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2007

CAMOGIE world

CAMOGIE SEMI-FINAL DRAWS

Last year's finalists, Cork and Tipperary, will meet in the semi final of this year's Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship, while Wexford will face Galway in the other semi final following the draw in Croke Park.

Cork, who captured the O'Duffy Cup last year, will be looking to complete a unique treble this season after also winning the title in 2005. For Tipperary they will have to find a way past there fierce rivals if they are to secure their first All-Ireland since 2004.

Tipperary manager Tony Delaney felt his side may get Cork in today's draw. "I had anticipated we would draw Cork but I mean at this stage there are no easy games. I am happy with the draw and we will just concentrate on doing our own thing now and hopefully on the day it will all work for us," Delaney said after the draw.

The second semi final sees Galway take on one of the form teams of this year's Championship, Wexford. The Model County, under the stewardship of Stellah Sinnott, were impressive in the group games and they were the only side to beat reigning champions Cork.

Wexford boss Stellah Sinnott was satisfied with the draw. "I'm happy enough with the draw, it's great to break the monotony of Cork and Tipperary All-Ireland finals. The loss to Tipperary was a big wake up call for us and hopefully now we are back on track," Sinnott said.

Galway on the other hand struggled through the group with their only wins coming against Dublin and Kilkenny. They were also on the end of an 11 point defeat to Wexford in the final group game last weekend.

The Galway manager Mike Kelly feels there may be a shock in his side. "We won't be going there to throw it away. We know we have our work cut out to beat them but in a once off game anything can happen. One thing is for sure we will be working extremely hard over the next two weeks to make sure we are in with a shout of a final spot," Kelly said.

Both semi finals will take place on the 11th of August in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny with times yet to be confirmed.

THE STORY SO FAR

This year's Gala All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship kicked off in fine style with two time and reigning champions, Cork, going down to a spirited Wexford side on a score line of 4-12 to 14 points. Star forward Sinead Kelly caught the eye on the way to notching up six points for the day.

Elsewhere, Dublin and Tipperary got off to positive starts in the Championship with solid wins over Kilkenny and Galway respectively. Dublin had an easy run-out against the Cats winning comprehensively, 6-07 to 1-07, while Emily Hayden fired Tipperary to a 3-12 to 1-10 victory over Galway.

Round Two of the Gala Championship picked up where it left off in Round One. Cork kick-started their campaign with a stirring team display to beat Tipperary by 11 points to 1-05. The Rebelettes were forced to shake off a determined performance from the Munster neighbours to claim a hard fought victory.

Galway got their championship back on track with a victory over Kilkenny, while Wexford maintained their 100% record with a resounding 2-10 to 8 points victory over an out of sorts Dublin side.

Tipperary bounced back after defeat to Cork in Round Two with an impressive five point win over last year's Junior Champions, Dublin. Star of the show was substitute Claire Grogan who finished with an impressive tally of five points.

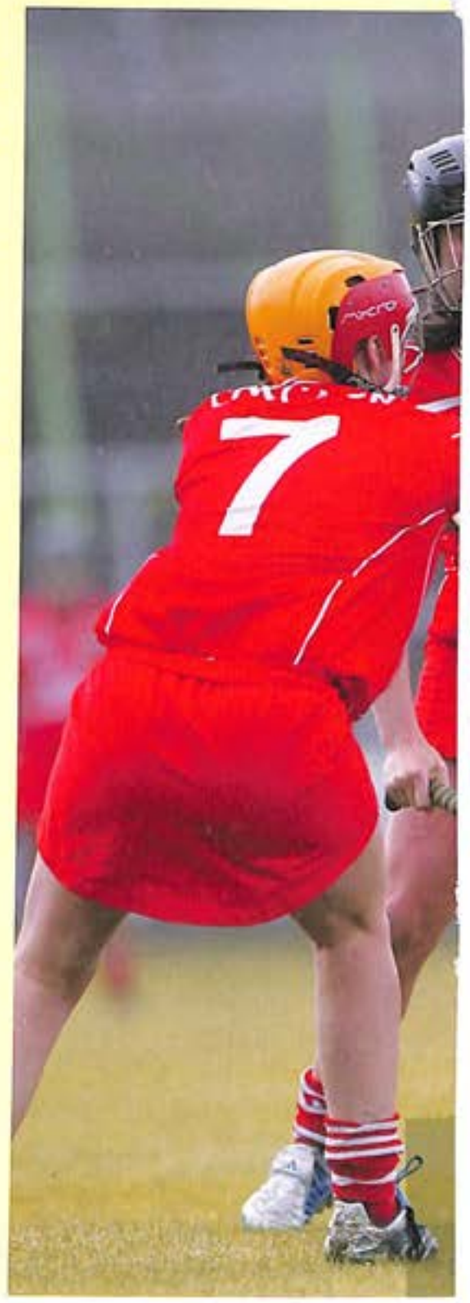
Cork continued their bounce back from defeat in Round One with a clinical showing against the resurgent Galway, winning on a score line of 1-10 to 8points. Wexford also continued their winning ways with a strong performance in a high scoring game against Kilkenny, winning 1-20 to 4-05.

Round Four of the O'Duffy Cup saw the only unbeaten record left in the Championship ended when Tipperary completed a comfortable 1-17 to 11 points over Wexford, with Claire Grogan, once again, leading the way with ten points. Although Wexford put up some stiff competition, ultimately the Tipperary women had too much in their arsenal for the Slaney siders.

Round Four also saw Galway almost certainly guarantee themselves a place in the semi finals with a 13 points to 1-08 win over Dublin, while Cork were rampant in a 4-16 to 1-04 demolition of the basement team, Kilkenny.

In the final round of group games Kilkenny upset the odds and finished on a high with a four point win over last year's beaten finalists Tipperary, who had already qualified for the semi finals.

Cork and Wexford both reaffirmed their All-Ireland credentials in their final games with impressive wins over Dublin and Galway respectively. Cork topped the group with a 14 point win over Dublin in Pairc Uı Rinn with All-Star Jennifer O'Leary in stunning form scoring 1-4, while Wexford had a 11 point margin of victory over Galway. Despite Galway's inability to beat Wexford the Tribeswomen still secