as individuals got great warmth and support from the community and it made us proud when we performed well."

Maolmuire looks ahead to next Sunday's All-Ireland against Cork and she has every

confidence in the team. "Tipp have tremendous energy and commitment and a very high level of fitness. Fiona O Driscoll seems to represent the big danger but I think if Tipp can control the supply to her it will come very much in Tipp's favour."

SIOBHAN

A former player with Drom and Tipperary, Siobhan McDonnell finished her camogie career with Burgess. The club was formed in 1986 and with her help a very young team won both a County Junior and County Intermediate championship. The team went from strength to strength but Siobhan decided to retire.

But Siobhan can look back with pride on her career which began with Drom before joining the Tipp senior team while she was doing the Leaving Certificate. She was known as Siobhan Tynan then. "I was playing with the Tipp Juniors at the time when I was brought on to the panel. Deirdre Lane and myself came on together and I remember the two of us doing the Leaving and comparing notes at the time. The team was very well established at that stage with many seasoned players. There was Bridie Conroy, Josephine Marshall and Monica Butler who was Monica Ryan at the time. Monica had won an All-Ireland Club medal with St Patrick's Ballingarry and we thought that these players were so established we felt we were

too young and we would have no chance of getting on the team" said Siobhan.

Her first time with the Tipp panel was when Paddy Doyle was the manager. It was the days of the 12 a side when Siobhan played at centre back. Later on her sister Maolmuire joined the team playing at left wing forward. They formed a great understanding.

Siobhan played in two All-Ireland finals, losing both. The first was against Antrim in '79 and five years later it was the turn of Dublin to inflict defeat.

Siobhan feels that that they should have made the breakthrough then. "We could not crack it but looking back I am sure we should have beaten Antrim in '79," declared Siobhan.

Siobhan won two Munster medals in 1969 and '77.

Around the '69 period Kitty O Flaherty and Mairead Hyland were mentors with the team. Kitty was the mother of former Tipp footballer and selector Colm O Flaherty while Mairead Hyland was married

to Tom Hyland who was a journalist with the Clonmel Nationalist.

At the time Roscrea were the strong club in North Tipperary. They had well known players like Margo Loughnane Kathleen Downes, Bernie Moloney a sister of Donie who hurled with Roscrea.

Siobhan's won four county senior medals in a row with Drom Inch 74, 75, 76, and 77.

Looking ahead to the All-Ireland Siobhan did not hesitate in declaring that Tipp would win on Sunday. "I think Tipp learned from last year. Fiona O Driscoll is the girl to mark and Tipp have to keep her under control which I think they will. I really do think Tipp will win. Last year was difficult to win because a team gets to the stage when something will go wrong and the luck will turn against you. Cork got the vital goals so Tipp will have to be on their toes twice as much and the complacency that came with winning three in a row, will be gone," said Siobhan.



The Tynan sisters – Siobhan (left) and Maolmuire (right).



STEPHANIE DUNLEA: The Cork captain will be hoping to lead her Cork team-mates past the winning post this Sunday.

Picture: Gavin Browne

Match is only one part of the final day experience

WE CAN predict all we want, but no one can tell us for definite who is going to win tomorrow's All-Ireland camogie final.

Who would have anticipated that DJ Carey and Eddie Brennan would remain scoreless and yet Kilkenny would have won last weekend's hurling decider?

Who would have envisaged Cork playing so poorly in one half, coming back and going one point up in the second, and still no Liam McCarthy cup going Leaside?

So, for the moment we will skip the forecast because nobody knows. Not even the players can tell how they are going to react to the giant size stadium that is Croke Park.

They will see it today, empty, but this will in no way prepare them for what lies ahead tomorrow.

No, it is not until the bang on the dressing room door arrives around 4.08pm that you get out there and go it alone.

These days All-Irelands are won by staying level-headed. All the hard work is done by now — the gremlins should not be allowed play on the over-active mind.

There's no point in wondering: "Have I done enough? Will I be able to move when the sliotar is thrown in? Will I score four or five points or will I score anything at all?"

At this stage you have to trust in yourself. Got to remind yourself of how much time, ef-



Therese O'Callaghan

fort, sweat, tears and pain has been exhausted for this one hour of glory.

The mindset must be right and hypnotised to the extent that you believe you are invincible.

You can be sure if the hurlers last week had another opportunity they would hold a different way of thinking. They would dearly love to go back to Dublin 3 and start all over again.

How many times do you traipse off a field just wondering why that game passed you by?

Players should be very focused at this stage and not be diverted by the hype that will greet them today as they depart from Kent station or the many fans who will turn up to see them off.

The media interrogation should be over; now is the time to relax and enjoy the build-up to the game.

The Red Cow Inn will host the Cork team over the weekend and once they land there later on this afternoon rooms will be sorted out, there will be a bite to eat and then an informal team talk.

Suddenly, tomorrow is here. The first job is to pull the curtains and check the weather.

Players will discuss how they slept, how they are feeling and offer advice to each other if needed.

Breakfast will be non-conform. To some it will be like any other morning with the full Irish, however, for others there'll be none.

Then there will be a puck around followed by a light lunch, before it is time to get on the coach and pull out for the Big Match.

It is now that all the other factors will come into play. The girls will watch a bit of the junior game and then Pa Finn will tell his charges it is time to go.

They tog out, there will be a path worn to the bathroom while the last of the discussions take place... and then, the call to get ready is delivered.

They will file behind Stephanie Dunlea and then race on to the pitch amidst the cries and shouts of fanatical supporters. This is the first head-wrecking moment.

There will be sounds of hooters, adrenal-in-rushing music bellowing over the grounds, and masses of flags around the stadium.

How every woman is feeling at this stage will determine her state of play. It is important to be cool, calm and again that word 'focused' must never be too far from your thoughts. The sliotar is fired in.

Now the predictions can start. We will know from the first touch of every girl how

her afternoon is going to turn out.

Last year the day belonged to Fiona O'Driscoll. What are the chances of a repeat performance? Ger Casey was superb in goals. The Rebel defence were rock-solid.

The same team is back again with only one change — Denise Cronin is in at full-back in place of the retired Eithne Duggan.

Midfield will be vital.

The old sliotar will be in use tomorrow so there will be plenty of action around the centre of the field and there should no problem controlling play.

A lot will hinge on how Rachel Moloney and Vivienne Harris survive the strength of Angie McDermott and Emily Hayden.

Emer Dillon, Caoimhe Harrington and Fiona O'Driscoll have been delivering the goods all year up front.

No doubt Orla O'Sullivan, Una O'Donoghue and Jennifer O'Leary will be keen to leave their impressions.

Tipperary's defence was caught cold last year — to this day they despair at leaving the red and white in for those important goals.

Cork are going for two in a row. Tipperary, after a year out, are seeking their fourth title. It is anybody's call.

Meanwhile, tickets will be on sale from 1.30pm tomorrow outside Croke Park. Cabins will be open at Quinn's pub on Drumcondra Road and Gill's corner at the junction of North Circular Road and Jones' Road.

Don't miss our two pages of coverage of the camogie final in Monday's Sport Special

Tipp to triumph in familiar battle

Cork may be reigning All Ireland and league champions, but they will find the going tough today

David Mervyn

CHANCES are this could well be the last occasion that the camogie association holds their showpiece finals on a single September day as moves are afoot to play the 2004 decider, in the sport's centenary year, as a crowd-pulling curtain-raiser to next autumn's hurling final. Whether that comes to fruition or not, it's high on certain that one of this Munster pairing will be involved. Tipperary, contesting their fifth consecutive final this afternoon and Cork, last season's All-Ireland winners, are the benchmark to which the chasing pack must attain.

The momentum in both sides' play this year has seemed to mirror the game's progression off the field with the association appointing a new president and financial manager.

Three-in-a-row champions Tipperary began their ascent in 1999, and fell at the last hurdle in 2002 to an Una O'Donoghue-captained Cork side, in a 1-9 to 4-9 defeat. Manager Michael Cleary

watched his side hit just three second-half points that day, and he has since departed from the Premier panel. Cashel's Raymie Ryan, a guiding light on the club scene, has been at the helm since December 30th when 23 of last year's panel arrived at the team's first meeting.

Since then, league wins over Dublin, Antrim and Kilkenny have bolstered the side, as well as an inspired six-point win over today's opponents in June's Munster final. That game was not part of a grouped All-Ireland championship and both sides have progressed since.

In their previous tussles it's been goals that have decided the outcome and look to Tipp's free-scoring corner-forward Eimear McDonnell and Cork's pint-sized assassin Fiona O'Driscoll, who scored three in last year's decider, to test the goalkeepers at every chance.

Ballymacoda's O'Driscoll, competing in her ninth All-Ireland final, forms a formidable partnership with Caoimhe Harrington and Orla O'Sullivan in the Cork



Cork's Una O'Donoghue and Tipperary's Claire Madden

attack, while Tipperary's McDonnell and veteran Deirdre Hughes - playing in her 14th season - are both prolific goal scorers.

It's there the game could be won, and Cork's defensive unit will need to be quick to clear danger if they are to provide a foundation for a Rebel win. The Cork starting 15 has hardly been tampered with this season, and 13 of last year's All-Ireland line-

up will take to the field today. In their three-game run to the final they have notched 7-55, Galway conceding 4-16 in the semi-final, proving that they are well able to take their scores.

If omens count for anything, much relevance will be given to the fact that in their first meeting this year - the league final last May - Tipperary lost by four points. In 1999 when the blue and

amber claimed the All-Ireland title, they also lost the league final to Cork. Two years later, when Cashel's Emily Hayden lifted the O'Duffy Cup for the county's third straight win, they also lost an early summer league final to the Rebels.

Hayden has formed a new partnership at midfield with Cappawhite's Angie McDermott and they will work hard to stem Cork's excellent Vivienne Harris in the centre of the pitch.

Fate could eventually play its part as both sets of players are very familiar which each other. Tipperary's Una O'Dwyer captained UCC to Ashbourne Cup honours in February with McDonnell and Lorraine Burke in tow. Also on that side were Cork's Rachel Moloney and Joanne O'Callaghan. Twenty-two year-old Tipp star McDonnell, a niece of Cork footballing legend Billy Morgan, also faced off against her twin sister who played for UCD that day.

One other aspect which could swing the tie in Tipperary's favour is the failure of Tommevara and Cashel,

strongholds of the Premier game providing 14 players to the county panel, to progress in their county championship - minnows Drom Inch capturing their first county title in twenty-six years. With disappointment fresh in their minds, they are certain to want to rectify a docile summer.

Cork, with 20 All Irelands behind them, might have their hunger questioned by a re-moulded Tipp side who will argue that had it not been for a certain disallowed goal in last year's decider, this afternoon might see them going for their fifth straight O'Duffy Cup. Let the Tipp bandwagon resume its roll.

TIPPERARY: J. Delaney, S. Kelly, U. O'Dwyer, C. Madden, S. Nealon, C. Gaynor, T. Brophy, E. Hayden, A. McDermott, N. Kennedy, C. Grogan, P. Fogarty, D. Hughes, J. Ryan, E. McDonnell.
CORK: G. Casey, J. O'Callaghan, D. Cronin, S. Dunlea, P. O'Connor, M. O'Connor, G. O'Connor, R. Moloney, V. Harris, U. O'Donoghue, E. Dillon, J. O'Leary, O. O'Sullivan, C. Harrington, F. O'Driscoll.

ALL IRELAND CAMOGIE FINAL
CORK v TIPPERARY
Croke Park, 4.30
Referee: A. Derham (Dublin)

Cork have more in reserve

Tipperary v Cork (senior)
Croke Park, Sunday, 4.30
On TV: Network 2

PAT ROCHE

Tomorrow's All-Ireland senior and junior camogie finals at Croke Park provide the elite players from Tipperary, Cork, Clare and Galway with the opportunity to showcase the code while battling for the game's ultimate rewards.

The senior rematch of last year's decider between champions Cork and Tipperary will alone guarantee the trend of increasing attendances will be maintained.

Sinead Nealon and Ciara Gaynor, daughters of former Tipperary hurling heroes Donie and Len, are mainstays of the Tipperary defence, along with Therese Brophy. Cork's Pa Finn and Tipperary's Raymie Ryan are the respective managers.

Anne Marie Hayes figures at full forward on a Galway side in search of a second junior title in five years. But her involvement and that of her brother, David, in the All-Ireland under 21 hurling

final in Thurles has caused a split in family loyalties. Anne Marie's mother will go to Croke Park while David's father will be in Thurles. Their uncle Conor Hayes, the Galway manager, is discretely looking at his options.

Clare will be trying for their first junior title since 1986 but are forced to line out in tomorrow's curtain-raiser (2.45) without inspirational midfielder Moira McMahon who broke a wrist while assisting her club Newmarket in the Munster club championship.

The majority of the Galway side are not long out of minor ranks and may have too much to do against a more settled Clare outfit.

Cork and Tipperary both notched up huge tallies en route to tomorrow's senior decider via the new League structure. Before reaching the semi-finals Cork amassed a total of 6-52 while conceding only 1-12 in their dismissals of Galway, Antrim, and Kilkenny.

Tipperary, with much the same team that was beaten in last year's final, crushed Wexford, Limerick, and Dublin to the aggregate tune of 10-35 to 5-14.

Cork steamrolled their way to



Angie McDermott: figures in Tipperary's midfield tomorrow.

a 4-16 to 0-3 semi-final win over Galway, while Tipp were every bit as impressive in beating Limerick by 4-16 to 0-10.

Tomorrow's encounter is hardly likely to produce such one-sided fare. There will be no let up, and much will depend on which ever side can adapt best to the heat of the battle.

Cork will be hoping a number of enforced changes from last years winning side will hold up in their first major test of the year. Full back Eithne Duggan and half forward Lynda Mellerick retired after last year's final. Denise Cronin - seeking a sixth All-Ire-

land medal - is at full back while last year's captain, Una O'Donoghue, has been lending her experience to the half forward line. Orla O'Sullivan, a substitute last year, figures at right corner forward.

Suzanne Kelly, a midfielder last year, now operates at right corner back on the Tipperary side. Emily Hayden, introduced as a substitute in the semi-final, retains her place.

Tipperary's half backs could have a major influence on the outcome but given the prospect of a tight encounter Cork may have more reason to feel confident because of their strength in depth. Briege Corkery, Ciara Healy and Sarah Hayes give their bench an impressive appearance.

SENIOR
TIPPERARY: J. Delaney, S. Kelly, U. O'Dwyer, C. Madden, S. Nealon, C. Gaynor, T. Brophy, E. Hayden, A. McDermott, N. Kennedy, C. Grogan, P. Fogarty, D. Hughes, J. Ryan, E. McDonnell.
CORK: G. Casey, J. O'Callaghan, D. Cronin, S. Dunlea, P. O'Connor, M. O'Connor, G. O'Connor, R. Moloney, V. Harris, U. O'Donoghue, E. Dillon, J. O'Leary, O. O'Sullivan, C. Harrington, F. O'Driscoll.

JUNIOR
CLARE: P. O'Grady, J. Scanlon, D. Lynch, Cathriona McMahon, M. O'Looney, N. Connors, M. Whelan, L. Linsane, D. Corcoran, A. Ryan, D. Murphy, A. Keane, Clare McMahon, C. O'Loughlin, C. Connamore.

GALWAY: S. Eames, L. Flynn, S. Cahalan, N. Lawless, N. Gavin, R. O'Connor, S. Keane, C. Kelly, C. Glennon, B. Hanny, C. Bowes, M. Flanagan, B. Keates, A. Hayes, E. Kilkelly.



Mary O'Connor: !



'We lost the first round of the senior championship — and that's it for the year. I have no camogie apart from the county team. All my friends are long finished.'

'somebody', a junior hurler who has a date with Grenagh now that Tom Kenny's season with Cork has run its course. "He's delighted to be in contention in September," quips Stephanie.

The haphazard nature of club camogie is another issue that bothers Stephanie. "If you're under 16 you have plenty of matches. If you're 16 or 18, you're probably on the senior team as well, but my sister came home after three years in England, started training and we lost the first round of the senior championship — and that's it for the year. I have football, but no camogie apart from the county team.

"Under 21 would help people stay at it. They need to start the season earlier and have a look at the League or play the Championship on a league basis, as happens in the All-Ireland championship, so that every county gets three matches."

"We play our championship on a league basis," says Una, "but we haven't as many senior teams as Cork."

"All the friends I grew up with are long finished because there are not enough games to keep them interested," says Stephanie. "But lots of clubs are being set up — underage is very strong in Cork — and I hope that is the way it is and keeps going."

CORK and Tipp are probably the oldest rivals in the hurling world, but, as you can see, there was a sense of unity between the camogie captains as they debated the issues. On another matter they also agreed, a Munster camogie medal doesn't have the same attraction as a Munster hurling medal.

"We've played each other twice this year, in the League final and the Munster final," says Una. "The League final, being the first after the All-Ireland, was important. It mattered a lot more and I was disappointed to lose it. Winning the Munster final was not all that important. I wouldn't take half as much from that as from the League final."

Stephanie agrees: "Cork have won Munster so many times that I think at one stage there were two or three medals given out at the one time."

With Raymie Ryan in charge of Tipp and 'Pa' Finn coaching Cork, I wonder if there is any sign of a lady taking charge. While this wouldn't suit the Cork player who admires Raymie's 'lovely legs', Una makes the point that, having hurled at the top level, "they have great knowledge, they have so much more to offer."

"And they treat you as well as the hurlers," chips in Stephanie.

"People see the game on TV and say, 'I didn't know you could do that,'" says Una. "They don't expect it to be as good as it is — and it's getting faster and better every year."

For the Camogie Association, which has its centenary year in 2004, the challenge is to spread the word among the wider sporting audience, and get them hooked — they hope to do it with the current attention-grabbing 'Chicks with Sticks' promotional campaign.

It's one win apiece so far this year, but this is the big one — Croke Park (4.30) and also live on Network 2 — so don't expect anyone to be hoarding the medals for a presentation ceremony.

Rivals on the pitch, but Stephanie Dunlea and Una O'Dwyer were in agreement on most matters relating to camogie. Photo: Michael MacSweeney

Balancing act as game gets better and faster



Having lost their crown to great rivals Cork, Tipperary have a score to settle in today's final, writes **Seán Ryan**

IT was a fairly innocuous question about Cork coach Pat 'Pa' Finn which led to the surprise finding that donor's rights have as much meaning within the Camogie Association as human rights have on Mars.

It was an exploratory question, the kind thrown into the pot to see what comes to the boil, and in the company of Cork captain Stephanie Dunlea and Tipperary captain Una O'Dwyer, there didn't seem any danger to the Camogie Association's reputation as we lingered over lunch in the Lee Room at Jury's Hotel on Cork's Western Road.

However, Stephanie, after outlining how Pa has been in charge for three years and has built up such a good relationship that he even brought his wife on the players' holiday to Lanzarote, then worked up a storm over the fundraising demands on the team.

"We had no money at the start of the year, so we fund-raised to get tracksuits, wet gear and training gear. You only get something when you get to the final. Then O'Neill's give you some gear, and the spon-

sor of the weekend pays for the hotel and meals, and you get a tracksuit, t-shirt and a gear bag."

"We set up a Supporters' Club," chimed in Una, "Michael Cleary, our former coach, was the main man, and they look after the team. But we had hassle with this because the County Board wants to control the money."

"Yes," agreed Stephanie, "an uncle of one of the players made a donation and the County Board took it."

"Our Supporters' Club now will have to call themselves Friends of Tipp Camogie or something. The bottom line is the County Board want money for all the teams whereas the donor wants to reward the team. A couple of our girls are coming from Dublin to training twice a week and surely they deserve expenses, but the County Board won't give them any, and that is where the Supporters' Club money should go."

Last year Una attended Congress, but she won't be able to make her point about donor's rights this year, as she is heading for Australia in November, having graduated

with a BSc in food technology, by coincidence the same degree Stephanie holds. "I might try and play football out there," she says.

"I brought my hurley to Australia and it was robbed at the airport," Stephanie volunteers, prompting visions of some gentleman of the outback complaining, a la Rolf Harris, that his boomerang won't come back. In fact, the theft occurred at Auckland airport on her way home from a nine-month working holiday.

Stephanie comes from a family steeped in All-Ireland medals. It all started with grand-aunt Kate Dunlea, who captained Cork to the 1933 title. Stephanie's father John took up the running in the '60s, winning a junior football medal in '64, and losing an U-21 final the following year. John's daughters Lynn and Stephanie have stolen the limelight since, winning five medals each, although Stephanie admits: "I only played in two finals." Brother Pat nipped in for a junior football medal also in 2001.

Older sister Lynn's career overlapped from '93. "We travelled to training together and shared rooms and fought over the channels," laughs Stephanie. "Last year was my first year without her; the first time not having a designated room partner."

All that time spent together must have given Lynn a good insight into what makes the Cork captain tick, and she will be able to use that knowledge during her TV analysis. So, how does Stephanie think about that?

"I wouldn't be conscious of it. She spoke generally enough last

year although she did mention me once or twice and it sounds weird when you hear your sister talking about you — you cringe a bit. And, of course, I had to put up with a lot of slugging from the other players. 'How much did you pay her to say that?' sort of thing."

As for Una, it's a case of don't mention the war when it comes to last year's final, in which Cork trounced Tipp who were going for the four-in-a-row. "When we were trying to retain it for a second and third year there was huge pressure, but by the fourth year you tell yourself it's not an issue — but it is."

"My own game was a disaster. I thought the first half was grand, but the second half went pear-shaped, the goals were flying in. Maybe it was hunger — Cork were a bit sharper in the second half when it mattered."

Since then, Linda Mellerick and Eithne Duggan have retired, denying Cork two experienced former captains. "They are hard to replace," concedes Stephanie. "We have changed the team several times during the year — and it's still not finalised."

For Una, the year has been a bit of a disaster so far. "After my exams I went for a few pucks, took a toss and came down funny on my shoulder. I have had loads of treatment, but any impact and it goes again, so I stood back altogether and it's come on grand."

Not that it's the first time for Una to suffer for her sport. "I've broken my ankle in school playing soccer and both arms. But it was in primary school — I did it all early and got it over with."

Stephanie had the big one — the cruciate. "I lost a couple of years. I had cartilage and cruciate trouble and kept putting it off, until Christmas '96. For two years after I wasn't the same. It wasn't until '99 that I came back fully."

So what about helmets? "It only takes one belt to get scarred and the last place you want it is on the face," says Stephanie. "So, for the last few years I have been wearing it, although never in training. I prefer the freedom of not having it."

Una has a different view. "I wear it all the time. It's just habit now."

A student who works for her father, Martin, in his butcher's shop in Cashel, Una doesn't have a scheduling problem, but it's different for Stephanie, who is a production supervisor with Amersham pharmaceuticals in Carrigtwohill. She compounds it by playing football as well as camogie.

"I started playing football again last year with Donaghmore. They have loads of titles, and I won a Munster and county with them, and we're into the semi-final of the county this year. Last year I trained three nights a week with both so, with the overlap, that was four or five nights. In work, I was on three days and three nights every second week, so on nights I went to work at 6.0, to training at 6.30, back to work 9.30 till 7.0 am. This year I'm on days, so it's work, training, bed — I'm beginning to miss my days off."

"It's a balancing act, between going out with somebody, work and training." Martin Murphy is the

Team leader Una wants that second chance

By Gerry Slevin

First it was Maedhbh Stokes in 1999, then Jovita Delaney in 2000, followed a year later by Emily Hayden. Three successive All Ireland titles, and all Cashel captains.

Enter 2002, another Cashel lass at the helm, UNA O'DWYER as Tipp seek four in a row.

But somehow it all goes wrong.

Una has been denied the privilege enjoyed by Maedhbh, Jovita and Emily of receiving the O'Duffy Cup, the symbol of senior camogie supremacy.

2003 and the road back is traversed. Leading out the team is the self same Una. A second chance, as it were and, boy, is she not half eager to grasp it!

Described by Cyril Farrell as the best full back in the game, hurling or camogie, Una has been ever present throughout the activities of the past five years and is still a student.

She lives for camogie, she loves the game and when injury kept her on the sideline for a while earlier in the season, there was a certain unease there that made her appreciate all the more what it means to be in the whole of one's health.

Yes, Una is a fiercely determined lady and the disappointment suffered a year ago will not be exorcised until that O'Duffy Cup is safely

clutched in her hand on Sunday evening.

Una sees things as being 'that bit different this year. Raymie has his own style and there is a unity of purpose in the camp, which, hopefully, will see us through'.

She admits to having been disgusted at the way in which they went down a year ago. It wasn't their true form at all and that made it all the harder to take.

The hunger is back, says Una, the determination couldn't be stronger and with the club scene out of the way, there is total dedication to regaining the O'Duffy Cup.

As a student in U.C.C., Una knows only too well what the mood is like Leaside. Still, she tries not to be too concerned with what they can expect from Cork, rather concerning themselves with their own game, their own approach.

"Maybe in the past we concentrated on the opposition too much. Better to look at our own game, do our own thing and forget about the opposition. Hopefully that will be enough to see us through. We need a bit of luck too, doesn't everyone?" says Una, and you know from the way she says it that, luck or no luck, Tipp's full back will be pulling out all the stops to enable Tipp regain that coveted trophy.

The bite is back says Ciara

By Gerry Slevin

When you speak with CIARA GAYNOR you are not always quite sure whether or not she is serious, or in an interview situation, if she is taking your questions seriously.

But that's Ciara, the bright spark, always good for a joke. And yet behind it, her on-field demeanour and behaviour are such as to make one absolutely sure that when the blue and gold jersey is donned, just like father Len, she will give nothing but her absolute best for the cause she loves so dearly.

You can also be sure that when you ask Ciara a question, you will get a blunt answer, no hedging, no excuses, nothing but as she perceives it to be.

Therefore, when my first question to her was, 'are ye going to beat Cork?', without any hesitation whatever her reply was 'yea'.

That matter out of the way I immediately followed up with a one word question 'why?'.

This time, Ciara bursts out laughing and you begin to wonder have you asked the right question. Is there something missing here. Then you feel that you have rendered Ciara Gaynor speechless, and that's not easy to do, as you wait for her reply.

It comes - eventually.

She has just undergone a heavy training session, she is about to set off from the Stadium and as she shuffles her feet, you maybe wonder, if the timing wasn't right. Perhaps, another time, another place would prove more productive.

And then it comes.

"The bite is back", says Ciara, and you now know that you are on the right track.

The bite?

Yes, the bite.

"There is a difference in this year and last year and it all boils down to hunger. I don't agree that looking for four in a row last year was in itself too much to take in. Quite frankly, whether it was two, three or four in a row didn't really matter. It didn't come into it. As I see it we were just that little bit off the hunger. We lacked that even though we didn't realise it ourselves, but you could see it on the day. The bite was gone out of us, but I think it's back again now" says Ciara.

The Munster final win over Cork was something to savour, but at the same time, not a victory to make them lose the run of themselves.

"That win showed that Cork are beatable and that we can

beat them. But, and it is a big but, they weren't at full strength in that match and they weren't up for it as much as we were. But at least we know that if we are up for it, we can put on a performance"

A match winning perform-

ance?

Ciara resumes her bright spark attitude with a soft, 'please God, Gerry' before setting off to take up that other defense role she occupies, that of her membership of An Garda Siochana.



Ciara Gaynor sprints away.



The Cork camogie panel — with Allis Claassen (back row, extreme right) of Colour Catcher, team sponsors — as they prepare for Sunday's All-Ireland final.

Pics: Patrick Casey



1

Jovita Delaney

Goalkeeper in her 5th successive final. Injury sustained in a car crash kept the Cashel lass on the side line throughout the league but her return to championship action has had a steadying influence on those in front of her. Player of the Year in 2000.

Jovita captained the winning team of 2001 and is a PE teacher by profession.



2

Suzanne Kelly

A teacher and a versatile player from the Toomevara club with All Ireland medals in senior (3), Intermediate and minor as well as colleges, senior and junior. Drifts between corner back and mid field.



3

Una O'Dwyer

Team captain for the second successive season, this Cashel club member as a UCC student is well acquainted with several Cork players. All Ireland medals in all grades. Missed out on early championship rounds through injury.



4

Claire Madden

Won her three senior All Ireland medals when father Jim was a selector. Married since last year's final and to a Cork man! This Portroe native won a Cork county championship medal this year with Fr O'Neill's. Claire is in IT with Pfizer.



5

Sinead Nealon

From the Burgess club, Sinead, daughter of Donie with a Cork mother Kitty, captained Tipp in their first ever All Ireland success (minors) in 1990. That success led to All Ireland medals in junior, intermediate and senior grades. Sinead is a Project Manager at Waterford I.T.



6

Ciara Gaynor

Player of the Year in 2001, Ciara, from Kilruane and daughter of Len is a member of An Garda Siochana. Along with All Ireland successes in minor, intermediate and senior, she is a dual All Ireland colleges medallist (senior and junior) with St Mary's Nenagh.



7

Therese Brophy

A Burgess club player and with a Cork father, Therese is a teacher. Her first senior All Ireland medal in 1999 was won at centre forward. She moved back to left half back after that and with great success.

Therese also has intermediate and minor All Ireland medals.



8

Emily Hayden

Captain of the 2001 All Ireland winning side, Emily, from Cashel, came on to the Tipp minor panel when only twelve years old and has All Ireland medals in senior, intermediate and minor grades.



Paula Ryan



Sheena Howard



Paula Bulfin



Trish O'Halloran



Lorraine Bourke



Louise Young



9

Angie McDermott

Played in the junior final in '98 and then made the senior team for the following two seasons before taking off for Australia for a year, returning for last year's campaign. Angie from the Eire Og Annacarty club, and an accountant, is also a member of the Tipperary junior ladies football team.



10

Noelle Kennedy

From the Toomevara club, Noelle had the distinction of captaining St Mary's, Nenagh to All Ireland senior colleges success in 1994. An employee of Procter & Gamble in Nenagh, her mementos also include senior, intermediate and junior inter country All Ireland medals.



11

Claire Grogan

At 14 years, she burst on the scene to tremendous effect in 2000, and was the youngest player to win a senior medal. A student, Claire from the Cashel club is daughter of former Tipp hurler John.



12

Philly Fogarty

A sub in '99 and a regular since, Philly from Cashel is a student, and in her seventh season with the team has three senior medals.



13

Deirdre Hughes

With Jovita Delaney and Claire Madden, the longest serving member of the team. Deirdre from Toomevara was Player of the Year in 1999. She is a sales assistant with A Sportsman's Dream in Nenagh and along with three senior all Ireland medals, has similar souvenirs from the intermediate and junior grades.



14

Joanne Ryan

From the recently crowned county champions club, Drom-Inch, Joanne, a student came on the inter county scene in 2001 and has been there since, winning All Ireland medals in 2001 and 2002.



15

Eimear McDonnell

Yet another Burgess player, Eimear is a medical student. Her mother Mary hails from, Cork and is sister of former Cork football All Star goalkeeper and team manager, Billy Morgan. On the day she won her third all Ireland medal in 2001, her twin sister Deirdre was a member of the victorious Tipp junior side.



Aine Mulcahy



Helen Breen



Michelle Shortt



Trish Ryan



Niamh Connolly



Maedhbh Corcoran



Danielle O'Connell

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael



Cluichí Ceannais na hÉireann Sa Chamógaíocht, 2003

Clár Oifigiúil



Foras na Gaeilge

Síle de Bhailís
Ardstiúrthóir

Teachtaireacht ón gCathaoirleach, Foras na Gaeilge



Tá áthas orm fáilte a chur romhaibh ar fad go dtí Craobh Sinsear Camógaíochta na hÉireann 2003. Tugann sé sásamh ar leith dom go bhfuil Foras na Gaeilge ag déanamh urraíochta ar an gcomórtas arís i mbliana, don cheathrú bliain as a chéile. Tá Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael ar cheann de na heagraíochtaí spóirt is mó sa tír agus tá áthas orainn i bhForas na Gaeilge go bhfuil muid in ann tacaíocht a thabhairt do Chumann a bhfuil breis is 84,000 ball acu ó cheann ceann an oileáin seo.

Every year I am amazed by the skill and determination displayed by all of the teams in pursuit of their goal. Here today Cork and Tipperary in the senior match and Clare and Galway will go head to head to decide this year's champions, but although there has to be a winner (or a replay) there are no real losers. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone involved, from the players and managers to the back room staff and all involved in the organisation of this year's championship on a job well done.

Mar sin, tá súil agam agus táim cinnte gur bhain sibh taitneamh as cluichi agus imeachtaí na bliana seo, agus thar ceann Fhoras na Gaeilge, guim gach rath ar fhoirne Chorcaí, Thiobraid Árann, An Chláir agus na Gallimhe inniu agus ar an gCumann agus ar na foirne ar fad don bhliain seo chugainn, bliain an chéid.

Máiréad Uí Mháirtín

Cathaoirleach Fhoras na Gaeilge



Na Réiteoirí

Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear

Áine Derham, Áth Cliath.

Don seachtú uair atá Áine i bhfeighil na feadóige ag Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear. As well as six previous Senior All-Ireland Championship Finals, Áine has refereed at all levels of the Association from Club competition within Áth Cliath to the Finals of all of our All-Ireland competitions.

Imrionn sí a cuid camógaíochta le Cumann Celtic Faughs, Áth Cliath.

Áine is a former Cisteoir of Coiste Átha Cliath and gives her time to the Referee Development Programme.

Ionadaí: Úna Ní Chearnaigh, Ardmhacha.

Na Maoir Chúil

Breanda de Creag
Gráinne de Burca
Catriona Ní Chaoineáin
Val Ní Dhonnchadha
(Áth Cliath)

Na Maoir Líne

Úna Ní Chearnaigh, Ardmhacha
Eibhlín Uí Leathlobhair, Iarmhíche

Na Maoir Bhreise

Eibhlín Ní Amail, An Dún
Nóilín Ní Chuirmeacháin, An Ghailimh

Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear

Éamonn de Brún, Tiobraid Árann.

Is í seo an chéad uair d'Éamonn bheith i gceannas ar Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear. Although in charge of a Final in Páirc an Chrócaigh for the first time, Éamonn was stand-by referee and line-umpire for the 2002 Final. Bhi Cluiche Ceannais na Mionúr agus na gClub faoina chúram chomh maith anuraidh.

He has officiated within his county and province and at national level.

Éamonn also refereed the Foras na Gaeilge Senior semi-final between Corcaigh agus An Ghailimh this year.

Ionadaí: Liam Mac Daibhéid, Iarmhíche.

Na Maoir Chúil

Seán Ó Rian
Cristóir Ó Rian
Seán Ó Cearuill
Liam de Fuitleigh
(Tiobraid Árann)

Na Maoir Líne

Liam Mac Daibhéid, Iarmhíche
Rita Mhic Craith, Iarmhíche

Na Maoir Bhreise

Róis Máire Uí Chéileachar, Lúimneach
Murchadha Ó Conraoi, Portlárge

Teachtaireacht ón Uachtarán



Miriam Uí Cheallacháin

So the scene is set for two exciting games of camogie from players who have sacrificed much to attain this level and thus ensure that above all else the game of camogie will be the winner.

Our game as a team sport of Gaelic tradition is without equal and has all the ingredients to continue to maintain its position as the largest female sporting organisation in Ireland. The skills acquired, the friendships developed, the striving for success, the bonding of communities, the winning, the losing, the accolades and moments of sheer joy can all be played out in a game of camogie. I have no doubt that today's games will contain these ingredients of enjoyment. To match referees, umpires and other officials may I extend the association's gratitude for your valuable services and wish you well in your duties. To supporters, I extend a particular welcome and trust you will enjoy the days events in this fine Stadium.

Whilst the main focus of the day's programme is the Junior and Senior championship finals there are other attractions which involve the players of the future and the players who entertained us on this stage in years past. The Jubilee team - Corcaigh 1978 - will be hoping to have a double reason to celebrate and some of the members of the panel have travelled from the States for the occasion. Is mór again é fáilte a chur rompu agus déanaim comhghairdeachas ó chroí leo.

To our young players of Cumann na mBunscol, Áth Cliath, a céad míle fáilte. I hope you will return to Croke Park in the not so distant future as competitors in the All Ireland finals. Bulochas ó chroí le múinteoirí san ardhathair.

Ar bhur son, ba mhaith liom bulochas a ghabháil le Foras na Gaeilge as ucht a chuid urraíochta ar Chraobhchomórtas na Sinsear. Cuirim fáilte le muintir na heagraíochta a bheith linn inniu. Bulochas freisin le Cumann Luthchleas Gael as ucht a gcuidealachta dúinn i gconal, go háirithe An tUachtarán, An tArdstiúrthóir, Bainisteoir an Staid agus foireann Pháirc an Chrócaigh who work closely with the officers of our association. We are particularly grateful to Seán Ó Ceallaigh and the Central Council of the GAA for their commitment to our centenary celebrations in the form of a significant financial contribution, a milestone that we intend to mark in style and herald the way forward into a new century.

I wish to extend our appreciation to the Media, Print, and Photographic, Radio and TV personnel for the all-important coverage of our games.

To the many mentors and officials who give of their time to the game and also to those who volunteer their services in a variety of capacities in the stadium to day our heartfelt thanks.

Tá súil agam go mbaineann sibh go léir suilt as imeachtaí an lae.

Miriam Uí Cheallacháin
Uachtarán

Dó is
seachto
Cluiche
Ceannais

Craobhchomórtas na Síneair 1932 - 2002

Cluiche Ceannais na Síneair, 2003
faoi urraíocht ag
Fóras na Gaeilge

With seventy one Finals played to date, Corcaigh and Tiobraid Árann have met only twice in the All-Ireland Senior Championship Final, those of 2000 and 2002. Muintir Thiobraid Árann a bhí chun tosaigh i 2000 ach bualadh bob ortha ag Corcaigh anuraidh.



Corn Ua Dubhthaigh

Tiobraid Árann waited fifty years from its first All-Ireland Final appearance in 1949 to win, on its eighth attempt, Corn Ua Dubhthaigh for the first time. Ar éigin a bhíodar sásta scarúint leis an gCom ó 1999 i leith, áfach. Tiobraid Árann became great and talented three-in-a-row champions before giving way to Corcaigh last year. This is now the county's twelfth Final appearance.

Corcaigh, on the other hand, is contesting its 36th Final, having won its first in 1934 and having completed the first ever three-in-a-row between 1934 and 1936.

The Leesiders captured their twentieth title in 2002.

Go raibh sár-chluiche ann idir na comharsain agus sean-chairde seo.

Fóras na Gaeilge - Craobhchomórtas na Síneair 2003
All-Ireland Senior Championship - Crannchur Comhoscailte (Open Draw)

Déanamh nua a bhí ar an gCraobhchomórtas i mbliana. The Senior Championship was played on a League basis for the first time, giving us additional matches and adding extra flavour to the competition.

Corcaigh 4-19	An Ghaillimh 0-04	Tiobraid Árann 5-07	Loch Garman 4-03
Corcaigh 3-13	Aontroim 0-03	Tiobraid Árann 3-12	Luimneach 1-09
Corcaigh 1-20	Cill Chainnigh 1-05	Tiobraid Árann 5-16	Áth Cliath 0-02
na Cluichí Leath-Cheannais		Corcaigh 4-16	An Ghaillimh 0-03
		Tiobraid Árann 4-16	Luimneach 0-10
An t-Iomlán		Tiobraid Árann 17 - 51	
		Corcaigh 12 - 68	

Imreoirí chun tosaigh Senior Top Scorers, 2003

The Top
Scorers

33 points

Eibhlín Ní Bhriain
Eileen Ó'Brien
Luimneach

2 - 27

from the

Fóras na
Gaeilge

Championship

22 points

Eimhear Nic Domhnaill
Eimear Mc Donnell
Tiobraid Árann

5 - 07

21 points

Deirdre Nic Aodha
Deirdre Hughes
Tiobraid Árann

6 - 03

21 points

Fiona Ní Dhrisceoil
Fiona O'Driscoll
Corcaigh

1 - 18

16 points

Lourda Chaomhánach
Lourda Kavanagh
An Ghaillimh

1 - 13

15 points

Mairéad Ní Eathairn
Maggie Hearne
Loch Garman

4 - 03

11 points

Sile Draopar
Julie Draper
Áth Cliath

1 - 08

08 points

Sinéad Ní Mhaolaidh
Sinéad Milliea
Cill Chainnigh

1 - 05

05 points

Sinéad Ní Adaim
Sinéad Adams
Aontroim

1 - 02



Eibhlín Ní Bhriain
Luimneach

An chéad
cheann
idir
na foirne

Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear 2003

The first meeting between
An Clár agus An Ghaillimh
in the Junior Final

Despite the great camogie tradition in the neighbouring counties of An Clár agus An Ghaillimh, they have never previously met in the final of Craobhchomórtas na Sóisear. An Ghaillimh reached the Junior Final for the first time in 1972, two years ahead of An Clár. Both entered the history books by winning the first ever Camogie Championship titles for their counties on their first appearance in the final.

An Ghaillimh atá chun tosaigh ar mhuintir an Chláir ó shoin i leith. Six titles, the last in 1998, have gone to cailíní na Gaillimhe from nine finals, while An Clár has a tally of three titles, the third in 1986. An Clár has, however, never lost a final. It also has a direct link with its last victory as An Captaen, Gairtíona Ní Lochlainn, was on the team of 1986.

Pé scéal é, the teams are very evenly matched this year. In their respective Provincial finals and All-Ireland semi-finals, An Clár scored a total of 34 points (5-19), while An Ghaillimh was just one behind on 33 points (6-15). Seans nach mbeidh ach an cúlín amháin eatarthu inniu chomh maith.

Mar a bhaineadar an Cluiche Ceannais amach
- the Provincial Finals agus All-Ireland semi-finals, 2003 -

Connachta Connacht Final	Laighin Leinster Final	Mumha Munster Final	Ulaidh Ulster Final
An Ghaillimh 3 - 09 Roscomáin 0 - 05	Loch Garman 6 - 10 Uíbh Fhlaighle 1 - 09	An Clár 1 - 12 Corcaigh 2 - 05	Ardmhacha 2 - 11 Doire 2 - 09
Na Cluichí Leathcheannais, 2003		An Clár 4 - 07 Ardmhacha 3 - 08	An Ghaillimh 3 - 06 Loch Garman 1 - 06

Nasc le 1974 - two firsts and many links

Cill Chainnigh agus An Clár celebrated first All-Ireland titles, the Senior and Junior respectively, on the same day in 1974. Corcaigh, today's Senior finalists, were seeking a fifth-in-a-row Senior title on that occasion. Cé a bhí i bhleith na feadóige do chluiche na Síneair ach duine ón nGaillimh? Sinéad Uí Bhialaigh (Ní Mhurchú), the referee between Cill Chainnigh agus Corcaigh, will be cheering on her own county, An Ghaillimh, today.

Aine Derham, Áth Cliath, is today's Senior final referee and it was her native county, seeking its third Junior title, which faced An Clár in the Junior final of 1974. On the An Clár team were Clár Ní Arrachtáin and Aine Máire Ní Lochlainn who had previously won All-Ireland Junior medals with Áth Cliath, while Áth Cliath could boast of Liz Howard of Tiobraid Árann, aunt of Sheena who plays with Tiobraid Árann seniors today. Éamonn de Brun of the same county will referee the Junior final today.

An Clár proved Buddy Early to be right in her prediction that a second All-Ireland title would come to the county sixty years after its first - the All-Ireland Hurling Final of 1914 in which An Clár defeated Laois.

Bhfuil
fhios agat?

County
Snippets

Can the Cork girls make up for the disappointment of their hurlers?

Cork player Paula O'Connor will be hoping to quench some of the disappointment of her two bothers, Ben and Jerry, who were on the Cork Senior hurling team last week.

Meanwhile, Cork goalkeeper, Donal Óg Cusack, can watch proudly as his aunt, Marie Costine, is honoured as a member of the Cork 1978 Silver Jubilee team.

Tipperary Teasers

1. Which Tipperary player is the niece of former Cork player and manager Billy Morgan?
2. Which Tipperary player's father is a recently retired Munster Council GAA secretary?
3. Which Limerick based Garda is the daughter of former hurler Len Gaynor?
4. Which Tipperary player's grandfather won All-Ireland medals for both Dublin and Limerick?

Freagraí:

1. Emer McDonnell
2. Sinéad Nealon
3. Clara Gaynor
4. Sheena Howard

Mixed Reactions in Clare??

One player that will have mixed reactions win or lose will be Clare's Deirdre Murphy who plays her club camogie with Galway club, Davitts.

Decisions, decisions.....

One Galway family will have tough decisions to make today.

With Ann Hayes on the Galway junior Camogie team and brother David lining out with the Galway Under 21 Hurling team in Thurles the Hayes family, including former Galway hurler Conor Hayes, uncle to the two players, will have to divide their loyalties between them.

Foras
na Gaeilge

1
Gearóidín Ní Chathasaigh
Ger Casey
Inniscarra

Dearg agus Bán

Gorm agus Órga

1
Jovita Ní Dhubhshláine
Jovita Delaney,
Cashel

4
Clár Ní Mhadáin
Claire Madden
Fr. O'Neill's, Corcaigh

7
Treasa Ní Bhroithe
Therese Brophy
Burgess

9
Aingeal Ní Diarmada
Angie McDermott
Annacarty

8
Eimilé Ní Eideáin
Emily Hayden
Cashel

10
Noelle Ní Chinnéide
Noelle Kennedy
Toomevara

11
Clár Ní Ghrugáin
Claire Grogan
Cashel

12
Fílimíne Ní Fhógartaigh
Philly Fogarty
Cashel

15
Eimhear Ní Domhnaill
Emer McDonnell
Burgess

14
Siobhán Ní Riain
Joanne Ryan
Drom-Inch

13
Deirdre Ní Aodha
Deirdre Hughes
Toomevara

4
Stiofáinín Ní Dhoinnlé
Stephanie Dunlea
Cloughduv, **Captain**

7
Gemma Ní Chonchubhair
Gemma O'Connor
Naomh Fionnbharr

3
Denise Ní Chróinín
Denise Cronin
Glen Rovers

6
Máire Ní Chonchubhair
Mary O'Connor
Killeagh

8
Rachel Ní Mhaolomhnaigh
Rachel Moloney
Courcey Rovers

9
Béibhíonn Ní Earchail
Vivienne Harris
Bishopstown

11
Eimhear Dhlollún
Emer Dillon
Ballygarvan

12
Sinéad Ní Laoire
Jennifer O'Leary
Barryroe

15
Fiona Ní Dhrisceoil
Fiona O'Driscoll
Fr. O'Neill's

14
Caoimhe Ní Arrachtáin
Caoimhe Harrington
Newtownshandrum

5
Paula Ní Chonchubhair
Paula O'Connor
Newtownshandrum

10
Úna Ní Dhoinnchú
Una O'Donoghue
Cloughduv

13
Orlaith Ní Shúilleabháin
Orla O'Sullivan
Naomh Fionnbharr

16. Aoife Ní Mhuirl
Aoife Murray, Cloughduv
17. Clara Ní Éalaithe
Clara Healy, Bishopstown
18. Sercha Ní Aodha
Sarah Hayes, Courcey Rovers
19. Bríd Ní Chorca
Briega Corkery, Cloughduv
20. Caltriona Ní Fhoghlú
Caltriona Foley, Rockban

21. Rionach Ní Cúirtín
Regina Curtin, Milford
22. Léan de Búrca
Elaine Burke, Valley Rovers
23. Lynda Ní Chonail
Lynda O'Connell, Naomh Fionnbharr
24. Colette Ní Dheasáiligh
Colette Desmond, Newtown
25. Nóra Ní Eathairn
Nora Ahern, Fr. O'Neill's

Bainisteoirí

Pádraig Ó Finn

(Pa Finn)

16. Paula Ní Riain
Paula Ryan, Toomevara
17. Sheena Ní Iomhair
Sheena Howard, Burgess
18. Paula Bhuilfin
Paula Buihin, Cashel
19. Pádraigin Ní Ailúráin
Trish O'Halloran, Portroe
20. Laoighse de Siún
Louise Young, Toomevara

21. Lorraine de Búrca
Lorraine Bourke, Templemore
22. Meadh Ní Chorcairín
Meadhbh Corcoran, Moycarkey/Borris
23. Niamh Ní Chonghaille
Niamh Connolly, Templemore
24. Léan Ní Bhraoin
Helen Breen, Cashel
25. Pádraigin Ní Riain
Trish Ryan, Toomevara

Bainisteoirí

Réamonn Ó Riain

(Ramie Ryan)

Gabhtar buíochas le Cumann Lúthcheas Gael a chuir Páirc an Chrócaigh ar fáil dúinn

24

25



Sinsir Chorcaí

1. Ger Casey
Inniscarra

Season: 4th
"Imreoir an Chluiche", All-Ireland
Junior Final, 1999.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Junior, 1 Senior

3 Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde le U.C.C.

Scoláire i gColáiste na hOllscoile,
Corcaigh.

2. Joanne O'Callaghan
Cloughduv

Season: 3rd
Corcaigh: Minor, Junior Intermediate

All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 2 Minor.
Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde le U.C.C.
Munster hockey player.

Scoláire i gColáiste na hOllscoile,
Corcaigh.

3. Denise Cronin
Glen Rovers

Season: 11th
Captain at horeann Chorcaí i 1996
nuair a bhíodar an Chraobh. The
longest-serving member of the team.
Represented Cúige Mumhan at Senior
level.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
6 Senior.

Múinteoir scoile

5. Paula O'Connor
Newtownshandrum

Season: 6th
Represented Cúige Mumhan at
Senior level in Gael Linn.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Senior.

Sister of Senior hurlers Ben, Jerry and
John.
Student of Sports and Leisure
Management, Cork I.T.

6. Mary O'Connor
Killeagh

Season: 6th
Represented Cúige Mumhan at
Senior level in Gael Linn.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 All-Ireland Club with
Granagh Ballygarry, Luimneach.

Is imreoir peile chomh maith í.

Gaelic Games Coach.

7. Gemma O'Connor
Naomh Fionnbharr

Season: 2nd
Represented Corcaigh at Junior and
Minor level.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Senior, 1 Minor.
"Examiner" young player of the year in
2002.

9. Vivienne Harris
Bishopstown

Season: 9th
Represented Cúige Mumhan at
Senior level in Gael Linn.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
4 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior.

Represented Ireland at kick-boxing.

Ag obair le Boston Scientific,
Corcaigh.

10. Úna O'Donoghue
Cloughduv

Season: 5th
Last year's captain holding
interprovincial honours with Munster.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Senior.

Ashbourne and League with U.C.C.

Scoláire

Sinsir Chorcaí

11. Emer Dillon
Ballygarvan

Season: 2nd
Represented Corcaigh at Minor level

All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Minor, 1 Senior

Represented Ireland at hockey

Pharmacy Student

12. Jennifer O'Leary
Barryroe

Season: 3rd
Represented Cúige Mumhan in Senior
Gael Linn and Corcaigh at Minor,
Junior and Intermediate levels.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Intermediate, 1 Minor, 1 Senior.

Scoláire - U.L.

13. Orla O'Sullivan,
St. Finbarr's

Season: 2nd
Represented C.I.T. and won a 2nd
Cup honour

All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Intermediate, 1 Senior

Scoláire Business Studies Cor

14. Caoimhe Harrington
Newtownshandrum

Season: 6th
Represented Corcaigh at Junior and
Minor level

All-Ireland Championship medals:
2 Senior
Craobhchomórtas na gColáistí
Sinsir agus Sinsir, le Naomh
Mhuire, Rath Lurc
Scoláire - Physiotherapy U.C.D.

15. Fiona O'Driscoll
Fr. O'Neill's

Season: 12th
Represented Cúige Mumhan at
Senior level

All-Ireland Championship medals:
6 Senior
Comórtas Mhic Giolla Bhríde agus
Comórtas Pairséil le hOllscoil Luimneach
Bonn peile le Sinsir Chorcaí
Múinteoir iarbhuiscóile, Ballycollig

16. Aoife Murray, Cloughduv

Season: 2nd
All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Minor, 1 Intermediate, 1 Senior

Scoláire - Limerick I.T.

17. Clara Healy, Bishopstown

Season: 1st
All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Minor, 1 Junior, 1 Intermediate

18. Sarah Hayes, Courcey Rovers
Season: 5th
All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Minor, 1 Senior

Scoláire - Biochemistry, U.C.C.

19. Breege Corkery, Cloughduv

Season: 1st
All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Minor, 1 Intermediate

20. Caltriona Foley, Rockban

Season: 1st
All-Ireland Championship medals:
2 Minor.

21. Regina Curtin, Milford

Season: 1st
All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Junior

An Fhoireann Bhainistíochta

Pádraig Ó Finn
(Pa Finn)

An Bainisteoir

Sandie Ní Globúin
(Sandie Fitzgibbon)

Caitlin Ní Éalaithe
(Kathleen Healy)

8. Rachel Ní Mhaolomhnaigh
Courcey Rovers

Season: 4th
Represented Mumhan in Gael Linn.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior,
1 Minor.

1 Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde le U.C.C.

An Dlí - graduated from U.C.C. last
year with a law degree.

Corcaigh



ar chúl (ó chlé): C. Ní Éalaithe, Roghnóir, C. Ní Fhoghlú, E. Dhiolún, Á. Ní Ghadhra, S. Ní Laoire, L. Ní Chonail, C. Ní Éalaithe, P. Ní Chonchubhair, S. Ní Aodha, G. Ní Chonchubhair, S. Ní Shúilleabháin, C. Ní Arrachtáin, B. Ní Earchai, A. Ní Mhuiri, N. Ní Eathaim, S. Ní Giobúin, Roghnóir
chun tosaigh (ó chlé): E. Ní Uait, R. Ní Cuirtín, D. Ní Chéoinín, R. Ní Mhaolomhnaigh, G. Ní Chathasaigh, S. Ní Cheallacháin, O. Ní Shúilleabháin, S. Ní Dhoinné, **Captaen**, M. Ní Chonchubhair, Ú. Ní Dhonnchadha, L. de Búrca, B. Ní Chorca, C. Ní Dheasúnaigh, F. Ní Dhrisceoil.
Curtha leis: P. Ó Finn, Bainisteoir, S. Mac Cárthaigh, Oiliúnaí.

Tiobraid Árann



ar chúl (ó chlé): N. Ní Chonghaile, P. Ní Riain, M. Ní Chorcóráin, L. de Búrca, S. Ní Cheallaigh, S. Ní Riain, F. Ní Fhógartaigh, C. Ní Ghrugáin, T. Ní Bhroithe, C. Ní Mhadáin, L. Ní Bhraoin, Á. Ní Mhaolchathaigh, P. Bhuilfin, S. Ní Iomhair, J. Ní Dhubhshláine.
chun tosaigh (ó chlé): L. de Siún, D. Ní Chonail, P. Ní Riain, M. Ní an Gheair, D. Ní Aodha, S. Ní Nialláin, C. Ní Fhionnbhairr, E. Ní Domhnail, Ú. Ní Dhubhair, **Captaen**, T. Ní Allúráin, A. Ní Diarmada, N. Ní Chinnéide, E. Ní Éadáin.

Sinsir Thlobraid Árann



An Captaen

3. Úna Ní Dhuibhir
Una O'Dwyer, Cashel

Is í seo an seachtú bliain d'Úna bheith ag imirt le foireann na siseair. Ba mhór ar fad aici é Com Ua Dubhthaigh a bhfuair don chéad uair, go háirithe agus i na captaen i mbliana. The three previous winning captains came from the Cashel club.

Úna has represented Cúige Mumhan at senior level and, as a student, plays for Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior, 1 Minor.
Cuireann sí suim i gCepheil agus i sacar.
Scoláire i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh.

8. Emily Hayden,
Cashel

Season: 5th
Represented Tipperary at Intermediate and Minor level.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Minor.

Cuireann sí suim i sacar.
Sports Rehabilitator

1. Jovita Delaney
Cashel

Season: 14th
Represented Cúige Mumhan at Senior and Junior level in Gael Linn 'Imreoir na Bliana', 2000.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior, 1 Minor. 1 Senior & 1 Junior Colleges. Imríonn sí Cispheil agus badminton. Muinteoir Chorpóideachais (P.E.)

2. Suzanne Kelly
Toomevara

Season: 6th
Cúige Mumhan Junior Gael Linn.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Minor.
1 Senior & 2 Junior Colleges. 1 Corn Púistél Third Level Colleges with Mure gan Smál, Lunnéach. Rásaí na gCon is ansa lei. Muinteoir.

4. Claire Madden
Portroe

Season: 14th
Represented Cúige Mumhan at Senior and Junior level in Gael Linn.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior, 1 Minor.
Imríonn sí Peil agus Cispheil.
Business Analyst.

6. Clara Gaynor
Kilnashogue

Season: 7th
Represented Cúige Mumhan at Senior and Junior level in Gael Linn 'Imreoir na Bliana' 2001.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 3 Minor.
Cuireann sí suim i marcalocht agus i rolaibléid.
Le Gardaí.

9. Angie McDermott
Annacarty

Season: 3rd
Tíobraid Árann Senior and Junior level.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Junior.
2 Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde medals.
Cuireann sí suim sa pheil agus sa snámh.
Cuntasóir (accountant).

5. Sinead Nealon
Burgess

Season: 13th
Represented Cúige Mumhan at Senior and Junior level in Gael Linn.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior, 1 Minor.
1 Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde with W.I.T. Snámh agus sciál is ansa lei.
Project Manager, Waterford I.T.

7. Therese Brophy
Burgess

Season: 5th
Cúige Mumhan Junior Gael Linn.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 2 Minor.
2 Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde Third Level Colleges with U.C.C.
Formula 1 agus dream analysis a thairníonn lei.
Muinteoir.

10. Noelle Kennedy
Toomevara

Season: 11th
Represented Cúige Mumhan at Senior and Junior level in Gael Linn.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior.
1 Senior & 1 Junior Colleges.
Cuireann sí suim sa kickboxing.
IT Technician le Proctor & Gamble.

Sinsir Thlobraid Árann

11. Claire Grogan
Cashel

Season: 4th
Represented Tíobraid Árann at Minor level.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
2 Senior.
d'imir sí lena Club i bhFeile na nGael.
Imríonn sí gailf agus sacar.
Scoláire, Cashel Community School.

12. Philly Fogarty
Cashel

Season: 5th
Cúige Mumhan Senior and Junior.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior.
d'imir sí ar fhoireann idir-chontae na Mionair agus na Siseair.
Cuireann sí suim i gCispheil agus i bPeil.
Scoláire, Carlow I.T.

13. Deirdre Hughes
Toomevara

Season: 14th
Cúige Mumhan Senior and Junior.
'Imreoir na Bliana', 1999.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior.
6 Senior & 3 Junior Colleges.
Tá suim i sacar agus gailf aici.
Sales Assistant.

14. Joanne Ryan
Drom/Inch

Season: 4th
Cúige Mumhan at Junior level.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
2 Senior.
1 Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde Third Level Colleges.
Marcalocht a thairníonn lei.
Scoláire, Thurles I.T.

15. Emer McDonnell
Burgess

Season: 5th
Represented Cúige Mumhan at Senior and Junior level in Gael Linn.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Junior, 1 Minor.
3 Senior Colleges.
Marcalocht a thairníonn lei.
Leigheas (Medical Student).

16. Paula Ryan, Toomevara

Represented Tipperary at junior, intermediate and senior levels.
Scoláire.
17. Sheena Howard, Burgess
Season: 4th
All-Ireland Championship medals: 3 Senior.
Scoláire, Business Studies agus Computers.

18. Paula Bullin, Cashel

Season: 4th
All-Ireland Championship medals: 2 Senior.
Muinteoir Chorpóideachais (P.E.).
19. Trish O'Halloran, Portroe.
Season: 2nd
All-Ireland Championship medals: 1 Junior.
Scoláire, Legal Studies.

20. Louise Young, Toomevara

Season: 3rd
All-Ireland Championship medals: 1 Senior.
Scoláire, Business Studies.
21. Lorraine Bourke, Templemore
Season: 3rd
All-Ireland Championship medals: 1 Junior.
Scoláire, Nursing.

22. Meabh Corcoran, Moycarkey/Borris. **Season:** 1st

All-Ireland Championship medals: 1 Junior.
Accountant.
23. Niamh Connolly, Templemore. **Season:** 3rd
All-Ireland Championship medals: 1 Junior.
Trainee Accountant.
24. Helen Breen, Cashel. **Season:** 2nd
Scoláire, Recreational Management.
25. Trish Ryan, Toomevara.

An Fhoireann Bhainistíochta

Réamonn Ó Riain (Ramie Ryan)

An Bainisteoir

Marion Uí Ghreacháin (Marion Graham)

Conchubhair Ó Riain (Conor Ryan)

Tipp and Cork

- a pairing the occasion merits -

Gerry Slevin

the Nenagh Guardian

It will always remain one of those inexplicable things in Irish sport that for all Tipperary's marvellous contribution to the hurling scene, it wasn't until 1999, five years before the Camogie Association celebrates its centenary, that the county claimed its first All-Ireland senior title.

1887 and 1964 had seen the very first senior and under 21 hurling All-Irelands won by the Premier county, but seven camogie final appearances between 1949 and '84 bore no fruit whatever.

Then, when eventually the break-through came in 1999 with Maedhbh Stokes receiving the O'Duffy Cup, elation was boundless.

And just as the hurlers had entered the history pages in 1887 and 1964, so too with the camogie because that '99 achievement saw the first fifteen-a-side season and it also meant that Tipp had won the last All-Ireland final of the 20th century.

There was no need for any motivation when the team returned for 2000 action. As well as seeking to retain their title, to be the first team to come out on top in the new century was motivation enough. Kilkenny had felt the sting of the Tipp endeavour in '99. It was Cork's turn in 2000 under Jovita Delaney's leadership.

Two successive titles after decades in the comparative wilderness.

Three in a row?

Why not!

2001 came, Emily Hayden at the helm this time, and it was Kilkenny for a second time to submit to Tipp's all-round power and dynamism.

Without a title up to 1999, and now three in a row won. What an entry to the camogie roll of honour.

It couldn't last, could it?

Tipp and Cork

- a pairing the occasion merits -

Off in search of four in a row went Úna O'Dwyer and her team mates in 2002.

Not to be, however. Call it a bridge too far, call it what you like in the end, Cork had exacted revenge, and deservedly, for that final defeat of 2000 as well as the semi-final defeat of 2001 when, after an enthralling replay in Limerick, Tipp came back "from the dead" to achieve success. The 2002 final defeat was Tipp's first championship loss since the All-Ireland semi-final (to Kilkenny) of 1998.

Motivation required? Hardly. Ever since that defeat last year, Tipp have been aching for another crack at the "old enemy".

It is their fifth successive final appearance, and while winning four in a row was denied them a year ago, still it is quite an achievement to have reached the final hurdle so often.

Úna O'Dwyer is again captain but things have changed drastically behind the scenes. In the wake of last year's defeat, Michael Cleary, who engineered and guided those three All-Ireland victories felt there was nothing more he could offer and he stepped down, amicably let it be said, along with selectors Jim Madden and Biddy Phillips. Theirs had been a marvellous reign. They had pointed the way so significantly.

All the players decided to remain on and another former inter-county hurler, Ramie Ryan, took over from Michael with Marion Graham and Conor Ryan filling the selectorial shoes.

2003 has been a good year... so far. Tipp and Cork have met twice with the honours shared. Cork took the national league narrowly down in Páirc Uí Rinn and it was Tipp's turn in Portlaoise when the provincial final was played as a curtain raiser to the Tipp v Laois All-Ireland hurling qualifier.

Both teams scored 4 - 16 in their All-Ireland semi final games, so when it is all boiled down, we have here today a pairing which the occasion merits, the two best teams in the land, the game's keenest rivals.

It has to be something very special indeed.

An Clár



ar chúl (ó chlé): E. Nic Giolla Mhartaín, L. Ni Linneáin, A. Ni Rian, M. Ni Luanaigh, N. Ni Chumín, S. Ni Scannláin, P. Ni Ghráda, D. Ni Chorcóráin, E. Chéitinn, M. Ni Fhaoilín, A. Ni Bhriain, D. Ni Loinsigh, S. Ni Lafeartaigh.
sa lár (ó chlé): R. Ni Loinsigh, L. Nic Lochlainn, C. Nic Mhathúna, M. Nic Mhathúna, C. Nic Lochlainn, **Captaen**, D. Ni Mhurchú, C. Nic Mhathúna, C. Ni Chomáin, E. Nic Giolla Ríabhaigh.
chun tosaigh (ó chlé): A. Ni Chatháin, A. Ni Chéilleachair, C. Ni Loinsigh, P. de Rosfort, R. Kaiser, M. Ni Chatháin.

An Chaitlín



ar chúl (ó chlé): B. Ni Chéirín, **Captaen**, E. Nic Giolla Cheallaigh, B. Ni Annadh, A. M. Ni Aodha, S. Ni Chatháin, S. Ni Shaoir, N. Nig Aracháin, C. Nig Leannáin.
chun tosaigh (ó chlé): R. Ni Chonchubhair, S. Ni Chatháin, N. Ni Laighéis, C. Ni Bhuagh, L. Ni Fhloinn, S. Ni Ghráin, M. Ni Fhianngáin.

Sóisir an Chláir



An Captaen

14. Caitríona Nic Lochlainn
Cill na Móna

Captaen agus imreoir den chéad scoth acla i gCaitríona. She has given an enormous commitment to her club and county and has the distinction of having played on the victorious An Clár Junior team of 1986.

Boinn Chamógaíochta: U12, U14, U16, U18, staith (sóisear agus sinsear) agus boinn le Cuirteann Cill na Móna All-Ireland Junior Championship medal. A lán áil buaire ag an bpeil Ghaelach chomh maith.

Sli bheatha: AIB Bank Official

1. Patricia O'Grady
Newmarket on Fergus

Represented An Clár at all under age levels.
Boinn: 9 Senior Championship medals, Munster Championship award, 2 All Ireland Intermediate medals, 5 Interprovincial medals.

Occupation: ES Employee

2. Jane Scanlon
Clarecastle

Represented An Clár at U14, U16 and U18 and intermediate level in 2002.
Boinn: Munster and All Ireland honours with colleges, Munster Championship U16 B honours and Munster Junior Championship honours.

Occupation: Student

3. Denise Lynch
Kilmaley

Represented An Clár at underage, junior, intermediate levels and secondary schools.
Boinn: 2 junior and 2 secondary school level medals, U16B Munster and junior munster medals.

Occupation: Student

4. Caitríona McMahon
Newmarket on Fergus

Boinn: 3 Senior club championship medals, U14, U16 and U18 Championship medals and Community Games honours.

Occupation: Science Student

5. Marie O'Looney
Newmarket on Fergus

Represented An Clár at Senior Level 2001-2003.
Boinn: U16, U18, Junior, Intermediate and Club Championship honours, 3 All Ireland Colleges medals, Munster Junior Championship honours 2003.

Occupation: Civil Engineering Student

6. Noelle Comyns
Clarecastle

Represented An Clár at Senior level.
Boinn: Junior All-Ireland and Intermediate All-Ireland honours.
Other interests: All Star Football Award, Munster Senior Football and All Ireland Junior Football Awards.

Occupation: Financial Advisor

9. Deirdre Corcoran
Tynagh

Represented Clare at all underage levels and at junior, intermediate and senior levels.
Boinn: Ashbourne, Munster and Clare Long Puck Awards.

Occupation: Student

10. Aoife Ryan
Newmarket on Fergus

Represented An Clár at underage senior and intermediate levels.
Boinn: 2 Ashbourne Junior All Ireland medals with Colleges.

Occupation: Student

11. Deirdre Murphy
Davitts

Represented An Clár at all underage and senior levels.
Boinn: 2 Ashbourne Shield medals with Colleges.

Occupation: Bank official

An Clár



1. Pádraigín Ni Ghráda
Tricia O'Grady
Newmarket on Fergus

Gorm agus Buí

2. Sinéad Ni Scannláin
Jane Scanlon
Clarecastle

3. Denise Ni Loinsigh
Denise Lynch
Kilmaley

4. Caitríona Nic Mhathúna
Caitríona McMahon
Newmarket on Fergus

5. Máire Ni Luanaigh
Marie O'Looney
Newmarket on Fergus

6. Noelle Ni Chulmín
Noelle Comyns
Clarecastle

7. Máire Ni Fhaoilín
Marie Whelan
Clarecastle

8. Lára Ni Linneáin
Laura Linnane
Shannon

9. Deirdre Ni Chorcóráin
Deirdre Corcoran
Tuagh

10. Aoife Ni Riain
Aoife Ryan
Newmarket on Fergus

11. Deirdre Ni Mhurchú
Deirdre Murphy
Davitts

12. Áine Ni Chatháin
Áine Keane
Kilnamona

13. Clár Nic Mhathúna
Claire McMahon
Kilmaley

14. Caitríona Nic Lochlainn
Catherine O'Loughlin
Kilnamona, **Captaen**

15. Clár Ni Chomáin
Claire Commene
Corofin

16. Rachel Ni Loinsigh
Rachel Lynch, Clooney
17. Edel Chéitinn
Edel Keating, Corofin
18. Siobhán Ni Lafeartaigh
Siobhán Lafferty, Kilnamona
19. Eibhlín Nic Giolla Mhartaín
Aileen Martin, Newmarket on Fergus
20. Áine Ni Bhriain
Áine O'Brien, Scailf

21. Rút Kaiser
Ruth Kaiser, Newmarket on Fergus
22. Máiread Ni Chatháin
Mairéad Keane, Kilnamona
23. Ceardúilín Ni Loinsigh
Caroline Lynch, Tuagh
24. Aisling Ni Chéilleachair
Aisling Kelleher, Corofin
25. Póilín de Rosfort
Pauline Rochford, Feakle

Bainisteoirí

Micheál Ó Meachair
(Michael Maher)

Proinsias Mac Mathúna
(Francie McMahon)

Sóisir an Chláir

12. Áine Keane
Kilnamona

Represented Clare at U12, U18, junior and intermediate level.
Boinn: 1 Senior championship and 1 Ashbourne Shield, 2 All Ireland Intermediate medals, 5 senior championship medals and All-Ireland 7-a-side football medal.
Occupation: MWHB employee

13. Clare McMahon
Kilmaley

Represented Clare at all underage levels and her province at schools level.
Boinn: Ashbourne Shield All Ireland medal.
Occupation: Medical student at HUIG

15. Elaine Commene
Corofin

Represented Clare at U16 minor levels.
Boinn: Minor county medal and U16B Munster championship medal.

Occupation: Student

16. Rachel Lynch
Clooney

Represented Clare at U12, U14, U16, U18 and intermediate levels.
Occupation: Student at HUIG

17. Aileen Gilmartin
Wolf Tones

Represented Clare at underage, intermediate and senior levels.
Occupation: Student

18. Edel Keating
Corofin

Represented Clare at U16 and minor levels.
Occupation: Student

19. Siobhán Lafferty
Kilnamona

Represented U12, U14, U16 and U18.
Occupation: Student

20. Pauline Rochford
Feakle

Has won 3 senior club championship medals.

21. Aislinn Kelleher
Corofin

Represented her province and has three county championship medals with her club.
Occupation: Student in N.U.I.G.

22. Caroline Lynch, Tuagh
Represented Clare at underage and intermediate level.

Occupation: AIB Bank Official

23. Ruth Kaiser, New Market on Fergus
Represented Clare at underage level.

Occupation: Student

24. Mairéad Keane, Kilnamona
Represented Clare at underage level and colleges in the Ashbourne Shield in 2003.

Occupation: Student

25. Áine O'Brien
Represented Clare at underage level.

Occupation: PE teacher

An Fhoireann Bhainistíochta

Bainisteoirí
Proinsias Mac Mathúna
(Francie McMahon)
 agus
Micheál Ó Meachair
(Michael Maher)

Léan Ni Mhurchú
(Helen Murphy)

Victory to turn Clare's fortunes around

Séamus Hayes of the Clare Champion

When Clare last won the All-Ireland junior camogie championship title back in 1986, Noelle Comyns and Catherine O'Loughlin were two of the young stars in the starting line up. Seventeen years later, they are still two of the main players as Clare go in search of an All-Ireland Junior Camogie title today aiming to overcome Galway. Another of the stars of the '86 All-Ireland winning side, Helen Murphy (Cusack), is the team trainer this year. These three are part of a small group which has helped to promote the game in the Banner county throughout the past twenty years.

In that time, there have been many lean years including one or two when Clare did not compete at inter county level. Last year, 2002, was one such year and this clearly hurt staunch camogie supporters in the county who decided that change was needed. The club scene has been fairly strong with competitions at three adult levels, junior, intermediate and senior.

Two strong camogie supporters, Francie Mahon (Éire Óg) and Michael Maher (Kilmaley) agreed to take charge of the County adult side. They were determined to prove that Clare could compete at this level and a good run in the National league saw them reach the semi-final where they lost to today's opponents, Galway at Mullingar.

There was a feeling amongst players and mentors alike that the team could go further and this motivated them to put in a big performance for the championship. After all, the county's history at this level was fairly good. Clare first won the All-Ireland junior title back in 1974 when Ballynacally native Margaret O'Toole captained the side to victory. Shannon's Claire Jones led Clare to this title again in 1981 while the 1986 team was captained by Maura McNicholas from Éire Óg.

In the mid nineties a strong Clare senior panel was unfortunate to come up against an emerging Tipperary side which went on to win three All-Ireland senior crowns. Clare were drawn against Tipperary in the opening round of the senior championship three years in a row and lost narrowly each time.

By the end of the nineties the majority of that senior side were no longer available because of retirements, emigration and injury.

In the past couple of years Clare's fortunes at inter county level were quite low but things changed for the better this year. Kilnamona's Catherine O'Loughlin is the team captain and together with Noelle Comyns, they have been particularly impressive in helping Clare to this final. Newmarket's Moira McMahon returned to the county squad towards the end of the league campaign while her clubmate Patricia O'Grady is also a member of the team. They have been very influential in helping Newmarket win the County senior title for the past three years. Another experienced player to return to county action is Deirdre Murphy. The Clooney native, now playing with the Davitts club in Galway, has been prominent with NUIG in recent seasons.

Incidentally, seventeen of the Clare panel are currently attending third level colleges. In addition to the experienced players named above, there is a strong presence of young players such as Clare McMahon, Jane Scanlan, Marie Whelan, Claire Commene and Denise Lynch who are part of the squad for the first time this year.

Clare are under no illusions as to the task they face on Sunday. "Most camogie followers will say that Galway are favourites to win and we know that we face one of the strong sides at this level", according to team selector Michael Maher. The players have worked hard under the management trio and there is an air of confidence in the camp that they can upset their neighbours. All involved with the team and the promotion of the game in the County are looking forward to the game and hoping that there will be a big turnout of supporters to cheer on the team.

One of the big problems facing the game in Clare is the lack of their own playing facilities. The organisation depends on the good will of G.A.A. clubs and the County G.A.A. board for the use of fields for their games and training.

"While victory in the All-Ireland final on Sunday is important, there is no doubting the importance of having our own field and this is something Clare camogie must acquire as a priority", concluded Maher. A win in today's final would serve as a perfect boost to the drive to acquire suitable playing facilities.



Na Cluichí Ceannais go dtí seo

An Ghaillimh: Contested nine Junior Championship Finals and were victorious in six:
1972, '79, '85, '88, '94, '98.
Cluichí Ceannais eile: 1973, '92, '93.
An Clár: Contested three and won three:
1974, 1981, 1986.



- much to be done to spread the camogie gospel - Seán Walsh, Galway Bay F.M.

All-Ireland Final day is a special day. It is the day that players and supporters dream about and the magnificent new Croke Park serves only to enhance the magic of the occasion. All-Ireland finals tend to live in the memory. Players are judged on their performance in a final, and very often reputations are made or shattered on the lush Jones's Road sward.

In Galway, memories of the All-Ireland senior success of 1996 are still fresh. Captain Imelda Hobbins accepted the O'Duffy cup for the first and only time in the history of Galway camogie as Tony Ward's side broke the mould. Since then Galway's fortunes have waned. Two All-Ireland final appearances followed, but no silverware came west. In the last two years, Galway's stock has plummeted with the Westerners shipping two heavy semi-final defeats in a row to Cork. Changed times.

Tipperary and Cork seem to have altered the camogie landscape. They have raised the bar in terms of preparation and performance. Many observers, including the hurling fraternity, have watched on approvingly as the two Munster rivals have produced skilful, fast and stylish camogie. To use a marketing term, the product has been good. Both counties are to be applauded for this. It is now up to the Galways, Kilkennys, Wexfords and Limericks (to name but a few) of this world to rise to the challenge and produce sides capable of making an impact at the highest level.

Camogie faces many challenges, but perhaps one is most pressing. Similar to hurling, too few counties are participating at the top tier. The recent senior semi-finals were one-sided and, while Tipperary and Cork have raised the profile of the sport, there is much to be done to spread the camogie gospel to other counties and to re-awaken the game in former strongholds. However, in the frenetic and demanding world of today, that is the real challenge. A young boy or girl will not automatically pick up a hurl any longer — there are far too many other distractions.

Galway's involvement in today's Junior final is testimony to the fine work of Noel Finn, his management team and an excellent panel of players. Incidentally, Róisín O'Connor, who plays today, started the senior semi-final last month. Galway last won a Junior title in 1998, when they beat Tipperary. A number of that defeated Tipperary panel went on to taste success at senior level, so the hope would be that the junior stars of today could become the senior stars of tomorrow. The world is their oyster. This fact, allied to the almost continuous involvement, over the past decade, of Galway teams at the business end of the All-Ireland Minor championship, surely indicates that there is sufficient raw material in Galway.

The crowded nature of the fixtures calendar has again thrown up dilemmas for some families. This is a very busy weekend in the Hayes household in Kiltormer for instance. Anne-Marie (niece of Galway senior hurling team manager, Conor Hayes) is part of the Junior camogie panel, while her brother, David, also plays for the Galway Under-21 hurlers in their All-Ireland Final against Kilkenny today. Both matches are at practically the same time, so expect the mobile phones to be in operation!

A lady who makes her second visit in a row to Croke Park is Galway Camogie Board secretary, Mary Kennedy. Today she will perform her administration duties, but last Sunday she was a nervous and proud mother as she watched David and Shane (not twins by the way) run out onto Croke Park as part of the Galway minor hurling panel that took on Kilkenny in the All-Ireland minor hurling final.

Finally, the Galway Clare rivalry has always been intense, but good-natured down the years. Today will be no different as the neighbours clash to see who will be the Junior champions of 2003. One player with a unique insight into both sides is Clare's Deirdre Murphy. Deirdre plays her club camogie with Davitts in Galway, and she scored the winning goal in Clare's semi-final win. She can hardly go wrong, now can she?

An Ghaillimh

Marún agus Bán

2
Éilís Ní Fhlóinn
Lizzie Flynn
Davitt's

5
Nicola Ní Ghaibhín
Nicola Gavin
Ahascragh

10
Breanda Ní Annaidh
Brenda Hanry
Killmor

13
Breanda Ní Chéirín
Brenda Kerins
Ardahan, Captain

1
Siobhán Ní Shaoirai
Susan Earner
Eyrecoort

3
Sinead Ní Chatháin
Sinead Cahalan
Mullagh

6
Róisín Ní Chonchubhair
Róisín O'Connor
Kinvara

8

Cearúilín Ní Cheallaigh
Caroline Kelly
Davitts

11
Cait Ní Bhuaigh
Cathy Bowes
Cappafaggle

14
Áine Máire Ní Aodha
Ann Marie Hayes
Killmor



4
Nicola Ní Laighleis
Nicola Lawless
Killmor

7
Sinead Ní Chatháin
Sinead Keane
Kinvara

9
Colette Nig Leannáin
Colette Glennon
Mullagh

12
Marese Ní Fhlannagáin
Marese Flanagan
Sarsfields

15
Emma Ní Giolla Cheallaigh
Emma Kilkelly
Kinvara

16. Stiofáinín Ní Ghrifín
Stephanie Griffin, Sathill
17. Aoife Ní Dhochartaigh
Aoife Doherty, Ballinacloe
18. Siobhán Ní Chatháin
Susan Keane, Killmor
19. Cailtríona Nig Fhlóinn
Catherine Glynn, Athenry
20. Cailtríona Ní Mhóráin
Catherine Moran, Clonsilla

21. Pádraigín Ní Cheallaigh
Patricia Kelly, Skehanafmenough
22. Léan Ní Thaidhbéin
Elaine Tannian, St. Thomas's
23. Léara Ní Bhrláin
Laura O'Brien, Turbroughmore
24. Máirín Ní Fhlannagáin
Maureen Finnerty, Mullagh
25. Ailsha Ní Comara
Ailsha McNamara, Kiltoneen

Bainisteoirí

Nollaig Ó Finn
(Noel Finn)
Seán Seosamh
Mac Donnchadha
(John Joe Donoghue)

Sóisir na Gaillimhe



An Captaen

13. Brenda Ni Chéirín
(Brenda Kerins)
Ardahan

Brenda has represented Galway previously at county level when she played with the Galway Minor team.

Among the honours that the full time student has accumulated are U16 and an U18 Club Championship medal with Ardahan and an intermediate league title.

1. Susan Earner
Eyrecourt

Represented Galway at minor level in 2000.

Boinn: Club U14 and schools medals.

Favourite Player: Brendan Cummins

Occupation: Student

2. Lizzie Flynn
Davitts

Represented Galway at U14 and minor levels.

Boinn: Féile U14, 2 U16 titles, 5 U18 titles, 1 senior club medal, 1 senior league medal and 1 Kilmacud Crokes medal.

Favourite Player: Lourda Kavanagh

Occupation: Student

3. Sinéad Cahalan
Mullagh

Represented Connacht in 2002 and 2003

Favourite Player: Imelda Hobbins

Occupation: Student

4. Nicola Lawless
Killimor

Boinn: Junior club medal in 2002, Schools Senior Connacht Champions in 2000, 2001 and 2002.

Occupation: Student

5. Nicola Gavin
Ahascragh

Represented Galway at minor level in 2000

Favourite player: DJ Carey

Occupation: Student

6. Róisín O'Grady
Kilvara

Represented Galway at minor level in 2000

Boinn: Club U14B, U16A (2), U18B, Junior A and Senior B.

Favourite Player: DJ Carey

Occupation: Student

7. Sinéad Keane
Kilvara

Represented Galway in the National League and Connacht finals this year.

Boinn: Intermediate Club Championship medal in 2001

Favourite player: Peter Barry

Occupation: Student

8. Caroline Kelly
Davitts

Boinn: Club U10 (2), U12, U14 (Féile), U16 (2) and U18 (5), junior All Ireland Colleges and Senior Connacht Colleges.

Favourite player: Dairé Murphy

Occupation: Student

9. Collette Glennon
Mullagh

Boinn: 3 All-Ireland Schools medals, 1 All-Ireland Minor medal, 1 National League medal, 2 Purcell Shield medals.

Occupation: Student

10. Brenda Hanny
Killimor

Boinn: Club junior and U16, Connacht Schools Junior and Senior

Favourite Player: John Mullan

Occupation: Student

11. Cathy Bowes
Cappataglie

Represented Galway in the 2002 and 2003 Connacht finals and the 2003 League Final.

Occupation: Student

12. Marese Flanagan
Sarsfields

Represented Galway at Junior level in 2002 and 2003 and in the Junior League in 2003

Occupation: Student

Sóisir na Gaillimhe

14. Ann Marie Hayes
Killimor

Boinn: Minor All-Ireland, Connacht medals (3) and Junior League final (1)

Favourite Player: Dairé Hughes, Henry Shefflin

Occupation: Student

15. Emma Kilkelly
Kilvara

Represented Galway at Minor level in 2000.

Boinn: Club Senior (B), intermediate, U13 (2), U14 (2), U16 (2)

Favourite Player: Fiona O'Driscoll

Occupation: Student

16. Stephanie Griffin
Salthill

Boinn: Club U16, Junior B and C League (1999-2002)

Occupation: Student

17. Aoife Doherty
Ballinasloe

Represented Galway at minor level in 2000.

Boinn: 4 Schools Connacht medals.

Favourite player: DJ Carey

Occupation: Student

18. Susan Keane
Killimor

Boinn: Club Junior A and U16B, 3 Senior Connacht Schools and 1 Junior Connacht Schools.

Favourite Player: Joe Cooney

Occupation: Student

19. Catherine Glynn
Athenry

Represented Galway at minor level 2000 and Connacht in 2002 and 2003

Boinn: Ashbourne Shield 2003

20. Catherine Moran
Clarínbridge

Representing Galway for the first time this year

Occupation: Student

21. Patricia Kelly
Skehan/Menlough

Boinn: Ashbourne Shield

Occupation: Student

22. Elaine Tannian
St. Thomas's

Represented Galway in the Minor Ireland in 2000

Occupation: Student

23. Laura O'Brien
Turloughmore

Boinn: Club honours at U16 level.

Favourite player: Joe Cooney

24. Maureen Finnerly
Mullagh

Boinn: U16A, U14, U13

Favourite player: Ann Hardiman

Occupation: Student

25. Alisha McNamara
Kilconleron

Boinn: 8 All-Ireland Junior and Senior colleges medals with St. Brigid's. 1 Minor All Ireland in 1994

Favourite Player: Denise Gilligan

Occupation: Student

An Fhoireann Bhainistíochta

Nollaig Ó Finn (Noel Finn)
An Bainisteoir

Seán Seosamh Mac Donnchadha
(John Joe Donoghue)

Aingeal Ní Chuana
(Angela Cooney)

Pádraig Ó Ceallaigh
(Patrick Kelly)

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Martin Storey, Wexford

Firstly let me wish all the players in today's finals the very best of luck and hope that they really enjoy this very special day and that they play to their full potential.

Excuse me if I use the word "hurt" a lot in this article because to me it is the same game played by both sexes, unfortunately this might be the only similarity between both codes.

The GAA players get a lot more than their female counterparts, better expenses, better meals after matches, huge media attention, live TV coverage, holidays, lots of training gear and casual wear and they play in the best stadiums in the country. The ladies, on the other hand, get very little in comparison: poor media attention, only All-Ireland Finals live on TV and the venues could be anywhere. The gap between hurling and camogie was really brought home to me at the All Ireland Féile Finals in Cork in 2001 when my children Anthony and Ciara were representing club and county. Our club was fortunate enough to win both competitions in the top grade. Anthony played in Pairc Uí Rinn, marched behind the Artane Boy's Band, was presented with the Christy Ring Trophy by the president of the GAA, had official referee, linesmen and umpires and good media attention. Ciara, on the other hand, played in some club ground, no marching band played, the trophy was presented in the corner of the pitch, the club had to supply linesmen and umpires and there was very little media attention. Another example - Leinster Senior Club Final between Freshford of Kilkenny and Oulart -The Ballagh in front of maybe 300 spectators and a replay in Freshford on a Saturday at 5pm. There are things that are going to have to change.

The profile of Camogie has to be raised so as to encourage more girls to play and to make those already playing more interested. The ultimate goal would eventually be that Camogie and Ladies Football be on a par with the GAA but this is still a long way off. Earlier this year an undertaking took place between the GAA and the Camogie Board to amalgamate both codes on a pilot scheme in certain counties and this is the first major step for improvement in raising the profile of Camogie. It is very important that the right structures and planning are put in place now that this opportunity has been made available.

I think for this amalgamation to work that a lot more compromise and change will have to come from the Camogie Boards as the GAA are fairly happy with their set up. The Camogie Boards will have to get the dates for all the big games well in advance e.g. National Hurling League, County semi-finals and finals and plan their strategy around this so that they can put on games on the same date and in the same venues as their counterparts. This will mean that the girls play in front of anything from 6,000 to 15,000 spectators instead of 200 to 2,000 maybe. If this works then it can become a permanent set up and move on to Inter County level and even bigger venues and crowds thus raising the profile of our Camogie players.

For all this to happen and work out in the future, all of us that are involved will have to get up off our backsides and plan and work even harder to ensure that the girls get the best help and support possible through better coaching schemes improving skills and fitness, more pitch time from their GAA clubs, development squads, full time coaches where possible and whatever else it takes to have our girls ready. I also think that a lot more people will have to get involved at club level to lessen the burden of those already there who are already double and triple jobbing and let each act in their area of expertise. For all this to happen it is going to take a lot of hard work, planning and dedication and maybe moving in a different direction but it will be all worth it when we have All-Ireland Hurling and Camogie Finals, Gaelic and Ladies Football Finals on the same day in Croke Park in front of 85,000 spectators.

As one very famous person from the past said -

"If you think you can or you think you can't - you are right"



Niamh Ní Mhurchú, Scoil Phádraig, Na Sceilí,
ag léiriú a scileanna
i gcluiche ceannais Chumann na mBunscoil.

Na Cailíní atá ag imirt inniu

Tuaisceart na Cathrach

Aislin Ní Thuathail, Mí Dhioláin
Scoil an tSeachair Laoch
Rebecca Ní Mhaolmhuir, Laura Ní Chionnraith
Scoil Mheánóg
Miriam Ní Thuama, Emma Ní Dhuinn
St. Helen's, Port Mearóg
Orlaigh Ní Aogáin, Orlaigh Cór
Scoil Mabhí, Glasnaíon
Irene Ní Dhiomasaigh, Clár Phiondar
St. Vincent de Paul, Muirínne
Clár Ní Tháilíur
Droim Connach N.S.
Róisín Ní Dhrúacháin
Scoil Bhríde, Cill Easra

Deisceart na Cathrach

Caitríona Ní Mhongáin, Pádraigín Ní Dhuibhir
Loreto, Ráth Fearnáin
Sorcha Ní Chomáin, Úna Ní Sheamraigh
Scoil Cholmáille, Cnoc Laigheán
Ciara Ní Dhorraigh, Aoife de Búca
Bishop Galvin, Teach Meallóg
Siobhán Ní Fhloinn, Níkkí Ní Oigáin
Scoil Meannáin, Tamlacht
Emma Ní Bhrádaín, Níashá Ní Aonair
Assumption, Baile Bhaileáin
Lisa Ní Chonaire,
Scoil Treasa, Fíthche
Michelle Ní Fháidh
Inse Chór

Foireann Chorcaí, 1978



ar chúil, ó chlé: M. Ní Mhaca, A. Ní Uiginn, M. Ní Shúilleabháin, M. Ní Cárthaigh, M. Ní Oistín, C. de Londras, C. Ní Dhocharthaigh, C. Ní Chróinín.
chun fásaigh, ó chlé: M. Ní Gélbheannaigh, M. Ní Cárthaigh, N. Ní Dhrisceoil, **Captain**, P. Ní Rordáin, C. Haicéad, P. Ní Mhaolomhnaigh, M. Ní Subhne, M. Ní Laoire.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1
Muireann Ní Cárthaigh
Marion McCarthy, South Presentation | | |
| 2
Máire Ní Oistín
Marie Costine, Cloyne | | |
| 3
Máire Ní Mhaca
Mary Mackey, Glen Rovers | 4
Cáit de Londras
Cathy Landers, Killeagh | 5
Pádraigin Ní Rordáin
Patricia Rordan, Ballinlough |
| 6
Clár Ní Chróinín
Claire Cronin, Ballyphehane | 7
Ángeal Ní Uiginn
Angela Higgins, Watergrasshill | 8
Neans Ní Dhrisceoil
Nancy O'Driscoll, Éire Óg, Captain |
| 9
Máire Ní Laoire
Mary O'Leary, Watergrasshill | 10
Muireann Ní Subhne
Marion Sweeney, Killeagh | 11
Pádraigin Ní Mhaolomhnaigh
Pat Moloney, Killeagh |
| 12
Máire Ní Gélbheannaigh
Mary Geaney, Éire Óg | | |
| Na hionadaithe | | |
| 13. Máire Ní Shúilleabháin
(Marie O'Sullivan, Naomh Fionnbarr) | 15. Clár Haicéad
(Claire Hackett, Glen Rovers) | |
| 14. Máiread Ní Thuama
(Margo Twomey, Canovee) | 16. Muireann Ní Cárthaigh
(Marion McCarthy, Éire Óg) | |

John Horgan

"It will be a special day"

- the Evening Echo, Cork -

Today, almost 25 years to the day, the deeds of a great Cork team will be remembered when the girls of '78 line up to take their bows for becoming the 11th Cork team to cloak themselves in All Ireland glory.

It will be an emotion filled occasion in a much changed Croke Park and it's difficult to comprehend that it's 25 years ago since Dublin were routed in a lopsided final.

Five years had passed since the O'Duffy Cup had last found a resting place by the Lee but there was a steely determination evident that Sunday on Jones' Road that there would be no bridesmaids tag attached to this team. Much in life is new and much has changed since that defining Autumnal day but the deeds of household camogie names like Marie Costine, Cathy Landers, Pat Moloney, Nancy O'Driscoll, Marion Sweeney and Mary Geaney have stood the test of time.

Dublin had entered this game with every confidence that they would break Cork hearts again but from the game's infancy it was obvious that there was going to be only one winner and it wasn't going to be ladies from the Fair City.

As a contest it was signed, sealed and delivered at the interval, Dublin failed to register on the board at all in that opening half and Cork had pounced for four golden goals. The Dubs defence was in tatters with Pat Moloney and Marion Sweeney, the pride and joy of Killeagh, the home that gave Joe Deane and Mark Landers to the senior hurlers, Mary O'Leary, sister of the great Seanie, all in unstoppable form, as well as the girl from Castleisland Mary Geaney, the dual star who also made her name in another stick code, hockey.

Marian McCarthy was superb between the sticks and the imperial presence of Marie Costine from that great hurling home of Cloyne was something that had to be seen to be believed. Marie Mackey and Pat Rordan made major contributions as well as Claire Cronin, Angela Higgins and another hockey international, team captain Nancy O'Driscoll.

Moloney, Geaney and O'Leary slammed in the goals that blew Dublin away and it was a performance from the Rebel girls that was near flawless.

Dublin had stunned Wexford in the semi-final but there were few heroics this time. Barbara Redmond, Mary Mernagh and Noreen Fleming tried their utmost but on this day there was ever only going to be one result.

Now they are going back again to take that trip down memory lane and one of the stars of that day, Marian Sweeney is eagerly looking forward to it. "It will be great to get together again. I don't remember a great deal about the game except that Pat Moloney was on fire that day.

"a swan among ducks"

"I remember Con Houlihan writing in the Evening Press the following night about the game and he described her as a swan among ducks. "And he described Marie Costine as like a moat around a castle. After the match we went back to some hotel in Malahide for the after match meal which both teams attended and we had a great night afterwards.

"We came down on the Monday, stopped in Mallow which is the norm and we got a great welcome at Kent Station. Then it was on the old Victoria Hotel, happy days indeed.

"For a few weeks afterwards it was one party after another and we all had a ball. It will be great to get together again next Sunday although a lot of us are still great friends. Myself, Moloney and O'Leary meet regularly and we play a lot of golf.

"It will be a special day and in a much changed Croke Park these days."

The golden era continues for Tipperary

Tipperary
Cork

2-11
1-11

GLORY for Tipperary in yesterday's wonderful All-Ireland senior camogie final in Croke Park, and a measure of revenge for their three-goal drubbing last year.

That's four championships now in the last five years, and a recent but long-running argument about the best team in camogie over that period settled.

The protagonists took to Croke Park with two forward lines that bristled with menace - a threat in every corner, danger from every angle.

But this was a day when the defenders came to the fore. Critically however, it was the Tipp defence that won out.

Every ball was hard-contested on both sides of the field, every score

hard-earned, referee Aine Derham prudently allowing both sets of defenders a bit of latitude in imposing themselves. That Eimear McDonnell would then manage to score 1-4 from play in such an environment, that Deirdre Hughes would poach 1-1, speaks volumes; that both were in blue-and-gold, and both in the inside line of attack for Tipperary, was ultimately the difference, the principal reason the O'Duffy Cup rests in Coshel tonight.

Cork had built a 0-4 to 0-2 lead after 23 minutes.

Three of the Cork points had come from the half-forward line, one each from O'Donoghue, Dillon and O'Leary, the fourth from Orla O'Sullivan. Tipp's reply by way of a super shot from the wing by Hayden, Noelle Kennedy with the second.

That Kennedy point flushed Cork captain Dunlea outfield, and Tipp began to prosper.

First to benefit was McDonnell in the 26th minute. In such a close contest, goals were always going to be crucial. Taking a ramble out wide, on the opposite wing, the Tipp left-corner-forward won possession, beat Joanne O'Callaghan, headed for goal. With Dunlea gone from the sweeper position, the path was clear, and McDonnell drew Cork 'keeper Ger Casey, before booting the ball low to the net.

Nevertheless, by the break Cork had regained the initiative, and thanks to two long-range frees from centre-back Mary O'Connor, led at the break 0-7 to 1-3.



Diarmuid O'Flynn

really sealed this famous win. Within 40 seconds of the restart, Deirdre Hughes broke free, and sent a searing shot across the faultless Ger Casey into the top corner, putting Tipp back in the driving seat. They would never again release that control.

McDonnell followed that goal with the first of her four second half points and though the hard-working Emer Dillon and Fiona O'Driscoll (superbly marshalled by Suzanne Kelly) briefly raised Cork hopes with a couple of points in reply, slowly but surely the squeeze came on. All over the field Tipp upped their game, and Cork found themselves suffocated.

Captain Una O'Dwyer was totally dominant on the edge of the Tipp square, Kelly and Claire Madden likewise in the corners; outside them Sinead Nealon typified the Tipperary hunger and spirit, while Ciara Gaynor and Therese Brophy bent a little, but never broke. Angie McDermott and Philly Fogarty, while not shining, ensured that highly-rated Cork didn't dominate the middle, and they were assisted in the sector by Joanne Ryan, who had a terrific second half.

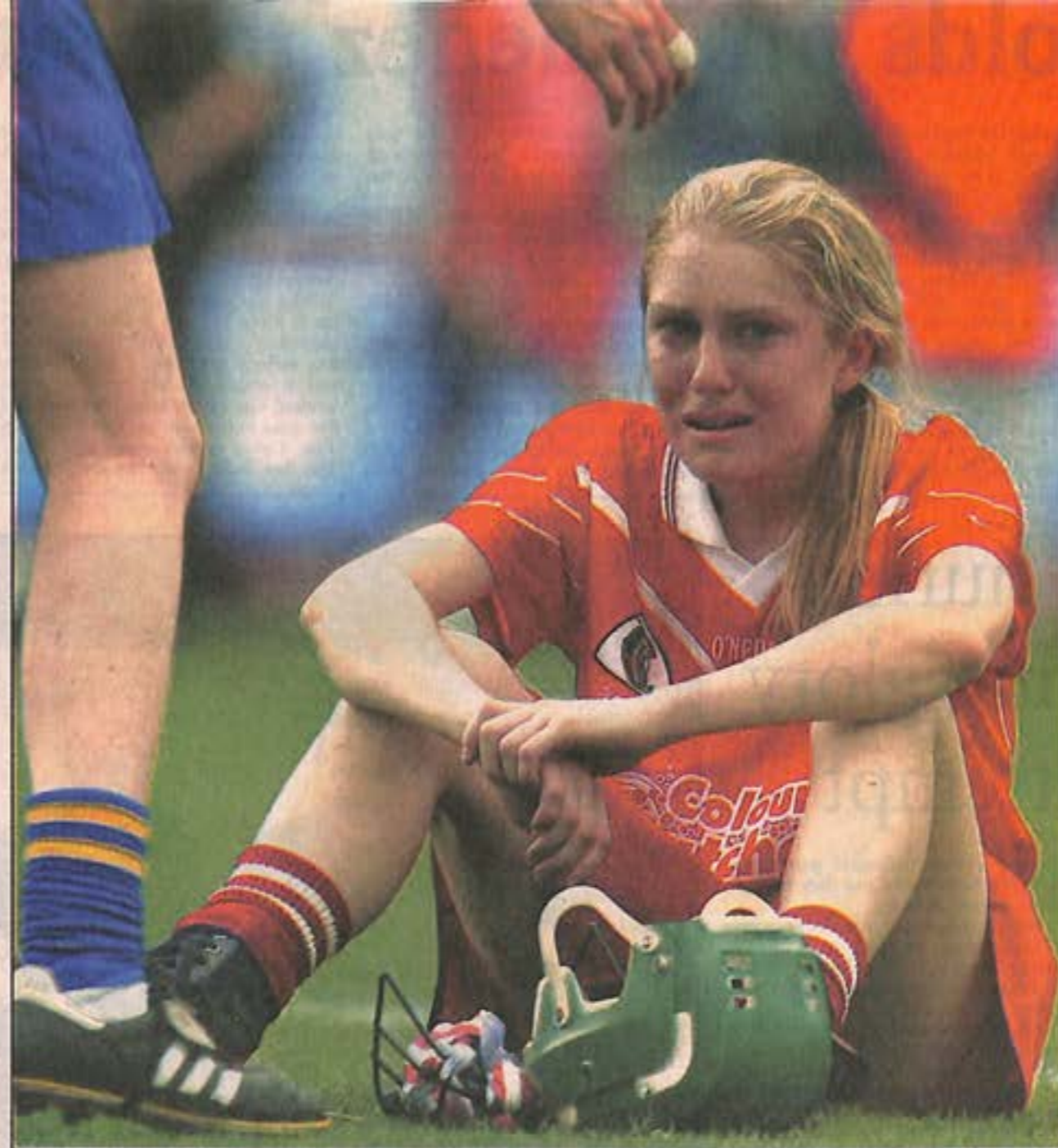
The real damage however, was being done inside. All that work outfield would have amounted to nothing but for the brilliance of McDonnell and Hughes. Three times in a golden five-minute spell, from the 44th to 49th minutes, player-of-the-game McDonnell pointed, two of those assists from Hughes, to put Tipperary 2-9 to 0-9 ahead.

For the last ten minutes, Cork introduced the flying Breege Corkery, re-introduced Gemma O'Connor, and they did make a difference. Corkery enlivened proceedings around the middle, though she would be better advised using her pace just to make the opening, then centre the ball rather than running into trouble, while O'Connor was on hand to kick home that consolation goal.

Too little however, all too late, nearly four minutes into injury-time, and though Cork did have one last chance to set up an equalising goal, it would have been totally undeserved, and appropriately, it was that suffocating defence to the rescue once more.

Scorers - Tipperary: E. McDonnell 1-4; D. Hughes 1-1; E. Hayden 0-2; N. Kennedy 0-2 (0-1 free); J. Ryan, C. Grogan (free), 0-1 each.
Cork: G. O'Connor 1-0; F. O'Driscoll 0-3 (0-2 free); J. O'Leary 0-2; E. Dillon 0-2; M. O'Connor 0-2 (free); U. O'Donoghue, O. O'Sullivan, 0-1 each.

Tipperary: J. Delaney; S. Kelly, U. O'Dwyer (c), C. Madden; S. Nealon, C. Gaynor, T. Brophy; A. McDermott, P. Fogarty; J. Ryan, E. Hayden, C. Grogan; N. Kennedy, D. Hughes, E. McDonnell. Subs: T. O'Halloran (Kennedy 56).
Cork: G. Casey; J. O'Callaghan, E. Duggan, S. Dunlea (c); P. O'Connor, M. O'Connor, G. O'Connor; R. Moloney, V. Harris; U. O'Donoghue, E. Dillon, J. O'Leary; O. O'Sullivan, C. Harrington, F. O'Driscoll. Subs: C. Foley (P. O'Connor 30); S. Hayes (G. O'Connor inj. 36); B. Corkery (Harris 47); C. Desmond (Harrington 47); G. O'Connor (O'Sullivan 54).
Referee: A. Derham (Dublin) - excellent job.



Tipperary captain Una O'Dwyer raises the cup yesterday.

Picture: Denis Minihane



Cork midfielder Vivienne Harris and Tipperary wing forward Philly Fogarty both miss this high ball at Croke Park.

Picture: Denis Minihane

Left: Cork's Rachel Moloney is distraught at the final whistle yesterday.

Picture: INPHO

Cork boss says Tipp far the better team

by Therese O'Callaghan

CORK camogie boss Pa Finn is performing his duty - albeit an unpleasant one. He speaks to everybody who comes his way. Accepts the commiserations and the goodwill handshakes. He is making his way toward the winner's dressing-room and knows it could have been better, if they only accepted a portion of the chances that came their way.

"If only we had taken more chances at the start of the second half. We had a mere two points on the board after 20 minutes of the half. That was never going to be good enough."

The Premier County accrued 1-6 during the same stage with Deirdre Hughes's goal 40 seconds into the half proving to be the turning point of the day. Overall though, he had no complaints.

"Tipperary were by far the better team and we were beaten in too many places. They attacked everything and they hurled in bunches. But in fairness to Cork they came back and worked exceptionally hard in the closing

stages. We did the best we could. We brought on five substitutes and I thought Breege Corkery did very well. They were better than us - end of story."

Cork were rocked within minutes of the second half having lost two-thirds of a half back line that were so dependable all year. Finn admitted to being worried at the interval. "At the outset I felt if our backs did a good

job on their forwards we would win. In fairness to them they tried their hearts out, but their attack was that little bit better on the day. That is all I can say."

Centre-forward Emer Dillon who hit two wonderful points failed to hide her distress. She stops and ponders almost lost for words. All around her they feel much the same. "How can you explain something like

that? We never really got going. Our forward line was just stuck to the ground. We faded away into ourselves and nobody stood up to be counted."

However, the Cork girls never gave up. A goal three minutes into injury time from Gemma O'Connor - the wing-back had left the field five minutes after the interval with a hand injury and resumed with eight minutes to go at right corner forward - threw the red and white a lifeline. Three points down they gasped for air.

On the other hand there was no question that they ever underestimated their opponents.

"We gave it everything out there. There was no fear that we took anything for granted. If anything, being a point up at half time worked to our disadvantage. We probably were not fired up enough coming out for the second half."

It is also decision time now for the international hockey player. "Back to training tomorrow night. Yeah, it will not be easy. I will have to decide which path to take. That will be for another day," she maintained.

Cork dressingroom

Rossa's run riot over Fr O'Neills

Fr O'Neills
O'Donovan Rossa

1-2
8-7

ANTRIM side, O'Donovan Rossa, lifted the Camogie sevens title with a huge 25-point victory over the Cork champions at Glenalbyn on Saturday.

Fr O'Neills struggled without the talents of Cork forward, Fiona O'Driscoll and Tipperary defender Claire Madden as the Northerners

ran rampant. Kerri O'Neill and Jane Adams were the scorers in chief and indeed had it not been for some heroics from Claire Flavin in the O'Neills goal, the scoreline might have been greater.

Scorers: O'Donovan Rossa: J. Adams 4-2, K. O'Neill 3-4, S. Daykin 1-0, G. Connolly 0-1.

Fr O'Neills: R. Corcoran 1-0, C. Flavin, S. Cahalane 0-1 each.



Cork's Jennifer O'Leary gathers possession while under pressure from Tipperary's Claire Madden during yesterday's Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland SC final at Croke Park.
Picture: Ray McManus/Sportsfile

Premier ladies first class act

TIPPERARY	2-11
CORK	1-11

IF the country's hurlers are fed-up with playing second fiddle to Kilkenny, spare some sympathy for the nation's camogie players as they watch Tipperary's women setting up as awesome a reign of terror.

Five years ago they were relative unknowns and caused a sensation by winning their first senior title.

Yesterday, in their fifth consecutive All-Ireland Foras na Gaeilge senior final in a row, Tipp won the O'Duffy Cup for the fourth time.

They came hell-bent on avenging their 4-9 to 1-9 loss to Cork a year ago and their revenge was certainly served up cold and clinically.

The scoreline indicates there was little in it, thanks to a late Gemma O'Connor goal but once Deirdre Hughes got an early second-half goal and Emer McDonnell tagged on four brilliant points to put them into a six-point lead with 10 minutes remaining, Tipp never looked in trouble.

And while those were the heroines up front, where



Cliona FOLEY

Emily Hayden at centre-forward was also excellent, Tipp's brilliant defence and the tireless work of midfielder Philly Fogarty played as great a part.

No one epitomised their defensive brilliance more than full-back Una O'Dwyer, Tipp's level-headed female version of Noel Hickey, who admitted that the 2002 final had haunted them.

"It all came down to last year and those four goals. Everyone kept saying 'four goals, four goals', that was always in our mind," said Tipp's 'Captain Fantastic' who got one crucial block on Fiona O'Driscoll in the final

minutes. Cork's scoring statistics tell the tale. One goal in the dying minutes. Five points from the half-forwards but just four from the inside forward line and only one of those from play.

The reigning champs led at half-time (0-7 to 1-3) when Una O'Donoghue, in particular, was giving Therese Brophy serious problems, and Tipp had shot five bad wides into the Canal End, echoing the Cork men's problems of a week earlier.

But by the game's end, O'Dwyer's opposite number Caoimhe Harrington suffered the rare experience of being taken off.

Orla O'Sullivan was also called ashore and Suzanne Kelly had held last year's hat-trick heroine Fiona O'Driscoll to just three frees.

"Everyone helped us," O'Dwyer insisted. "Every time you were under pressure or looked for someone, there was always someone there to support you, everyone played their part in defence."

Manager Raymie Ryan, the Tipp hurler who actually won his first All-Ireland senior medal yesterday thanks to his female charges,

said a goal shut-out of the Cork forwards was something they had worked on.

"It took a full year's work to stop Fiona O'Driscoll having the All-Ireland she had last year!" Ryan revealed of their huge defensive focus.

And he also felt Deirdre Hughes' brilliant individual goal just after the re-start — a rasper from 30 yards — was the turning point.

The 1-4 contributed by RTE's Player of the Match Emer McDonnell — a niece of Cork football legend Billy Morgan — was also pivotal.

The Burgess star is a 22-year-old medical student with a passion for horse-riding but it's doubtful if four legs would have been faster than the fantastic solo dash she made to kick her first-half goal after 25 minutes.

Hughes scored 1-1 and set up many of McDonnell's, including one great overhead handpass. For the switch of Noelle Kennedy back into the forwards when the ploy of using her as a third midfielder was letting Stephanie Dunlea sweep up defensively, the management deserve credit.

Cork were unlucky to lose one of their brilliant half-

back line — Gemma O'Connor — to a hand injury, though she returned as a late sub and goaled in injury-time minutes when they got successive frees and desperately chased three-pointers.

Their substitution of Paula O'Connor at half-time was surprising though Caitriona Foley, like fellow-sub Briege Corkery, Emer Dillon and Jennifer O'Leary, battled to the end.

But Tipp were in no mood for folding and even goalkeeper Jovita Delaney contributed, making a vital block and clearance on a late free to help them hold on.

PLAYER OF THE MATCH — Una O'Dwyer (Tipperary)

SCORERS — Tipperary: E. McDonnell 1-4, D. Hughes 1-1, N. Kennedy 0-3 (2f), E. Hayden 0-2, J. Ryan 0-1. Cork: G. O'Connor 1-0, F. O'Driscoll 0-3 (3f), E. Dillon 0-1, J. O'Leary 0-2, R. Moloney 0-2 (2f), U. O'Donoghue, O. O'Sullivan 0-1.

TIPPERARY — J. Delaney 7, S. Kelly 7, U. O'Dwyer (capt) 9, C. Madden 8, S. Nealon 8, C. Gaynor 8, T. Brophy 7, P. Fogarty 9, A. McDonnell 7, J. Ryan 7, E. Hayden 8, C. Grogan 7, N. Kennedy 7, D. Hughes 9, E. McDonnell 9. Subs: T. O'Halloran for Kennedy (56 mins).

CORK — G. Casey 6, J. O'Callaghan 6, D. Cronin 7, S. Dunlea (capt) 7, P. O'Connor 6, M. O'Connor 8, G. O'Connor 8, R. Moloney 7, V. Harris 6, U. O'Donoghue 7, E. Dillon 8, J. O'Leary 7, O. O'Sullivan 6, C. Harrington 6, F. O'Driscoll 7. Subs: C. Foley 8 for P. O'Connor (46), S. Hayes 7 for G. O'Connor (36 mins), B. Corkery 9 for Harris (47), C. Desmond 6 for Harrington (47), G. O'Connor for O'Sullivan (54).

REF — A. Deham (Dublin). **ATTENDANCE** — 16,183.

Catherine the great

CLARE	3-9
GALWAY	3-9

TWO-GOAL hero Catherine O'Loughlin rescued a draw for the Banner County with the last puck of an All-Ireland Junior Camogie final at Croke Park that threatened to upstage the senior encounter.

With goalkeepers Susan Eamer and Tricia O'Grady outstanding early on, Galway took an advantage with a goal from Ann Marie Hayes.

It took Clare a while to settle, but a free from player of the match Deirdre Murphy helped the cause, and she followed this up with a powerful drive to the net as Galway led by 1-7 to 1-3 at half-time.

O'Loughlin's first goal levelled the game at 2-8 apiece with five minutes left. Ann Marie Hayes then got her second goal before O'Loughlin's late score earned Clare a replay on October 11.

SCORERS — Clare: D. Murphy 1-6; C. O'Loughlin 2-1; A. Ryan, C. McMahon 0-1 each. Galway: AM Hayes 2-0; E. Killely 1-1; B. Harty 0-3; M. Rangan 0-2; C. Bowes, C. Gernon, B. Kerris 0-1 each.

CLARE — P. O'Grady, J. Scrimion, D. Lynch, Caitriona McMahon, M. O'Loughlin, N. Connors, M. Whelan, L. Linnane, D. Corcoran, A. Ryan, D. Murphy, A. Keane, Clare McMahon, C. O'Loughlin, C. Connors. Subs: E. Keating for M. Whelan; E. Kaser for C. Connors; C. Lynch for D. Corcoran.

GALWAY — S. Eamer, L. Flynn, S. Cahalan, N. Lawless, N. Gavin, B. O'Connor, S. Keane, C. Kelly, C. Gernon, B. Harty, C. Bowes, M. Rangan, B. Kerris, AM Hayes, E. Killely. Subs: A. Doherty for R. O'Connor; S. Keane for M. Rangan.

REF — Eamon de Bruin (Tipperary).

Camogie All-Ireland senior final

Tipperary's forward play outwits Cork

Tipperary 2-11
Cork 1-11

PAT ROCHE
AT CROKE PARK

Tipperary may even have surprised themselves by their uplifting second-half performance which devastated champions Cork in a hectic free-flowing All-Ireland camogie senior final in front of a crowd of 16,183 thrilled spectators at Croke Park yesterday.

Tipperary's victory was based on tactics as much as flair. They had a full forward line of class that featured player-of-the-match Eimer McDonnell, Deirdre Hughes and Joanne Ryan.

Between them they scored 2-6 of the winning total but it was hardly a case of them playing as an orthodox front three. Instead, they fairly bamboozled the Cork cover by moving about to create the opportunities that kept Cork at full stretch.

Medical student McDonnell had pace, accuracy and deft touches to burn. Joanne Ryan was never content to play the ordinary role of a full forward. Instead she moved out looking for work and caused yet another puzzle for the Cork defence to solve.

Deirdre Hughes scored a goal within a minute of resumption which arguably put the game to bed.

The manner, though, in which the Cork defence started suggested that Tipperary would find it very difficult to find anything like a winning tally with Stephanie Dunlea playing an inspirational role and the unrelated half-back line of O'Connors, Paula Mary and Gemma, setting up insurmountable barriers.

But that was before Tipperary found the drive, accuracy and determination that turned the game on its head and left the earlier composed Cork girls digging deep for the answers.

Tipperary were desperately slow in getting on the scoreboard. Happily for them, however, they seemed to have packed all of their bad habits into the first quarter, during which they knocked over five wides before getting off the mark with their first point in 18 minutes, a 40-yard gem from midfielder Emily Hayden.

With Tipperary players subsequently proving that they could score more points of this calibre it was no wonder they hadn't got to depend on frees to boost their tally. In fact only one of their points was scored from the placed ball.

But the score that spurred on

Tipperary was created and struck home to the Cork net by McDonnell with a few minutes remaining to half-time.

The Tipp dynamo collected towards the right at the Canal End and then proceeded to sprint forward, ball glued to her stick. Her pace was remarkable in this instance and left Joanne O'Callaghan for dead. Ger Casey had no hope of saving a brilliantly weighted and well-directed shot.

It was definitely the score of the match and it was the score above all others that injected a huge and telling degree of confidence into the Tipperary effort. "You really don't know what she is going to do next," said Tipperary manager Ramie Ryan of his star performer.

Cork's defensive strengths began to crumble. To find the best player to mark McDonnell became an urgent priority for Pa Finn and his selectors. But the Tipperary schemers up front were threatening danger from so many angles that the task for the Cork defenders became urgent.

Cork's tenacity was never found wanting and the response to McDonnell's goal along with a Noelle Kennedy-pointed free was prompt and incisive. Fionna O'Driscoll banged over a point to reduce the deficit to one point and Rachel Moloney turned up trumps with two huge pointed frees to restore Cork's lead 0-7 to

1-3 by half-time.

Deirdre Hughes, another roamer and threat to the Cork defence, ignited the Tipperary recovery within seconds of the restart with a brilliant goal and McDonnell, a niece of Cork's Billy Morgan, tacked on a point straight from the puck-out.

It was very much downhill for Cork thereafter. Tipperary's half forwards, Philly Fogarty and Claire Grogan, typified the winner's spirit by popping up regularly in defence, a defence that had power and drive in half backs Therese Brophy, Clara Gaynor and Sinead Nealon as well as the drive and long deliveries of Una O'Dwyer.

Tipperary had opened a two-goal lead by the time the game reached injury time. Cork's wing back Gemma O'Connor, who returned to midfield after a time on the bench, had a consolation goal at the death.

CORK: G Casey; J O'Callaghan, D Cronin, S Dunlea, P O'Connor, M O'Connor, G O'Connor (1-0), R Moloney (0-2 frees), V Harris, U O'Donoghue (0-1), E Dillon (0-2), J O'Leary (0-2), O O'Sullivan (0-1), C Harrington, F O'Driscoll (0-3 one free). Subs: C Foley for P O'Connor at half-time, B S Hayes for G O'Connor (35 mins), B Corkery for V Harris (42 mins), C Desmond for Harrington (43), G O'Connor for O O'Sullivan (55).

TIPPERARY: J Delaney, S Kelly, U O'Dwyer, C Madden, S Nealon, C Gaynor, T Brophy, E Hayden (0-2), A McDermott, N Kennedy (0-3 one free), C Grogan, P Fogarty, D Hughes (1-1), J Ryan (0-1), E McDonnell (1-4). Sub: T O'Halloran for Kennedy (56).

Referee A Durham (Dublin).



Joanne Ryan of Tipperary, who helped herself to a point in yesterday's All-Ireland camogie final, gets the better of Cork's Sarah Hayes. - (Photograph: Lorraine O'Sullivan/Inpho).

Goals made all the difference in a hard-fought contest

Tipperary
Cork

2-11
1-11

IT was another disappointing day for the rebel county in Croke Park as the senior camogie team surrendered their Foras na Gaeilge title to Munster rivals Tipperary in an exciting contest.

The essential difference between the sides at the finish were the two goals Tipperary scored, particularly the second one, which came within 30 seconds of the re-start.

There was very little between the sides in the opening quarter as the teams traded points, Una O'Donoghue and Emer Dillon were on the mark for Cork with Noelle Kennedy and Emily Hayden responding for Tipperary.

Cork, though, were under a bit of pressure in midfield and the half forward line and, as a consequence, the defence were coping well.

However, it was breached in the 25th minute when Cork lost possession and Emer McDonnell kicked a goal. To their credit they responded well and three unanswered points from Fiona O'Driscoll and Rachel Moloney (2) put Cork back in front. At half time they held a slender lead of 0-7 to 1-3.

Within a minute of the re-start Tipperary's second goal arrived, this time from Deirdre Hughes, and it changed the complexion of the contest.

With 10 minutes to play Tipperary confined Cork to two points from Dillon and O'Driscoll, while Tipp had hit five in a row, McDonnell, Kennedy, Grogan and Joanne Ryan contributing.



Above: Cork's Briege Corkery winning possession from Tipperary centre forward Claire Grogan. Below: Tipperary players celebrate.

Picture: Denis Minihane



Cork were now two goals in arrears and although a number of substitutions were made, they made little impact and the goal they needed came too late.

Crucially they also hit a number of bad wides and when Gemma O'Connor did eventually force home a goal it was deep in injury time and Tipperary held on for a deserved win.

Cork coach Pa Finn, while naturally very disappointed after the game, was also philosophical in defeat: "On the

day we can have no complaints with the outcome, Tipperary were the better team and we congratulate them on their win.

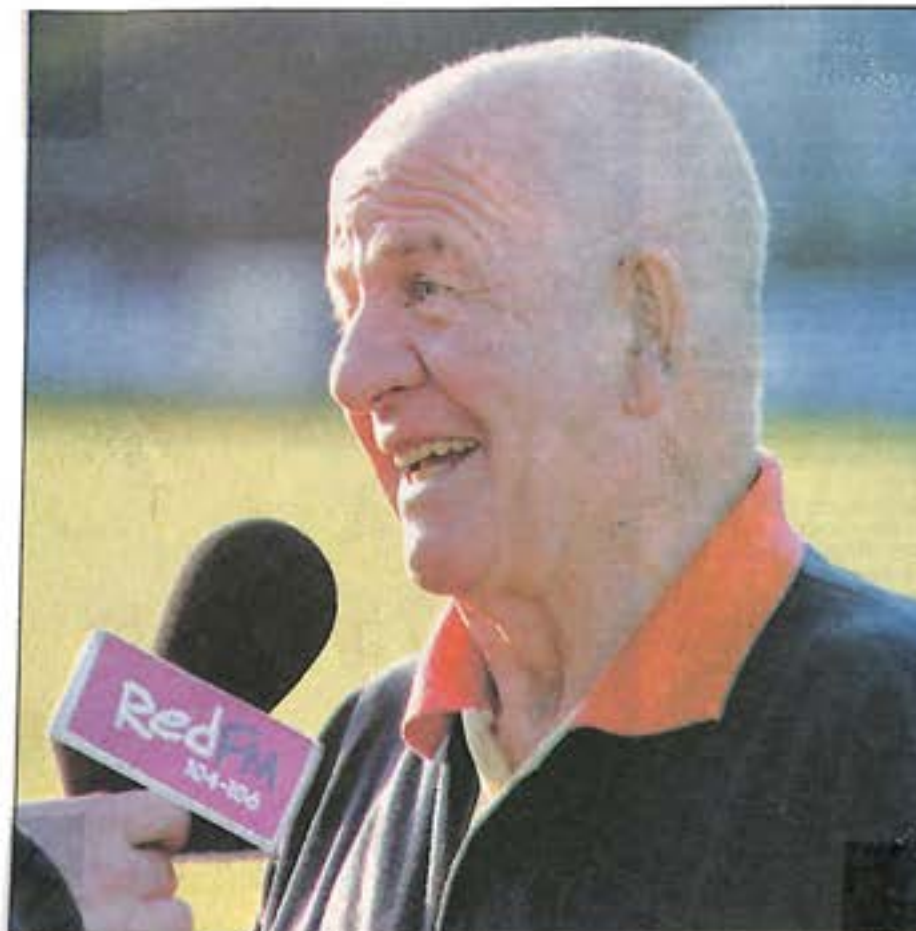
"It's fair to say we struggled in key areas, especially in midfield where we never dominated and, as a result, the supply to our forwards was not great and, basically, without the ball you cannot win. In that respect our defence performed heroics, considering the pressure they were under."

Pa was full of praise for his players who were shattered at the result: "I cannot praise this group enough they trained exceptionally hard for this championship, practically non stop since April and it's just a pity they did not get the reward that effort deserved. But knowing the character of the squad I am sure they will be back next year as determined as ever."

"I also want to thank my fellow selectors, Sandy Fitzgibbon and Kathleen Healy and trainer Jim McCarthy, for their work all year, we are down today, but we will be back."

As for the new champions Una O'Dwyer was relieved the Cork goal only came in injury time. "It was a great match typical of Cork and Tipp with very little between the teams and if the Cork goal had come a bit earlier we might have been in a bit of trouble," she said.

So for the fourth time in five years the O'Duffy Cup will reside in the premier county for 12 months at least, and for Cork the wait for the historic 21st title goes on.



Cork's senior camogie coach, Pa Finn, is quietly confident that his charges can complete the All-Ireland double against Tipperary this Sunday at Croke Park.



PROUD: Cork coach Pa Finn was proud of the display his side gave yesterday.

We did all we could says Cork coach Pa after loss

THEIR faces said it all. No need to look for match reaction. Pa Finn was as accepting as it was humanly possible to be. His voice was low and obviously showing the effects of such a heart-breaking defeat.

"What can you say?" was his response. "The girls were magnificent. They did as much as they could, and yet it would not be enough."

"Tipperary were simply unstoppable today. No matter what we did, they were always that step ahead. "Nevertheless, I am very proud of our performance and this is in the knowledge that they all worked so hard and diligently all year and left no stone unturned."

For one of the longest-serving members Fiona O'Driscoll, losing certainly does not get any easier. The pain was clear and in spite of all the great and many moments that she has had, this defeat was leaving an indelible mark.

"To say I am disappointed would be putting it mildly. We still could have won the game playing badly. At half time we were con-



FIONA O'DRISCOLL: Never easy to lose.

CORK QUOTES

fident enough being a point up, but the first 10 minutes of the second-half were crucial.

"We knew we had to maintain our lead but instead it was Tipp who got the scores and they got vital goals at either side of the half. We went five points down approaching the last quarter and at that stage it was going to be a huge fight back. "But we stuck at it and then got the goal and all of a sudden there was only one puck of the ball in it."

"But, time ran out on us and it was Tipperary's day."

Tipp are b



Vivienne Harris of Cork and Tipperary's Philly Fogarty battle for possession during yesterday's All-Ireland final at Croke Park.

Picture: Inpho

Premier girls recover from a shaky start



Therese O'Callaghan

Cork	2-11
Tipperary	1-11

Tipperary	2-11
Cork	1-11

WHOEVER was going to win, it was not going to be a huge surprise.

Such was the proximity of these neighbouring counties in terms of ability, there was never going to be any surprises. Unfortunately, for Cork the losers had to be them and what a bitter pill it proved to be to swallow.

They started out by doing everything right and had Tipperary on the rack. Or should it be said that the Premier County were playing right into their hand.

It appeared hard to believe but the Blue and Gold set out with a two-person full-forward line and against the calibre of a Cork defence who had lorded it all year this was hard to comprehend. Granted the two people involved were Deirdre Hughes and Eimear McDonnell but the quality of ball being sent in due to the extra play of Philly Fogarty around the middle of the field did not suit.

However, Tipperary were alert to what was happening and soon reverted to the old-fashioned three-player full-forward line.

And what an impact the two aforementioned players made on this game. RTE player-of-the-match Eimear McDonnell showed skill that is not often portrayed on centre stage. Her goal and four points were all executed with such panache and Hughes's goal proved uplifting —

Goals win

HUNGER: Tipperary were hurting after losing last year's decider to Cork.

They came to Croke Park with vengeance on their minds. This was something that the Rebels could do nothing about. Revenge turned into hunger and Tipperary because of their absence last year showing the greater appetite.

GOALS: The old adage that goals win matches. Two for Tipperary were the difference in the end. Although Cork did get one

ack on the top



Denise Cronin, 3, consoles team-mate Mary O'Connor at the final whistle after defeat Cork's defeat by Tipperary in a closely contested final at Croke Park. Picture: Sportsfile

her strike from 30 metres fully stretched keeper Ger Casey as she placed the ball into the top pocket of the net.

The consequences were that within two minutes of the resumption the Premier County has grinded out a three-point advantage — a lead they never relinquished right up to the end.

Cork were forced to backpedal then. Their answer was a point from play from Emer Dillon and a pointed free from Fiona O'Driscoll. The mighty engine was beginning to

chug as Tipperary piled on the pressure from all over the pitch. Cork simply had no response and their backs were to the wall. Losing Gemma O'Connor after half time did not help their cause and when players like Paula O'Connor, Vivenne Harris, Caoimhe Harrington and Orla O'Sullivan were called ashore the die was well and truly cast.

It was a day when nothing would go their way. For all of the tremendous service that the above mentioned four players have given to the red jersey, yesterday was not going

to be their day. Whether there is more in the can remains to be seen. Although, everybody was remaining tight-lipped about the future, there is lots of mileage on many clocks.

Both sets of defences were on top yesterday. This was always going to be the winning/losing of the game. But it was Tipperary who stayed the more level-headed when the chips were down. They ensnared the Cork attack, which resulted in two of their three full-forwards being replaced. Midfield, was critical too where Tipperary had the edge.

Despite Rachel Moloney trying extremely hard, Emily Hayden and Angie McDermott tipped the scales to their advantage.

It boiled down to the simple story of whoever had the most scores on the board. Yesterday, it was the two wonder hits of Hughes and McDonnell — surely contenders for goals of the year.

It was said that victory would hinge on the hop of a ball. That is exactly the way it finished up.

Scorers for Tipperary: E McDonnell 1-4, D Hughes 1-1, N Kennedy 0-3 (0-2 frees), E Hay-

den 0-2, J Ryan 0-1.

Cork: F O'Driscoll 0-3 (0-2 frees), J O'Leary, E Dillon and R Moloney (frees) 0-2 each, U O'Donoghue and O O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

CORK: G Casey, J O'Callaghan, D Cronin, S Dunlea (capt), P O'Connor, M O'Connor, G O'Connor, R Moloney, V Harris, U O'Donoghue, E Dillon, J O'Leary, O O'Sullivan, C Harrington, F O'Driscoll. Subs: C Foley for P O'Connor (h/t), S Hayes for G O'Connor (inj 35 mins), B Corkery for V Harris, C Desmond for C Harrington (both 47 mins), G O'Connor for O O'Sullivan (52 mins).

TIPPERARY: J Delaney, S Kelly, U O'Dwyer (capt), C Madden, S Nealon, C Gaynor, T Brophy, A McDermott, E Hayden, N Kennedy, C Grogan, P Fogarty, D Hughes, J Ryan, E McDonnell. Subs: T O'Halloran for N Kennedy (56 mins).

Referee: A Derham (Dublin).

it for Tipp

Three reasons why Tipperary won

back at the death, it was much too late for any descent sort of raid. They badly needed a major strike earlier in the day. With both sets of defenders so much on top, it was always going to take goals to win this duel.

DEFENCE: Tipperary came out in the second half a point down but it took only 40 seconds for them to go into the lead — the first time in the game. From there on in they battered down the hatches.



The Cork team and substitutes who lost to Tipperary in yesterday's All-Ireland camogie final.

Picture: Inpho

Revenge the spur as Tipperary girls claim camogie crown

by Therese O'Callaghan

THE WINNERS' dressing room is so easy to visit, not so easy to control. Tipp players were exiting in droves - an All-Ireland title to be celebrated after their thrilling 2-11 to 1-11 victory over Cork yesterday in front of over 16,000 fans at Croke Park.

Shouts of Quinn's Pub were ringing through the heavily scented air. An old meeting place for teams of the past, the newly crowned champions couldn't wait to cut loose.

Coach Raymie Ryan sweeps up

most of the attention as the county's fourth All-Ireland title was making its way into the history books. He said that their single-minded approach and their desire for revenge were apparent from an early stage.

"A year's work and it came down to the last puck of the ball," he says with a shake of the head.

The details of who scored were not important, as the Tipp boss was emphatic in praising all his players.

All afternoon it appeared that the sliothar was hit with the intent of getting back at last season's defeat. There

was no way, according to Ryan, that they were going to give the same sort of leeway that they gave to 4th Cork forwards 12 months previous. One such incident was when Fiona O'Driscoll broke free and was racing on goal ready to blast the net when Una O'Dwyer got back, denied her and Claire Madden eventually cleared the ball. A vital intervention.

"A year's planning is gone into that block and on how to stop Fiona O'Driscoll from repeating the performance she gave in last year's final.

Captain Una O'Dwyer labelled the

win "the best day of my life".

"We were very disappointed leaving in four goals last year. We felt we had something to prove this year and that was what drove us on. Not taking from the Cork victory but all six of us, and Jovita (Delaney) were gutted after that display.

"Everybody was very relaxed coming up.

"We started to tune in when we arrived here which was good as nobody was uptight about it. Thankfully in the second half we started to pull away. Up to then we were piling on the

pressure in the forward line but weren't converting the possession."

A smiling Jovita Delaney is nearby. The heat of the battle obviously had taken its toll but she is happy - happy for more reasons than one. Nine months ago a serious car accident confined her to the recovery ward for the earlier part of the year. Her fight back, although hard work, was rewarded like most of her colleagues with a fourth All-Ireland medal.

"Great to come back and be victorious. The big thing about last year was that we knew we did not perform on

the day in a lot of areas including myself. It was cruel. It takes guts to come back and go for it again.

"There was one stage when I thought I would never get back playing again. But, thankfully I stuck it at, did a lot of work. I am still not right but I am getting there."

There was also a special mention for Raymie Ryan. "It was a difficult task for him to take on after Michael Cleary. Fair play he came in, he knew what it was about, what he wanted done and the players responded."

*Match report, Cork reaction: Page 22

Justice as Clare salvage draw against Galway in dying seconds of junior thriller

Clare
Galway

3-9
3-9

by Diarmuid O'Flynn

THE fairest of all possible results in yesterday's All-Ireland junior camogie final, albeit in controversial circumstances.

Heading into injury-time, at least one added minute was signalled by the referee and Clare were exerting enormous pressure, desperately in search of

the goal they needed to bring this game to a replay.

With that one minute just about elapsed, they won what appeared to be their last chance, a free just outside the 20m line, dead centre, on Deirdre Murphy. She took the free herself, well-struck, equally well-saved by Susan Earner in the Galway goal, and cleared.

But the game went on, and on, with a second-chance free for Clare, 33rd minute, this time taken by captain

Catherine O'Loughlin, saved again, and finally, third chance; in the 34th minute, late 34th minute, created and scored by captain O'Loughlin, so we get to do it all again, October 11.

Two super saves, both from the ever-dangerous Claire McMahon, denied underdogs Clare the kind of tonic start they needed, and sandwiched between the two, even more Clare heart-break. Taking advantage of a long ball, skilful Galway corner-forward Emma Kilkelly controlled well, rounded Jane

Scanlon, broke in along the end line and had a well-struck shot saved by O'Grady. Waiting on the rebound was Ann-Marie Hayes.

Hanny, best wing-forward on view, opened the Galway account on the resumption, to put them five points in front, but a pair from a very determined Deirdre Murphy, sandwiched around a point from Aoife Ryan, had Clare within two points by the 45th minute, back in the hunt.

Not for long. After some great

teamwork the ball eventually came to Kilkelly on the edge of the square. Goal Galway, 2-8 to 1-6, but back again came Clare. Point Murphy, goal O'Loughlin, point McMahon, tied game, 52nd minute. Then came a handling error from O'Grady. Hayes accepting her second gift goal of the game, and right on the 60th minute, a point from midfielder Colette Glen-non. Fittingly, it was that dynamic scoring duo of Murphy and O'Loughlin to the rescue for Clare.

Scorers for Clare: C. O'Loughlin 2-1; D. Murphy 1-6 (0-5 frees); A. Ryan, C. McMahon, 0-1 each. Galway: A.M. Hayes 2-0; M. Flanagan 0-4 (0-1 free, 0-1 45); E. Kilkelly 1-0; B. Hanny 0-3; B. Kerins, C. Glennon, 0-1 each.
CLARE: T. O'Grady, J. Scanlon, D. Lynch, C. McMahon; M. O'Looney, N. Comyns, M. Whelan; L. Linnane, D. Corcoran; A. Ryan, D. Murphy, A. Keane; C. McMahon, C. O'Loughlin, C. Comyns. Subs: R. Kaiser (Comyns 37); E. Keating (Whelan 40); C. Lynch (Corcoran 47).
GALWAY: S. Earner, L. Flynn, S. Cahalan, N. Lawless; N. Gavin, R. O'Connor, S. Keane; C. Kelly, C. Glen-non; B. Hanny, C. Bowes, M. Flanagan; B. Kerins, A.M. Hayes; E. Kilkelly, Subs: A. Doherty (O'Connor 42); S. Keane (Flanagan 59).
Referee: E. Ryan (Tipperary). Good job, poor watch.

Player of the match

THERE were a few contenders: Tipp captain Una O'Dwyer was a colossus at full back. Therese Brophy had a brilliant second half. Deirdre Hughes' goal set them on the road, but over all the nod goes to Eimear McDonnell who turned in another incredible display scoring 1-4 from play at corner forward.

Score of the match

WHERE does one start here? On both sides there was some incredible scores. Emily Hayden scored an unbelievable point in the first half from over her shoulder, but Deirdre Hughes' goal seconds after the restart was finished with such aplomb. This strike effectively killed the Rebel challenge.

Turning point

YOU could say that both Tipperary goals were turning points arriving before and immediately after the interval. But their five-point unanswered barrage between 40th and 50th minute pushed Cork out of the equation.

Referee watch

DUBLIN referee Aine Derrham had a fine game. In charge of her sixth All-Ireland senior final she was up with the play at all times. There were no controversial decisions and she played an important role in the overall pace of the game. By and large she had a fine game.

Camogie Junior Clare rise from dead to level it

Clare 3-9
Galway 3-9

PAT ROCHE
AT CROKE PARK

Clare, with a star on the forty in Deirdre Murphy, came from behind in dramatic fashion to earn a well-deserved draw in the junior final curtain-raiser at Croke Park yesterday. The replay will be on October 11th. Clare trailed by four points going into injury time but somehow got back on terms with yet another pointed free from Murphy and a stunning last-second goal from Catherine O'Loughlin.

The Galway side, with star attackers in Anne Marie Hayes, Emma Kilkelly and Marlene Flanagan, had led from early on.

Left-hander Murphy got Clare on the move with some great scores and finished with a tally of 1-6.

Galway were ahead by 1-7 to 1-3 at half-time.
CLARE: P O'Grady, J Scanlon, D Lynch, C. McMahon; M O'Looney, N Comyns, M Whelan, D Corcoran; A Ryan, D Murphy (11-6, four frees), A Keane; C. McMahon (0-1), C O'Loughlin (2-2), C Comyns; Subs: R Kaiser (Comyns 37); C Lynch (Corcoran 47); E Keating (Whelan 40).
GALWAY: S Earner, L Flynn, S Cahalan, N Lawless; N Gavin, R O'Connor, S Keane; C Kelly, C Glen-non; B Hanny, C Bowes, M Flanagan; B Kerins, A.M. Hayes; E Kilkelly (1-0); S Keane (Flanagan 59).
Referee: E Ryan (Tipperary).

Ladies are a match for best



Talking GAA

Diarmuid O'Flynn

ANYONE who saw Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park, anyone whose viewing was confined to the senior final on television, will know this: when it is said (and it has been said, over and over) that at the top, the women's game is every bit as skilful, every bit as entertaining as the men's version, that is the pure truth. It is not the commentators being charitable, it is not being patronising. Speaking as someone who witnessed both days, for sheer skill, for entertainment, the camogie games in Croke Park were at least the match of the minor and senior hurling All-Ireland finals of the previous Sunday. At least. Were they as intense? Thankfully no, because tension took from the senior hurling final especially. Even though defences were still dominant, the camogie girls expressed themselves far more freely than their male counterparts, the hurling was far more fluid. Maybe one day we'll all

Tipp's unity of purpose reaps the just reward

DEFIANT DEFENCE SOWS SEED FOR THRILLING TITLE WIN

TIPPERARY 2-11 CORK 1-11

Match report - Gerry Slevin; Pictures - Bridget Delaney

What a difference a year makes! On September 15th 2002, Tipp players, mentors and supporters were a sorry sight at the conclusion of the All Ireland senior camogie final. Cork had defeated them convincingly, thus foiling a four in a row bid.

That nine point defeat (4-9 to 1-9) however, turned out to be the catalyst for what on Sunday last, again in Croke Park, saw the Tipp mood so buoyant when Aine Derham sounded the long blast. The tables had been turned, far more convincingly than the score line might suggest. A three points victory, yes, Cork's goal coming four minutes into added time, but overall a thoroughly deserved win.

Clearly intent on exorcising that four goal nightmare of last year, Tipp's defence put up the shutters, its unity of purpose so evident in the manner in which the highly vaunted Cork attack was contained. Farther on, mid field reigned with authority and after a shaky start that saw too much bunching and inaccurate shooting, the attack settled to endorse the advantage of the other sectors with impressive credentials.

As the game progressed the confidence grew. The Cork flair was strangely subdued, Tipp's absolute determination not to be second best again, a telling factor as the road to a fourth title in five years was travelled with industry and accomplishment.

IMPORTANCE OF GOALS

Never was the importance of goals and their timing so well illustrated. It had taken Tipp all of eighteen minutes to score, Emily Hayden eventually suc-

ceeding with a point where so many others had failed. In Cork's only two raids up to now they had pointed. Cork continued to do best in the scoring stakes and were 0-4 to 0-2 ahead, when in the 25th minute, a huge clearance from Una O'Dwyer reached Eimear McDonnell who took on her marker, and glided towards goal, before kicking the ball to the net.

It was the score Tipp badly wanted and Claire Grogan soon pointed a free to bring parity at 1-3 to 0-6 but a Rachel Moloney free for Cork, gave the holders a slender interval lead.

Then value of that goal and its significance in the lead up to the half time break was immense and it could not have been built upon more convincingly than it was, with goal poacher supreme Deirdre Hughes, having picked up a Therese Brophy centre only forty seconds into the second half, unleashing a powerful shot for Tipp's second goal.

This goal did several things. It sent Tipp's hopes sky high, it placed a huge obstacle in front of the defending champions, sending their attack into a frustrating mood because of the way in which the Tipp defence dealt so well with their scoring attempts. It also led to a determination in the Tipp make-up to go all out and build on that

score, which they did. Some sweet points followed, notably from Eimear McDonnell and with the Cork mentors forced into making changes, Tipp had moved into a six point by the three quarter stage.

TOTAL COMMITMENT

Tipp's hurling was total commitment now and try as the Cork attack endeavoured to retake the initiative there was nothing happening. The fact that ace forward Fiona O'Driscoll had but one point from play in the entire hour speaks volumes for the leech-like attentions she received from Suzanne Kelly and later from Una O'Dwyer when the Cork lass moved to full forward.

Similarly, other Cork forwards like Una O'Donoghue, Caoimhe Harrington and Orla O'Sullivan, who could normally be relied upon to pose untold problems for defenders, got no change whatever, thanks to the sterling work of Una and her excellently marshaled defence.

Ironically, from a Cork viewpoint, it was interval substitute Brieger Corkery, who did most to stem the tide, though Emer Dillon too was prominent.

The ever-growing Tipp confidence was being matched with a better standard of hurling and players like Emily Hayden, (probably Tipp's most consistent player over the hour) Philly Fogarty and Joanne Ryan were in scintillating form. Inside, Deirdre Hughes was always moving, and threatening, her selflessness always evident in her deliveries to better placed colleagues. Claire Grogan, Angie McDermott and Noelle Kennedy too never let up while Eimear McDonnell's accuracy yielded four splendid points.

NOT TO BE THWARTED

And yet, Cork being Cork, one never dared to think too far ahead. A quick goal and anything could happen. But no, this Tipp defence was not to be thwarted and the greater the pressure they stronger the resistance. Claire Madden, Sinead Nealon, Therese Brophy (a tremendous second half) and Ciara Gaynor refused to give way, so much so that Jovita Delaney between the posts could direct proceedings without any great fear of herself being called upon to work too hard.

Five minutes from time Cork made a despairing effort when

Jennifer O'Leary took on the defence with goal clearly in mind. She was fouled and when it was thought Fiona O'Driscoll might try for a goal from the free, she instead tapped the ball over the bar.

A great Joanne Ryan solo run at the other end was finished over the bar by Emily Hayden, with the match now in added time.

There was still a dying kick or two in Cork and a low Emer Dillon free failed to reach its desired target, Jovita Delaney getting the ball away. Four minutes past the sixty, Brieger Corkery launched an attack, the ball dropping into the Tipp

2 each, U. O'Donoghue and O. O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

Tipp had nine wides in the game, five in the first half. Cork had seven, five of them in the second half.

Tipp were awarded nine frees to their opponents eleven and the only 45 in the our came Tipp's way in the first half.

TIPPERARY - Jovita Delaney, Suzanne Kelly, Una O'Dwyer (captain), Claire Madden, Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor, Therese Brophy, Angie McDermott, Philly Fogarty, Joanne Ryan, Emily Hayden, Claire Grogan, Noelle Kennedy, Deirdre Hughes, Eimear McDonnell.



Tipp manager Raymie Ryan views the scene.

square where Gemma Sub .. Trish O'Halloran for O'Connor, who had earlier retired with an injured hand only to re-emerge as a forward, managed to push it over the line.

But that was it. The final whistle was sweet music to the Tipperary ears in the 16,183 attendance. The O'Duffy Cup was on its way to Cashel .. again!

SCORERS AND TEAMS

Scorers for Tipp were E. McDonnell 1-4, D. Hughes 1-1, E. Hayden 0-2, N. Kennedy 0-2 (1 free), C. Grogan (free) and J. Ryan 0-1 each.

Cork's replies came from G. O'Connor 1-0, F. O'Driscoll 0-3 (2 frees), E. Dillon, J. O'Leary, R. Moloney (frees) 0-

each, U. O'Donoghue and O. O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

CORK - Ger Casey, Joanne O'Callaghan, Denise Cronin, Stephanie Dunlea (captain), Paula O'Connor, Mary O'Connor, Gemma O'Connor, Rachel Moloney, Vivienne Harris, Una O'Donoghue, Emer Dillon, Jennifer O'Leary, Orla O'Sullivan, Caoimhe Harrington, Fiona O'Driscoll.

Subs - Caitriona Foley for Paula O'Connor, Sarah Hayes for Gemma O'Connor, Brieger Corkery for Harris, Colette Desmond for Harrington, Gemma O'Connor for O'Sullivan.

Referee - Aine Derham, Dublin.

Camogie

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP
Final: Tipperary 2-11 Cork 1-11 Junior final:
Clare 3-9 Galway 3-9

ALL-IRELAND KILMACUD SEVENS
(Glenabym)

Division 1 - Semi-finals: O'Donovan Rossa, Antrim 5-5 (K O'Neill 3-1, J Adams 1-4, G Connolly 1-0) St Vincent's, Dublin 3-2 (E Brannigan 2-0, A Cullen 1-0, J Morris, D Smith 0-1 each). Fr O'Neill's Cork 2-5 (S Cahalan 1-3, R Corcoran 1-0, V O'Sullivan 0-2) Drumculen, Westmeath 2-4 (K Nugent 1-3, E Corcoran 1-1). Final: O'Donovan Rossa, Antrim 8-8 (J Adams 4-2, K O'Neill 3-5, S Daykin 1-0, G Connolly 0-1) Fr O'Neill's Cork 1-2 (R Corcoran 1-0, V O'Sullivan, S O'Callahan 0-1 each).

Division 2 - semi-finals: Loughglis, Antrim 7-4 (M McAllister 2-1, N McCann 2-0, G McMullan, L Higgins, S McCluskey 1-1 each) Portlennane, Antrim 6-0 (C Doherty 3-0, S Doherty 2-0, M Graham 1-0) Crossmaglen, Armagh 4-7 (P McAvoy 3-2, S Duncan 1-4, B O'Donnell 0-1) St Mennas, Westmeath 0-2 (A Heffernan, A Lawlor 0-1 each). Final: Crossmaglen, Armagh 4-4 (S Duncan 2-3, P McAvoy 2-0, B O'Donnell 0-1) Loughglis, Antrim 2-4 (G McMullan 1-3, S McCluskey 1-0, B McKinley 0-1). Player of the Tournament: Kerrie O'Neill (O'Donovan Rossa, Antrim). Puc Fada: Eve Talbot (Good Counsel, Dublin).



Tipp corner back Suzanne Kelly comes away with the ball after breaking up another Cork attack in Sunday's big game in Croke Park.



Angie McDermott sets up an attack.

Champions toppled by Tipp

Premier County girls get revenge for last year's defeat at same stage in Croke

TIPPERARY 2-11
CORK 1-11

CORK'S tale of woe continued at Croke Park as the ladies experienced the same misfortunes as their hurling counterparts.

Cork went to Croke Park seeking their 21st All-Ireland Senior camogie title but came up against a Tipperary side on a mission of revenge, that to redress the situation which prevailed twelve months ago when Cork stopped them in their tracks for a historic four in a row.

The opening half was a close affair with both defences coming under pressure. Cork laid down the challenge with the game's opening score, a point from Una O'Donoghue and when Orla O'Sullivan confidently struck over their second point five minutes later, Cork were looking good.

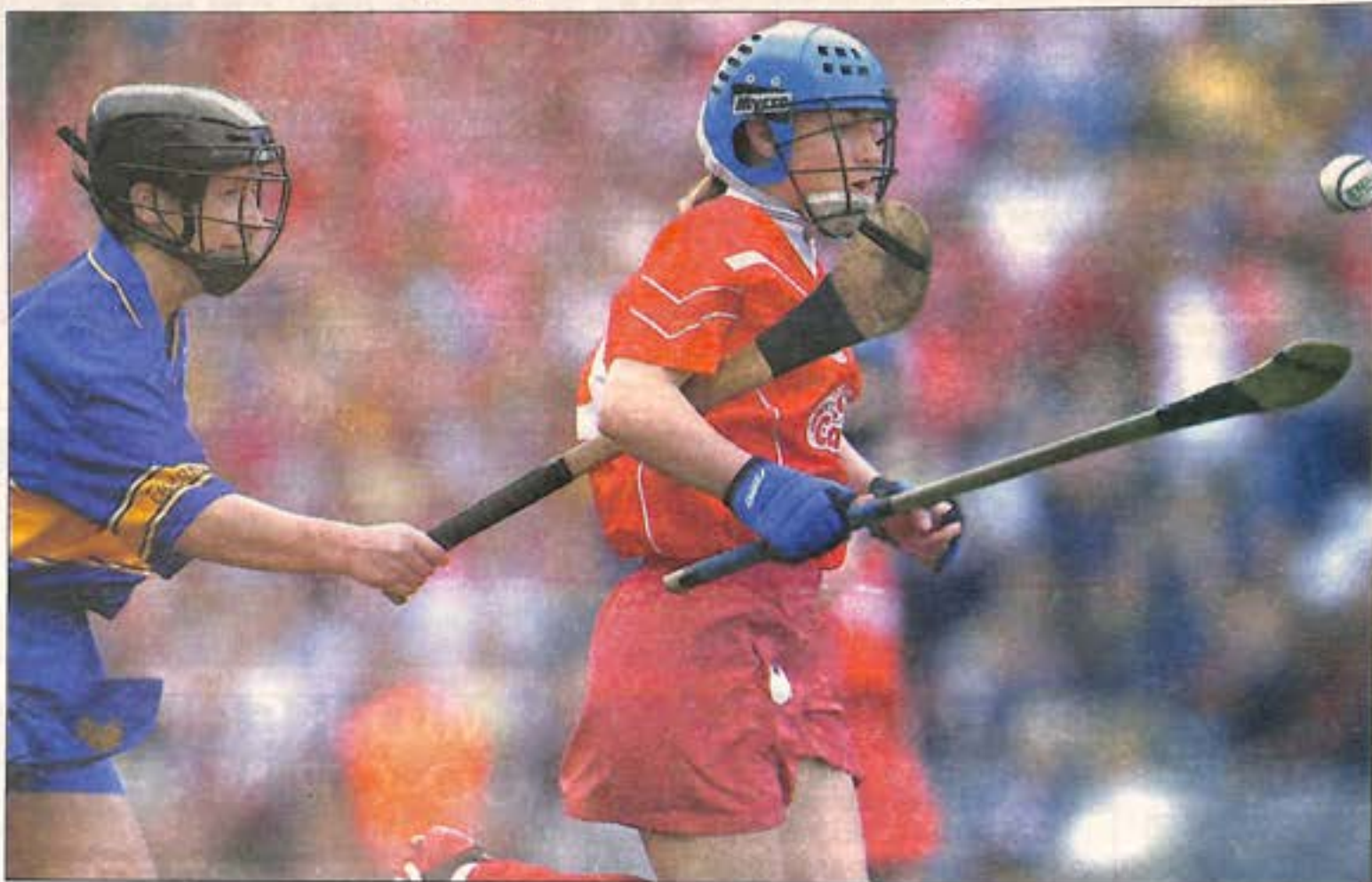
Tipperary had to wait until the 17th minute for their opening score and it came from midfielder Emily Hayden. Inside four minutes, Emer Dillon and Noelle Kennedy had swapped points and when Jennifer O'Leary outpaced the defence with seven minutes to the break and pointed, Cork extended their advantage to two.

Mary Newman reports on how the Cork senior camogie side lost their All-Ireland title to Tipp in Croke on Sunday last

Tipperary opened up the Cork defence with Noelle Kennedy playing a roaming game and the Cork defenders were forced to follow and this left plenty of room inside. Emer McDonnell benefited in the 23rd minute when she won on her opposite wing and beat Joanne O'Callaghan with a devastating solo run.

With the Cork defence exposed and plenty of room inside, McDonnell had ample space and how she utilised it as she drew Cork 'keeper Ger Casey before kicking low to the net.

Clare Grogan extended the challengers' advantage with a point but to their credit Cork fought back and three points before the break had them ahead by the narrowest of margins.



Cork's Orla O'Sullivan charges past Tipperary's Claire Madden during Sunday's All-Ireland final.

Cork coach Pa Finn was reasonably happy at the interval.

"We had not played well and were still ahead, Tipp had shot five wides to our two but we needed to just up the pace, however it was Tipp who got the boost with their second goal and we were chasing them from that."

The second half was only forty seconds old when Deirdre Hughes latched onto the ball after roaming free from the Cork defence and blasted to the roof of the net. Twice the sides swapped points as Tipp held the upper hand dictating mat-

ters in the centre of the field where Emily Hayden and Angie McDermott did trojan work as Cork played a chasing game.

Tipp hit a purple patch between the tenth and 20th minutes hitting five points without reply. In this period, Cork lost the services of defender Gemma O'Connor with a hand injury but they battled on and the introduction of Briege Corkery and Sarah Hayes saw them win more possession around midfield.

Twice Cork pointed but Tipperary were equal to the challenge with Hughes and Hayden replying.

Entering injury time Cork continued to press and the goal they so desperately needed came when Gemma O'Connor kicked to the net with three minutes extra time played.

There was one last chance as Cork laid siege but the Tipperary defence stood firm and cleared to earn them their fourth title that on the balance of play over the hour was well deserved.

Their ability to dominate midfield and the performance of the half-back line of Sinead Nealon, Clara Gaynor and Theresa Brophy set the foundations for victory while up

front their forwards, led superbly by McDonnell, Hughes and Clare Grogan broke the hearts of the Cork defence.

Cork selector Sandie Fitzgibbon was disappointed but was as always gracious in defeat. "The better team won on the day and we can have no complaints, it just never happened for us and while we are very disappointed we congratulate Tipperary on their victory."

Teams — Cork: G Casey, J O'Callaghan, D Cronin, S Dunlea, P O'Connor, M O'Connor, G O'Connor, R

Maloney, V Harris, U O'Donoghue, E Dillon, J O'Leary, O O'Sullivan, C Harrington, F O'Driscoll. **Subs:** C Foley for P O'Connor, S Hayes for G O'Connor, B Corkery for V Harris, C Desmond for C Harrington, G O'Connor for O O'Sullivan.

Tipperary: J Delaney, S Kelly, U O'Dwyer, C Madden, S Nealon, C Gaynor, T Brophy, A McDermott, P Fogarty, J Ryan, E Hayden, C Grogan, N Kennedy, D Hughes, E McDonnell. **Sub:** T O'Halloran for N Kennedy. **Referee:** A Derham (Dublin).



Briege Corkery (left) of Cork in action against Clare Grogan of Tipperary in yesterday's All-Ireland Camogie Final in Croke Park, which Tipperary won; report: SportsMonday. Photograph: Bryan O'Brien



Scramble for possession . . . Tipperary's Deirdre Hughes stays on her feet as Cork's (from left) Stephanie Dunlea, Denise Cronin and goalkeeper Ger Casey frantically try to secure possession during the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior camogie championship final in Croke Park, Dublin on Sunday last.

Pics: Ray McManus/SPORTSFILE

TIPPERARY 2-11

CORK 1-11

Tipperary's shining stars have reclaimed top spot in the camogie firmament. A display characterised by both guts and grace saw them regain the O'Duffy Cup after proving much too strong for champions Cork in the All Ireland senior final at Croke Park on Sunday.

Twelve months of pent-up heartache and pain were swept aside after Tipperary demonstrated that last year's final defeat to Cork was just a temporary aberration and that they are truly the top camogie team in the country by winning their fourth title in five glorious years.

Last year's final defeat to Cork cut deep into the Tipperary psyche and there was a grim determination among all the players that it was not going to happen again.

Characterised by a breath-taking performance from fullback Una O'Dwyer, the Tipperary defence shut up shop and confined the Cork attack to the minimum of chances and snap shots on goal and the Cork goal when it did arrive proved to be too late to enable them to retain the title.

At the other end Tipp had the game's outstanding forwards in Eimear McDonnell and Deirdre Hughes, both of whom scored the game's crucial goals. Cork's Fiona O'Driscoll rivals Hughes as one of camogie's great forwards but her contribution of one point from play reflects the dominance of the Tipperary defence.

Fullback O'Dwyer, who made up for last year's disappointment by bringing the O'Duffy Cup back to Cashel at the second attempt, had tremendous support in defence from Ciara Gaynor, Therese Brophy, Claire Madden, Sinead Nealon and Suzanne Kelly who had a superb game on O'Driscoll.

The Tipp midfield hurled with tremendous verve for the hour with Philly Fogarty and Angie McDermott outstanding and always ready to help out with defensive duties when the need arose.

Upfront Hughes, McDonnell, Emily Hayden and Claire Grogan, especially in the second half, never gave the Cork defence time to settle.

The only concern for Tipperary was that their dominance wasn't being reflected on the scoreboard with Cork much more economical in taking the chances that came their way but with Emily Hayden a powerhouse at centre forward, Tipp kept battling away and eventually the scores came.

Hayden, All Ireland winning captain two years ago, was a revelation in her workrate and overall performance, never flagging over the hour and fully justifying her selection after coming on as a substitute in the All Ireland semi-final win over Limerick.

Her's was one of a half dozen top notch Tipp displays that could have won anyone the Player of the Match award. In the end that accolade went to Eimear McDonnell and no one could quibble with the selection as the Burgess girl lit up Croke Park with lightning speed and superb finishing.

Her goal was one of the game's highlights and sets her apart as one of the sport's great finishers. The

score put Tipp ahead for the first time but although they went in one point behind at half time, a Deirdre Hughes goal restored the lead within a minute of the re-start and when McDonnell added a point within thirty seconds, Tipp were never headed again.

Finally the Tipperary tally on the scoreboard was starting to mount and when they went six points ahead it was a much more accurate reflection of the game's trend.

However that was when they had to dig even deeper as a Cork response was inevitable. In many ways the All Ireland final was won in those last ten to fifteen minutes when the Tipp defence put up an iron curtain to keep out the Cork attack.

Seldom have wearers of the blue and gold, in any grade or code, battled so bravely and so gamely to hold on to a hard-earned lead.

Cashel heroine Una O'Dwyer saw off three different Cork full forwards as she led by example. Even Fiona O'Driscoll's move to full forward late in the game proved of no benefit to the Rebel County as O'Dwyer was more than capable in dealing with the threat posed by one of the game's great forwards.

And seldom can a Cork team, which scored four goals in last year's final, have seen such little sight of goal as they did in this year's decider as the Tipp backs hunted in packs to block, harry and repulse every attack.

Jovita Delaney hardly had a save to make all day and when her goal was finally breached it was a sloppy effort from Gemma O'Connor and merely served to heighten the tension for the last few seconds of the game.

But as the final whistle blew it was Tipperary who were on the attack and referee Aine Derham's long blast signalled wild scenes of celebration that reflected how much this win meant to the Tipp players.

Tipp's elevation to the pinnacle of the camogie world has never been fully accepted in Cork, despite the three in a row from 1999 to 2001, but this latest win leaves little doubt as to where the balance of power now lies.

No doubt Tipp were also spurred on by the words of the Cork manager in a newspaper article which was pinned up on the dressing room wall with the manager's overly-confident prediction of a Cork win highlighted in green marker.

Sunday's win before 16,183 spectators in Croke Park, was the culmination of a wonderful first year in charge for Tipp boss Raymie Ryan. The Cashel man had a hard act to follow after the unparalleled success of his predecessor Michael Cleary, but he has now finished his first year in charge with the Munster title won for the first time in twenty six years and the All Ireland crown back on the Tipp sideboard following last year's hiccup.

Co-selector Marian Graham, for many the face of Tipperary camogie, was ecstatic with the win, not just in securing Tipp's fourth title in five years but in getting one over the old enemy.

Tipp's appetite for the fray was reflected in their early dominance but not on the scoreboard with Cork leading 0-2 to no score ten minutes into the game after scoring in their first two attacks through Una O'Donoghue and Orla O'Sullivan. Tipp enjoyed the lion's share of possession but four wides in that time from Claire Grogan (twice), Emily Hayden and Noelle Kennedy from a free suggested a frustrating afternoon.

It took Tipp seventeen minutes to open their account with Hayden hitting a nice point and that seemed to settle the side. Emer Dillon replied with a great point in the first Cork attack for sometime but Tipp's second score followed when Noelle Kennedy took a McDermott pass to hit a nice score.

In the 23rd minute Jenny O'Leary restored the Cork lead to two, 0-4 to 0-2, but Tipp hit back with the score of the game to take the lead for the first time.

Una O'Dwyer broke up a Cork attack and following a surging run out of defence, sent a great pass to Eimear McDonnell. The Burgess player had only one thought on her mind and after sprinting past the challenge of Joanne O'Callaghan, she showed tremendous skill to retain possession before kicking to the Cork net past the despairing dive of Ger Casey.

When Claire Grogan pointed a free following a foul on Philly Fogarty, Tipp were two clear, 1-3 to 0-4, with just three minutes to half time. Yet Cork managed to go in at half time a point to the good. Fiona O'Driscoll pointed with one of her first touches of the ball in the 28th minutes and two well take frees from Rachel Moloney gave them a slender half time lead.

The previous year's final had been equally tight at this stage with Cork going on to dominate the second thirty minutes. A year on and Tipp were determined to change the script.

Within forty seconds of the re-start Therese Brophy found Deirdre Hughes with a superb crossfield pass and the Toomevara player hit a cracking goal on the run that gave Casey no chance in the Cork goal. A McDonnell point within another thirty seconds put Tipp 2-4 to 0-7 in front following the perfect start to the half.

Cork responded with points from Emer Dillon and O'Driscoll from a free to cut the margin to a single point but what followed was Tipp's best spell of the half when they were rock tight in defence and lethal in attack. Over the following ten minutes they outscored the champions by six points to one to build up a commanding lead.

Kennedy from a free extended the lead to two and McDonnell made it



Eimear McDonnell kicks to the net past Cork goalkeeper Ger Casey for Tipperary's crucial opening goal in Sunday's All Ireland senior camogie final.

four in the space of sixty seconds to put Tipp 2-7 to 0-9 ahead entering the final quarter. Tipperary were now rampant with Claire Grogan and Joanne Ryan coming much more into the game and it was Ryan who put Tipp further ahead with a lovely score.

When the superb McDonnell took a

McDermott pass to shoot a point in the 20th minute of the half, it put Tipp six clear, 2-9 to 0-9, and they already had one hand on the cup. Cork were now making wholesale personnel and positional changes to save their cause but to no avail. Twice more they got the margin down to five points with scores from

Jenny O'Leary and another O'Driscoll free but each time Tipp responded with scores from Hughes and Hayden to maintain that crucial six points gap.

And so it remained until the fourth minute of injury time when Gemma O'Connor finally managed to kick the ball across the Tipp goal line following a

free from Breege Corkery. But Cork couldn't manage another goal and it was appropriate that it was Tipp who were on the attack when the ref blew the final whistle.

TIPPERARY: Jovita Delaney, Suzanne Kelly, Una O'Dwyer, Claire Madden, Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor, Therese Brophy, Philly Fogarty, Angie McDermott, Joanne Ryan 0-1; Emily Hayden 0-2; Claire Grogan 0-1; Noelle Kennedy 0-2; Deirdre Hughes 1-1; Eimear McDonnell 1-4. Sub: Trish O'Halloran for Kennedy.

CORK: Ger Casey, Joanne O'Callaghan, Denise Cronin, Stephanie Dunlea, Paula O'Connor, Mary O'Connor, Gemma O'Connor 1-0; Rachel Moloney 0-2; Vivienne Harris, Una O'Donoghue 0-1; Emer Dillon 0-2; Jennifer O'Leary 0-2; Orla O'Sullivan 0-1; Caoimhe Harrington, Fiona O'Driscoll 0-3. Subs: Sarah Hayes for Gemma O'Connor; Breege Corkery for Harris; Catriona Foley for Paula O'Connor; Colette Desmond for Harrington; Gemma O'Connor for O'Sullivan. Referee: Aine Derham (Dublin)



Sinead Nealon and Eimear McDonnell can't contain their post-match delight on Sunday.



Deirdre Hughes celebrates Tipp's fourth All-Ireland title in five years by showing off the O'Duffy Cup to the Tipp fans.



Team captain Una O'Dwyer stops the progress of a Cork forward with Philly Fogarty moving in as back-up in the All Ireland final at Croke Park.



We've done it! Selector Marian Graham and centre back Clara Gaynor show their delight at Tipp's great win.



"And tell me, Sinead, how's Mackey McKenna?" - Tipp captain Una O'Dwyer (3) introduces her colleagues to An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern.



Enjoying the homecoming - Suzanne Kelly, Jovita Delaney and Emily Hayden.



Co. Board Chairperson, Margaret Skehan congratulates Jovita Delaney.



Nenagh V.S. past pupils - All Ireland medalists. Back: Sinead Nealon, Therese Brophy, Deirdre Hughes, Noelle Kennedy. Front: Trish O'Halloran, Trish Ryan, Paula Ryan celebrate Sunday's All-Ireland camogie win.

Camogiechat

with Mary Newman

TALE OF WOE CONTINUES FOR THE COUNTY

THE difference between victory and defeat was evident again at the weekend as the tale of woe continued for the county in Croke Park.

On Saturday afternoon the Cork party led by Chairperson Marion Mc Carthy set off from Kent Station full of determination to bring back Cork's twenty first All Ireland senior title but it was not to be and on the day they had to give way to a Tipperary side who were winning their fourth title in five years.

Throughout the game Cork never managed to gain the upper hand despite leading at the break by a point after coming back from the killer blow inflicted by Emer Mc Donnell's twenty third minute goal.

Before that goal Cork were going well with points from Una o Donoghue, Orla o Sullivan, Emer Dillon and Jennifer o Leary giving Cork a two point advantage on a Tipp side who in the opening half shot five wides to Cork's two.

As early as twenty seconds into



St Catherine's celebrate winning the County Junior 'A' Championship recently, beating Valley Rovers in the final.

the second half Cork were forced to play a chasing game after Deirdre Hughes blasted to the net for the games second goal from her on in Tipperary held the upper hand and as they continued their dominance at midfield they stretched their advantage to two goals entering the last ten minutes.

Three minutes into injury time Cork's persistence paid off when Gemma o Connor kicked to the net but by now the goal that was so desperately needed had come too late. There was time for one more attempt to salvage the game but the Tipperary defence cleared and with it went Cork's title. While there is disappointment at the defeat we must acknowledge the new champions were the better team on the day something readily admitted by the Cork back room team.

While on the back room team my thanks to all concerned, Pa Finn, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Kathleen Healy and Jim Mc Carthy for their help and courtesy

to me at all times through what has been a tough campaign, my thanks also to the girls and their superb captain Stephanie Dunlea.

Pa Finn announced to his team as the train entered the tunnel on Monday evening that he would not be seeking another term as coach. Pa has done a wonderful job and I am sure he will be great-

ly missed as will his gracious wife Nora who became so close to all the girls.

While on the All Ireland it was a nice gesture by hurling coach Donal O Grady and his captain Alan Brown who were on hand on Saturday at Kent Station to see the camogie team off and wish them well.



Tipperary captain Una O'Dwyer shows her delight as she lifts the O'Duffy Cup following Tipp's win over champions Cork in the All Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park on Sunday - the side's fourth title in five years.



Claire Grogan heads for goal in the All Ireland final win over Cork.

It's a heroes' welcome home for camogie champions

By Conor Kane

This time last year, Tipperary captain Una O'Dwyer stood in the Square in Cashel and promised to return in 12 months' time with the O'Duffy Cup. On Monday night, she fulfilled that promise.

On a homecoming night when the crowds were in the mood for cheering, the biggest cheer of all was reserved for Cashel's own Una O'Dwyer - the fourth Tipp captain from the club to bring the O'Duffy Cup back to the county and the town in five years. "I can't describe what this feels like tonight", the proud full-back said herself.

The panel and mentors were due to get into Cashel at about 7.30 on Monday night following their victorious journey home from Dublin - and a stop-off at sponsors, the Horse and Jockey Hotel - and they didn't keep their fans waiting too long. Celebratory homecomings are notorious for running hours behind schedule, but at about 7.35pm on Monday it was announced that the players were just about to leave Horse and Jockey and would be in Cashel before long.

As the numbers waiting on the streets to greet them built up, so did the atmosphere - helped along by the PA system which belted out some old and new favourites, including the likes of Tipperary on My

Mind and Slievenamon. Tipperary jerseys, hats, flags, and - on a noticeably chilly night - scarves were in plentiful evidence, with the hawkers doing a roaring trade. Thankfully, the rain stayed away. As time went on, the rumours about the arrival of the bus carrying the team swept around the town centre, until two clues indicated that the All-Ireland winners were close at hand - the closure of the street to traffic by the Gardaí, and the rush of the assembled dignitaries onto the platform.

Finally, at 8.15pm, the team made its way down the street on an open-topped bus, led by the local pipe band, and greeted by huge roars of approval. The players were welcomed onto the platform, supplied by Managh Transport, to the tune of Queen's 'We are the Champions'.

Master of ceremonies for the night was Mattie Finnerty of Cashel King Cormacs but the task of formally according a civic reception to the panel fell to the Mayor of Cashel, Michael Doyle, who said that the county and the players' clubs were proud of the dedication and determination shown by all involved over the last number of years. "Last year we stood here and were all disappointed, but we said we'd be back better than ever, and we were," Mayor



Claire Grogan strides through with Noelle Kennedy watching.



Eimear McDonnell and Joanne Ryan show the delight of success.



Despite falling to her knees, outstanding wing back Therese Brophy gets in another clearance in Sunday's great win over champions Cork.



Jean Hayden (mother of Emily), Eileen and Len Gaynor (Ciara's parents) in pensive mood in Croke Park.



Above: A Cork defender finds her route blocked by Tipperary's Deirdre Hughes and Joanne Ryan.



Banlaochra na gCluichí Minor All-Ireland Finals 2003



Mionúr A - Áine Ní Ghadhra (Anna Geary)

Mionúr B - Áine Ní Loinn (Áine Lyng)

Minor A: Corcaigh 3-12
Minor B: Portlárige 6-11

An Ghaillimh 1-04
Ardmhacha 1-04

Anna Geary, who captained Mionúr Chorcaigh to the Cluiche Ceannais i mbliana, won her third Minor All-Ireland this year. She crowned it with a sterling performance on the field scoring a total of 1-05 earning her the Player of the match award.

Iarimreoir le Cill Chainnigh, Christy Heffernan, was a busy man the day of the All-Ireland Minor 'B' final as he watched his daughter Margo and Portlárige take their first ever All-Ireland title. He patrolled the sideline just like he patrolled the Cats' forward line in his playing days. Portlárige beat Ardmhacha who were also appearing in their first Minor B All-Ireland, 6-11 to 1-04.

Áine Lyng, a snappy Portlárige fullforward won the player of the match award in the Minor 'B' Final. She put in a great performance, and one feels with players of her calibre the Decies are in healthy hands.



STAR FILE!

Name Una O'Dwyer
Age 22
Team Tipperary
Position Full-back
Honours 3 All-Ireland Senior Camogie Titles; Ashbourne Cup 2003, Intermediate All-Ireland 1997, 2 Munster clubs, Senior club county champions, Munster player of the year 2000.
Club Cashel
Fav Film Legends of the Fall
Fav Food Steak

UNA O'DWYER TIPPERARY



Tipperary captain Una O'Dwyer is gunning for her fourth All-Ireland medal. It has added significance for her as injury ruled her out of the Munster championship success earlier this year. Also revenge is in the air as she was on the losing side to her archrivals, and former flat mates, from Cork.

The most renowned full-back in the country has been playing for Tipperary for seven seasons and also captained the UCC team to Ashbourne Cup success this year.

What advice would you give to young players?

Keep training. Try to build up your concentration and always listen to your mentors.

What is your greatest Camogie memory?

Completing the three in a row All-Ireland success from 1999 to 2001 was just amazing.

Who has been your toughest opponent?

Without doubt my fellow Tipperary teammate Deirdre Hughes of Toomevara.

Who was your childhood hero?
The great Nicky English.

Do you play any other sports?

None. I never play anything else as camogie takes up so much of my time.

Is it difficult to balance your studies and camogie?

Not really. When you're in a big university like UCC it is such a big part of college life. If you are involved and committed, you make time!

“Keep training. Try to build up your concentration and always listen to your mentors.”

LAST GASP

Clare 3-9 Galway 3-9

Dan Danaher reports

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

HEART. Guts. Determination. Will to win. All these qualities surfaced when Clare needed them most to snatch a dramatic draw after four extraordinary minutes of injury time in Croke Park last Sunday.

Galway seemed to have one hand on the All-Ireland junior camogie trophy when Colette Gannon stretched their lead to four points by splitting the posts in the second last minute of normal time.

However, the Tribeswomen hadn't bargained for Clare's gritty resilience which helped them to claw their way back from the brink of defeat in this entertaining decider.

Deirdre Murphy provided a glimmer of hope when she sent a free between the posts on the stroke of full time.

Three points still separated the sides when her attempt for a goal from a placed ball a minute later was parried by Galway full back Sinead Cahalan.

Clare's bombardment of the Galway full back line was rewarded with another free. This time Catherine O'Loughlin attempted a goal from about 35 metres but her effort was deflected and was eventually spilled wide from the hurley of a Clare forward.

Clare's cause looked increasingly desperate at this stage as Galway supporters geared up for the post match celebrations.

However, the Banner women simply refused to give in and stunned their opponents just before the fourth minute of extra time had elapsed.

Clare captain, Catherine O'Loughlin won possession on the 45 metre line, planted the sliothar firmly on her hurley and crowned a great 30 metre solo run by drilling a powerful drive past Susan Eamer to the left corner of the net.

Deirdre Murphy, who tireless running and tremendous workrate was rewarded with the woman of the match award, grabbed an important goal in the 24th minute.

Winning possession from the puckout, the Davitts player took a return pass from Catherine O'Loughlin before she rattled the Galway net.

Three minutes later, she fired over a gem of a point 30 metres out near the sideline. Her scores kept Clare in touch as Galway fired over points from a Marese Flanagan converted forty-five and Brenda Hanny to leave them 1-7 to 1-3 ahead at the interval.

After the change of ends, Deirdre Murphy's penetrating solo runs continued to create space in the half forward line and her point from play in the third minute cancelled out an earlier effort from Brenda Hanny.

She set up Aoife Ryan for a point, which forced the Galway mentors to replace her marker Roisin O'Connor with Aoife Doherty, who also failed to thwart her menacing solo runs.

Denise Lynch, Jane Scanlon, Noelle Comyns, Laura Linnane, Catherine O'Loughlin and Aine Keane worked hard to assist Murphy's heroic efforts.

Shortly after losing midfielder, Deirdre Corcoran due to a facial injury, Clare were rocked by another Galway goal.

Caroline Kelly, Brenda Hanny and Ann Marie Hayes and Emma Kilkenny all combined together in a well worked move which culminated in the unmarked Kilkenny finding the net.

Deirdre Murphy responded with a pointed free before Catherine O'Loughlin grabbed a Laura Linnane free from midfield and duly blasted the sliothar past Susan Eamer.

Roared on by Clare supporters, Claire McMahon roamed outfield and fired over a great



COMMENT



A FAMILY AFFAIR: Galway's Brenda Kerins and her cousin, Catherine O'Loughlin, meet before the All-Ireland junior camogie final at Croke Park.

Photograph by John Kelly

Croke Park experience will benefit Clare camogie

by **DAN DANAHER**

THE reaction of players following the All-Ireland junior camogie final in Croke Park last Sunday summed up what had transpired in four extraordinary minutes of injury time.

Galway players slumped to their knees in despair after surrendering a four point advantage while the Clare players and backroom celebrated the draw as if they had won.

Describing the comeback as "unreal", Clare mentor, Mick Maher felt it was as "good as a win" considering the circumstances.

The Kilmaley clubman said that the experience of playing in GAA headquarters would benefit the team, particularly the younger players.

"Clare showed great heart out there today after a disastrous

The final whistle sounded seconds after this superb equalising goal much to Galway's disbelief.

Undoubtedly, Clare were extremely fortunate to earn a second chance to capture the New Ireland Assurance Cup on Saturday, October 11 at a venue, which has yet to be decided.

Clare never led at any stage and looked to be in serious trouble on a number of occasions during this contest, which was watched by over 16,500.

They weren't helped by a disastrous start which saw them concede a goal before two minutes had elapsed.

Emma Kilkenny won possession in the left corner on the Cusack Stand side and crossed the sliothar into the Clare goalmouth.

Clare goalkeeper, Patricia O'Grady batted it to the waiting Ann Marie Hayes who doubled on it past the former for an opportunistic goal.

This setback was sandwiched in between two great saves at the other end from Galway custodian Susan Earner to parry goal bound efforts from Aine Keane.

It took Clare ten minutes to open their account courtesy of a Deirdre Murphy free. Numerous Clare attacks were thwarted by bunching, poor passing and tigerish defending by the Galway rearguard where Lizzy Flynn, Sinead Cahalan and Nicola Lawless made a succession of great clearances.

Galway superior teamwork and support play was epitomised when midfielder Caroline Kelly found Marese Flanagan with an inch perfect pass over her shoulder and she duly obliged to earn her side a four point advantage after 14 minutes.

Clare struggled at times to cope with the pace of wing forwards, Brenda Hanny and Marese Flanagan and corner forwards, Brenda Kerins and Emma Kilkelly.

Clare's first score from play came in the 22nd minute when Catherine O'Loughlin capitalised on sloppy defending with a well taken point before Brenda Hanny and Brenda Kerins hit back with similar efforts at the other end.

equalising point from 40 yards.

Disaster struck with four minutes remaining for Clare when custodian, Patricia O'Grady uncharacteristically dropped a long delivery leaving Catherine O'Loughlin with the simplest of tasks to find the net.

Colette Gannon put Galway four points clear before Clare staged their remarkable recovery in a grandstand finish.

THE BREAKDOWN

SCORERS:

Clare: Deirdre Murphy (1-6, 0-4 from frees), Catherine O'Loughlin (2-1), Aoife Ryan, Claire McMahon (0-1).

Galway: Ann Marie Hayes (2-0), Marese Flanagan (0-4, one free), Brenda Hanny (0-3), Emma Kilkelly (1-0), Colette Gannon (0-1).

CLARE: Patricia O'Grady (Newmarket-on-Fergus); Jane Scanlon (Clarecastle), Denise Lynch (Kilmaley), Caitriona McMahon (Newmarket-on-Fergus); Marie O'Looney (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Noelle Comyns (Clarecastle), Marie Whelan (Clarecastle), Laura Linnane (Wolfe Tones), Deirdre Corcoran (Truagh); Aoife Ryan (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Deirdre Murphy (Davitts), Aine Keane (Kilnamona); Claire McMahon (Kilmaley), Catherine O'Loughlin (Kilnamona, captain), Claire Commene (Corofin).

Subs: Ruth Kaiser, (Newmarket-on-Fergus), 36 mins (for Claire Commene), Edel Keating (Corofin), 40 mins (for Marie Whelan), Caroline Keane, 46 mins (for Deirdre Corcoran, injured).

GALWAY: Susan Earner (Eyre-court); Lizzie Flynn (Davitts), Sinead Cahalan (Mullagh), Nicola Lawless (Killimor); Nicola Gavin (Ahascragh), Roisin O'Connor (Kinvara), Sinead Keane (Kinvara); Caroline Kelly (Davitts), Colette Glenon (Mullagh); Brenda Hanny (Killimor), Cathy Bowes (Capataggle), Marese Flanagan (Sarsfields); Brenda Kerins (Ardrahan, captain), Ann Marie Hayes (Killimor), Emma Kilkelly (Kinvara).

REFEREE: Eamonn Browne.



(Above) GOING TO GROUND: Deirdre Murphy hits the deck as Galway's Nicola Lawless moves in. (Left) GETTING HIGH: Marie Whelan and Galway's Brenda Hanny contest a ball.

(Below) WAITING TO EXHALE: Galway's Caroline Kelly and Claire McMahon keep an eye on the ball.

Photographs by John Kelly

start and I thought the substitutes also played very well.

"The longer Clare stay in the championship the better. There are 17 students on the Clare panel and they will benefit from being part of an All-Ireland final," he said.

Acknowledging that Galway had dominated long periods of the game, Mick pointed out that it was hard to reach the required standard for an All-Ireland final in seven months.

Noting the Galway keeper Susan Earner made a few great saves in the opening five minutes, he said that a few shots had also been sent straight in to her instead of taking the option for a point.

Confirming the Clare panel flew up from Shannon Airport at 9.15 am on Sunday, he said that a lot of people including sponsor, Martin Donnelly had helped their preparations for the final.

Camogie board chairman, Tom Woulfe said that Clare had shown great courage to "chisel out a result" without playing to their full potential.

Praising Clare for "battling until the last minute and refusing to give up", Clare trainer, Helen Murphy admitted that they needed to work on a number of aspects including teamwork and striking.

Noting that Clare had fought back in their other games, captain, Catherine O'Loughlin said that she knew another goal was possible if they could get the sliothar into the full forward line.

She admitted that it was hard to get space as Galway players hooked and harried Clare players until the second half when the game opened up.

Catherine had notched numerous hand passed goals throughout her lengthy career.

However, on this occasion she was too far out to attempt this feat when she won possession on the 40 metre line with just seconds remaining.

"I knew I had to score so I spotted an opportunity and had a shot, which thankfully went in."

"Clare were well prepared for the game but the noise out there was unreal. It is very hard to hear anyone shouting for a pass," she said.

"I think it was great experience for the young players to line out in their first All-Ireland final."

"The replay gives Moira McMahon a chance to line out in the All-Ireland, which is great. If we can build on this display, we are well capable of winning the next day," she added.



Claire Madden halts the progress of Cork's Elaine Burke during the 2000 All-Ireland Camogie final

Tipping the scales

behind enemy lines By Therese O'Callaghan

Preparing for an All-Ireland final is a considerable enough assignment. Planning for it while living in another county makes it ever harder. But when you are getting ready for the biggest day in your sporting career residing in enemy land, it can become quite an ordeal. Yet, Claire Madden cheerfully shrugs it off as just another day at the office. The Tipperary corner-back, now living in east Cork following her nuptials to local boy Paul O'Callaghan, even won a medal in the Rebel County this summer. Moving Leaside meant transferring her

club allegiance from Portroe to Fr O'Neill's, and her presence with the Ballymacoda club helped them to their first ever Cork County senior championship title the first week in August. Her associate on that team is Cork's dashing forward Fiona O'Driscoll who scored 1-11 in the county final victory over newcomers Inniscarra. Claire and Fiona are the best of mates on and off the field – no matter what happens on September 21 Claire insists this is the way it will remain. It is likely too that they will cross paths with O'Driscoll holding down the other corner forward position wearing the number 15 shirt.

"It is all a bit of craic. The slugging goes on at training but that is in great jest and just adds to the banter. I wore the Tipp jersey the morning after the two semi-finals in Ennis to club training and I got a bit of a ribbing over it. But sure I was only doing it to get them going. Fiona and I are both playing long enough to

know that the outcome is not going to affect our relationship. We will go out and play our own game and won't be thinking of anything else." Meeting the three-in-a-row All-Ireland medallist ('99-'01) in Ballingarry after a Munster club semi-final in the home land of defeated All-Ireland semi-final-

"Losing any match is never very nice – no matter what level you are at. But if you are to take any plusses from defeat it makes you appreciate the winning a lot more. It also helps you appreciate how fortunate you are to arrive in the winner's enclosure and to realise how hard victories are to achieve."

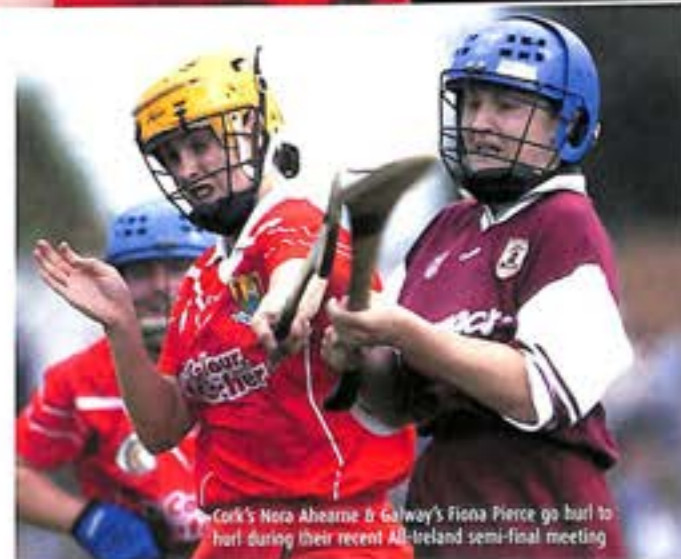


Madden's club mate, Fiona O'Driscoll in action for Cork during their All-Ireland semi-final defeat of Galway

"You cannot stay going at top flight for ever. You have to be realistic about that. So, hopefully we can turn the defeat around to our benefit. I think the break has rejuvenated us. We have a change in management too that will freshen things up for us." – Claire Madden

ists Limerick begs the question concerning the gap that is developing between Tipperary and Cork, and the rest of the country – similar to the dominance of the Kilkenny hurling team. "It is hard to understand looking at the club scene in Limerick. They gave us a fair old drubbing out there tonight (2-16 to 0-6). Granagh/Ballingarry are an exceptional club team and yet cannot make the breakthrough at county level. Kilkenny (camogie) baffle me too as they should be in the last four. "Camogie is such a skilful game it takes a lot more training and learning the knacks. Therefore it

is very important that trainers know what they are doing. When we got Michael Cleary in '99 we were at a low ebb having been destroyed by Cork in the league final. However, with the proper coaching we came back and won our first All-Ireland four months later. "Definitely our game and our agility have improved. There is more of a focus on this aspect – the old school of laps and playing matches as part of training are gone. I read recently where they need to address similar worries in hurling. It was suggested that the likes of Eoin Kelly and Setanta O'hAilpin



Cork's Nora Ahearne & Galway's Fiona Pierce go hurl to hurl during their recent All-Ireland semi-final meeting

should operate summer camps in the weaker counties – maybe this is something that could be looked at in camogie in an attempt to get help and expertise to the teams that are endeavouring to do well. "A lot of work is being done by

Cork and Tipperary and they have stepped up the standard. Yet, neither of these teams are advancing at club level – it is in Galway and Limerick. So, that proves that the talent is there. It just needs to be brought to the fore at county level."

From little Acorns

by Máire Uí Scoláí
National Camogie P.R.O.



Máire Uí Scoláí

AT the beginning of the last century there was a great renaissance in our Gaelic culture, the GAA was already there some twenty years earlier and gradually the ladies were coming to the fore in many ways. Gaelic sport was one of the areas that the females knew they could compete with their men folk in and to this end in 1904 Cumann Camógaiochta na nGael was founded and next year we will celebrate our one hundredth birthday.

FOUNDATION

Founded in Dublin in 1904, the game had its origins in 1903 in Craobh A'Chéitinnigh, the Keating Branch of the Gaelic League which in 1903 boasted excellent hurling and football teams. That very year a small group of eager men got together with Máire Ní Chinnéide, a Royal University graduate. They included Seán O' Ceallaigh, afterwards Minister for Education in the Second Dáil and Tadhg O'Donoghue who suggested the name "Camóguidheacht" for the proposed new game. Also in that group was Séamas O'Braonáin who played football for the Dubs. He later went on to become Director of Radio Éireann. Indeed it was he who drew up rules for the game, similar to hurling but with modifications. August 7th 1904 saw the first Dublin camogie match in a place known as The Thatch in Drumcondra, while the previous month on July 17th saw the very first public match take place at a Gaelic League Aeridheacht at the Meath Agricultural Grounds. Today this is known as Páirc Tailteann.

Since those halcyon days the game has gone through many changes and is now the leading female Gaelic Sports Organisation in this country. Played in all counties the competitions have changed over the years as demand grew and with over 84,000 players now playing in schools and clubs the interest is growing all the time as the game receives more and more media attention all the time.

€25,000.....

While the Dubs may have been termed the Queens of Camogie for long, no longer is that the scene as more counties take National honours each year through the championships, National Leagues

and Club championships. Camogie abroad is very much alive with clubs in Britain, the U.S.A. as well as Scotland and the United Arab Emirates. As part of next year's celebrations the GAA has already given Cumann Camógaiochta na nGael € 25,000 towards an overseas competition. Very welcome news indeed.

With a year long of celebrations on the agenda a committee was set up some time ago to deal with the centenary alone, wait for it, they are all either present players or recently retired intercounty players who have set themselves a mighty task. That committee is made up of Chairperson

Therese O'Callaghan of Cork, Eithne Duggan also a Cork All-Ireland medal holder, Olivia Forde of Galway, Germaine Noonan of Dublin and Jane Monaghan of Armagh. They have all represented their county and four of them hold All-Ireland medals.

It is envisaged that clubs, counties and provincial councils will organise their own specific activities, while some of the major items will include an exhibition in Croke Park and the hosting of Congress in the City West Hotel in Dublin which will become a black tie affair with many dignitaries attending. It is also envisaged that more camogie games will be played as double headers with GAA matches.

TIPPERARY HONOURS.....

Tipperary may be the home of the GAA but all the major camogie honours have already fallen to this county. Perhaps their biggest day came back in 1999 when a relatively unknown Tipperary team ran out on to Croke Park to the cheer of thousands. That very day they entered the history books when the O'Duffy Cup was brought home for the very first time. Many will recall earlier that year that the county were well beaten in the National League Final, but the girls knew they were made of better stuff and so did their trainer of the time Michael Cleary. As they say in the best books 'the rest is history'!

The Premier girls were the winners of the inaugural National League back in 1977 while the beautiful Corn Sceifg the much coveted All-Ireland Senior Colleges Cup also travelled to Tipperary that year when Scoil Mhuire of Cashel took the beautiful Cup to the Rock for the first time. Since then it has travelled on more than one occasion to the Premier County.

There are no two ways about it but the wider publicity given nowadays to Camogie has had a huge impact on the game and in particular the fact that the Senior Final is televised live

now each year. Further television coverage is needed to show the wider audience what a wonderful game we really have.

However, for us to receive further television coverage we must take some steps ourselves. As counties we must show flexibility and be prepared to give up 'home advantage' if it means a particular game being played with perhaps a hurling game. We are selling ourselves to further publicity when we do this. We need to see the wider picture at times. The staging of last month's Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland semi-finals with the All-Ireland U21 Hurling semi-final was a prime example. The Munster Camogie Council made history also this year when the Munster Senior Championship (Final) was played outside the Province for the first time when it became the curtain raiser to the Guinness All-Ireland 1/4 final between Tipperary and Laois. The occasion was a good one for both the men and girls of the Premier county. The girls won their first Munster title since 1977 when they defeated their old enemy Cork that balmy summer's night in O'Moore, Park Portlaoise..

PAID EMPLOYEES....

When Cumann Camógaiocht na nGael was founded the work was all done on a voluntary basis and that has not changed that much since except at the top level. We now enjoy the luxury of having a fulltime Ardstiúrthóir Sheila Wallace, an office assistant and recently we appointed a fulltime Financial and Sponsorship Manager Sinéad O'Connor. All three work in Páirc an Chrócaigh. The position of Ardrúnai first became a full-time paid position back in 1980 when Jo Nic Uaildrich of Kilkenny took the position. Recently that position became known as Ardstiúrthóir. As the Association grows in stature it is most likely that the number of jobs will increase.

However, it is not only at the top level that these paid positions are needed. With demands on peoples time becoming increasingly more demanding it is likely also that Provincial Councils and County Boards will follow suit. Time will tell.

BECOMING PART OF

THE GAA.....

As the Association enters its most historic year many questions will be asked. One of the burning questions must be the aligning with our sister organisation the GAA. Earlier this year a Pilot Project was set up in eight counties to see how this might fall into place at both club and county board level. This involves the three Gaelic sports Organisations, the GAA, Ladies Gaelic and ourselves coming together under one umbrella. One of the counties chosen was Tipperary.

As an Association we must move forward and becoming part of the GAA is a step in the right direction, but it does not mean that we can sit back and 'somebody else' will do the work for us, while we will be able most likely to share some work we will still be looking after our own teams each day.

Without a doubt since the birth of the Association many changes have taken place, likewise Tipperary have made huge strides since their first Senior All-Ireland appearance back in 1949, but perhaps the greatest test is just around the corner as we attempt to become part of the GAA.

One thing for sure is when Cork and Tipperary line out next Sunday in Croke Park, it will be a very different scene to when the Tipperary team first appeared in Croke Park away back in 1949. Raymie Ryan's girls will have gone through a tough year of training, making many sacrifices during that time. They will wear a smart modern outfit and they will play the full size pitch with fifteen a-side, a very far cry from 1949 when both the pitch dimensions, the number of players was different, the uniform was totally different and many more changes that have taken place.

No matter who wins on Sunday, we all hope that as our one hundredth birthday fast approaches that the game of camogie is the winner and that people walk out of Croke Park saying "I want my daughter to play that highly skillful game". It would be a most fitting tribute to those founders away back in 1904. The acorn, now almost a full tree is set to blossom to its full next year..... It is up to us all.



CHAMPIONS . . . the Galway junior camogie squad pictured prior to their All-Ireland final replay triumph over Clare at Tullamore on Saturday. Back row left to right, Alisha McNamara, Elaine Burke, Ann Marie Hayes, Roisin O'Connor, Sinead Cahalan, Susan Earner, Emma Kilkelly, Colette Glennon, Nicola Gavin, Patricia Kelly, Laura O'Brien, Carol Kelly, Catherine Glynn, Elaine Tannion, Stephanie Cannon, Linda Dillon, Brenda Hanney. Front row, Lizzie Flynn, Stephanie Griffin, Cathy Bowes, Sinead Keane, Caroline Kelly, Brenda Kerins, Nicola Lawless, Marese Flanagan, Susan Keane, Maureen Finnerty, Catherine Moran, Aoife Doherty, Sarah Noone.

Galway juniors make no mistake in replay

GALWAY 1-12
CLARE 2-5

by Sean Walsh

DEEP in injury time in the drawn All-Ireland Junior camogie final in Croke Park, Clare struck for a late goal to snatch a draw from the jaws of defeat. The Galway team were understandably crestfallen after being on the verge of victory, but on Saturday in Tullamore, Galway set the record straight in this closely contested replay, when their greater potency and pace in attack proved decisive.

It capped a wonderful year for the Junior panel and management, as this victory completed the league and championship double, in a year where national titles have been scarce in Galway. A good crowd witnessed this game, and once Galway dealt with a sustained period of Clare pressure at the beginning of the second half, they were on their way to winning their seventh Junior championship title.

The tight surrounds of O'Connor Park probably hampered the youthful Galway side more than Clare, as space was at a premium and led to a lot of congested play. The pre-match switch which saw captain Brenda Kerins move to centre-forward proved significant as she went on to have an influential role, particularly in the second half when she dropped deep to win possession.

However, while the Galway forwards will take the plaudits, the performance of the Galway defence was also noteworthy. Centre back

Roisin O'Connor curbed the influential Deirdre Murphy and held her scoreless from play while full back Sinead Cahalan also limited the impact of the wily Catherine O'Loughlin. With their two main attacking threats well held, Clare were in trouble.

Both sides took time to settle before Marese Flanagan shot the game's opening score from a free on six minutes. However, two minutes later, the ball was nestling in the Galway net after Claire McMahon set up Catherine O'Loughlin who goaled. Significantly though, Galway responded well to the setback.

Marese Flanagan converted her second free before Galway struck for a crucial goal on 15 minutes. Ann Marie Hayes finished Cathy Bowes' delivery to the net from close range — Emma Kilkelly was also close on hand — and Galway were never to trail again in the game. Full forward Hayes and Bowes, who was reveling in a switch to wing forward, added points to leave Galway 1-4 to 1-0 ahead on 18 minutes, and the effect of the early Clare goal had been nullified.

Aine Keane shot Clare's first score in 14 minutes to leave a goal between them — indeed full back Sinead Cahalan had earlier done well to hook Keane when she was goal bound. However, as was the trend of the entire game, Galway responded whenever Clare got within touching distance, and well-taken points before the break from Emma Kilkelly and Brenda Hanney left them 1-6 to 1-2 ahead at the break.

Clare's last score of the half came from a free from the hard working Deirdre Murphy after her Davitts club mate Lizzie Flynn emphatically stopped her in her tracks, though Clare had a goal chance when Aine Keane failed to connect in the air on 28 minutes. Clare stormed into the

second half, yet for all their possession in the half back and midfield sectors, a lack of dead ball accuracy ensured that they had only added two points by the 41st minute, thanks to frees from Deirdre Murphy, who won a Galway senior championship medal with Davitts last month, and Laura Linnane to leave Galway still 1-6 to 1-4 ahead.

Susan Earner had made a good double save on 33 minutes though, the second one from an Aine Keane effort. Brenda Hanney set up Emma Kilkelly, who cut inside to shoot a fine point to leave Galway 1-7 to 1-4 ahead on 43 minutes, before the next 10 minutes failed to see a score registered as play became scrappy. However, Galway's attacking potential was realized in the final seven minutes of the contest.

Sub Catherine Glynn converted a 55 metre free on 53 minutes, but Catherine O'Loughlin replied with Clare's first score in 14 minutes to leave the game delicately poised at 1-8 to 1-5 on 55 minutes. Then Galway went into overdrive, and with space opening up, some quality scores followed.

Cathy Bowes shot Galway's ninth point, before in a length of the field move, Sinead Keane took down a Deirdre Murphy free on her own goal line. Collette Glennon and Cathy Bowes worked the ball up field for Ann Marie Hayes to point and leave Galway 1-10 to 1-5 up on 58 minutes. It was a significant score.

Brenda Kerins, who was now a key figure, and Cathy Bowes extended the Galway lead to 1-12 to 1-5 on 61 minutes and the title was Galway bound. Clare did stage a late rally — Deirdre Murphy saw a close in free saved, before on 62 minutes she did convert a 20 metre free, but it was too little too late and Galway had emerged with a 1-12 to 2-5 victory.

This was a deserved win for Galway, as the scoring ability of the forwards proved to be crucial — in all, seven Galway players scored, while they shot 1-9 from play in reply to a paltry Clare return of 1-2. Susan Earner, Lizzie Flynn, Sinead Cahalan, Roisin O'Connor who also played senior this year, Caroline Kelly, Collette Glennon, Brenda Kerins who did so much for the cause, the impressive Cathy Bowes, top scorer Ann Marie Hayes and the stylish Emma Kilkelly were all heroines for Galway.

For Clare who had two scoreless spells that totalled 28 minutes, Moira McMahon, especially when moved to midfield, Noelle Comyns, Laura Linnane, Deirdre Murphy and Catherine O'Loughlin did most.

Galway: S. Earner; L. Flynn; S. Cahalan; N. Lawless; N. Gavin; R. O'Connor; S. Keane; C. Kelly; C. Glennon; M. Flanagan (0-2; 2 frees); B. Kerins (0-1); B. Hanney (0-1); C. Bowes (0-3); A.M. Hayes (1-2); E. Kilkelly (0-2). **Sub:** C. Glynn (0-1 free) for Flanagan (26 mins).

Clare: T. O'Grady; J. Scanlon; D. Lynch; C. McMahon; M. McMahon; N. Comyns; M. O'Looney; D. Corcoran; L. Linnane (0-1, free); A. Ryan; D. Murphy (1-2, all frees); C. Lynch; C. McMahon; C. O'Loughlin (1-1); A. Keane (0-1). **Subs:** R. Kaiser for Keane (42 mins), A. Martin for D. Lynch (45 mins), E. Gallery for Ryan (57 mins).

Referee: E. Browne (Tipperary)

Footnote: Near the end of the game, a Galway score was not registered on the scoreboard. At the end of a match, the scoreboard gave Galway a tally of only 1-11, instead of the actual 1-12 tally. This was hardly acceptable in an All-Ireland final for players, management and supporters alike.

Camogie is ready to take centre stage



Tom Humphries
LockerRoom

So, the last camogie final before the game turns a century old and gets given the keys to the house. What Tipperary and Cork served up in Croke Park yesterday was better than what Kilkenny and Cork delivered last week but comparisons are not the point. It's just too easy for camogie to look at the game and its rapidly evolving state and smile to itself.

There were just over 16,000 in Croke Park yesterday for a match that deserved a full house. And the game annexed only modest amounts of media attention, the wash from last week's hurling final still sweeping over most of the weekend's newspapers. There is talk about celebrating the centenary year next year by popping the final onto the stage on the same day as the men's All-Ireland

senior hurling final. Ho hum.

Just a guess but if that is done, the camogie might just be submerged. Media will be still in the grip of hurling fever (the chances being Kilkenny will be closing on three in a row), and on the same day as the camogie final gets played the stadium will be in the process of filling up and those already in will have half an eye on the field of play and half an eye on the bar or the programme or the friends they said they'd meet at the pillar.

Better, surely, to showcase the game during the summer on selected occasions?

This remarkable Tipperary side who yesterday took their fourth All-Ireland in five years should play before a few Tipperary championship games, Cork likewise and so on. Get people interested along the way. The year should be one long attempt to sell camogie and the final next September should be the barometer of how well the association has done.

Anyone who was at Croke Park yesterday for a remarkable junior final and a marginally less exciting senior game will know the time is right for evangelisation, the game needs to shake off its fuddy-duddy image and drag kids out by their ponytails to play. The "chicks with sticks" slogan has the game on the right track. What about ditching those skirts next and wearing shorts? Or putting the ages of players in programmes? Yesterday we were demurely told what

"season" each player was in.

It made them sound like brood mares. What about making some superstars? What about a calendar girls stunt? Anything to grab attention.

Camogie enjoys some competitive advantages. Not only is there no better or more skilful team sport for girls but the constituency the game should be reaching out to isn't infected beyond redemption with the Premiership virus. It's not quite an open field out there but if camogie people put in the work they'll be turning kids away at the end of the day.

It requires new attitudes, though, the acceptance of new faces in clubs, the willing dismantlement of the Berlin Walls which camogie and hurling cliques like to put up around themselves. It means looking out your clubhouse window some days and seeing the minor football team training in a corner and the under-13 camogie team playing on the main pitch. And understanding that's a fine thing.

Girls need games to play. Girls need heroines. Girls need teams. Girls need safe environments to grow up in, clubhouses to which they can be dropped off and collected. Camogie has lots of advantages here.

Yesterday at Croke Park it was raining role models. Cork started off looking like a team that looked as if they'd been obsessing about Tipperary's strike rate of 17 goals in

four championship games. The Cork full back smothered everything that came in early on. Stephanie Dunlea was outstanding while Tipp were held scoreless for the first 17 minutes.

With half-time just eight minutes away Cork led by four points to one but lots of things were changing. Emily Hayden, a most compelling figure in her yellow helmet, was becoming considerably more influential around the middle of the field, driving ball in towards the full-forward line and moving inevitably into the orbit of Cork's vaunted centre-back Mary O'Connor.

Raymie Ryan had begun to shuffle the Tipp full-forward line with Eimear McDonnell switching corners and Cork, unwisely perhaps, letting Joanne O'Callaghan follow her. Punishment was swift. On 25 minutes there was a smell of smoke as McDonnell burned grass down the right wing. Her solo finished with a goal. Clare Grogan added a point a little later.

Cork dealt with that. Three points before half-time restored their lead. Just a point but a lead nonetheless. They weren't to know Tipp were about to begin blowing like a hurricane. Deirdre Hughes, who'd be dangerous looking even if she was sitting in the stands eating chips, had moved into full forward. Two minutes into the half she'd stuck a goal (her seventh of the championship) into the space between the brackets that usually comes after her name.

McDonnell followed up with a point.

Cork pulled two back but Tipp went on a crazy five-point spree without drawing a reply. That didn't kill the game but it reassured Tipp hearts. Some of the play during this time was powerful and majestic. One Tipperary move split Cork right open and deserved more. Hayden drove a fine low ball 40 yards into the path of Hughes whose control and vision found the right handpass to Emer McDonnell who clipped a point.

Somehow Cork heaved themselves back into the game. Gemma O'Connor, sister of Ben and Jerry (I know, I know, bit naff to define a sports star by means of name-checking male relatives, view it instead as giving Ben and Jerry some media kudos through association with camogie. They have been living, after all, under the shadow of a Donal O'Grady news blackout all year) was taken off at one stage and then re-introduced as a forward. She nicked Cork's late goal and caused some havoc.

It was towards the end, well into injury-time in fact, when Cork smuggled that ball into the Tipp net. A couple of minutes earlier Jovita Delaney had made a fine save from a long-range free. Those last few minutes were the first reminder of the day Jovita had last year in Croke Park when Fiona O'Driscoll popped three of Cork's four goals and the Tipp full-back line left Jovita exposed like a lone tree on rocky ground.

Jovita suffered a bad car crash since then

but that late goal yesterday was the first score she'd conceded in 180 minutes of championship play. I'd buy a bag of crisps off Jovita as soon as I'd buy them off DJ.

What struck one yesterday was that the game itself has outgrown its own image. It's the spin people who have to catch up for a change. What happened on the field was fast and physical and edgy. In the stands wearing county jerseys were a generation of young girls looking out for their own chance at sporting self-expression and for their own heroines.

Centenary year and the game has a chance to spread. In Dublin (thanks for asking) we are a long way off but coming fast. Under-age success converts quickly in camogie if handled right and those who have nightmares about the way Dublin played when Tipperary dismantled them this summer (Tipp left town with a 28-point win and more bruises than they could count) shouldn't feel afraid to keep going back.

Yesterday was a good one for a game about to celebrate a big birthday. There's a huge market out there for camogie to exploit and a giant constituency for a smart, brash sponsor to come in on. Media-wise there is a dawning of the fact women's sport is the last great untapped market.

Camogie debuted its own magazine last week and put on a fine show yesterday. There was a sense the train is pulling away from the station at last.

Galway's Emma Kinkoy receives the player of the match award from Minam O'Callaghan, National Camogie President, after their replay victory over Clare in the All-Ireland junior camogie final at Tullamore.



CELEBRATION... Galway junior camogie captain Brenda Kearns lifts the All-Ireland trophy aloft after their replay victory over Clare on Saturday.

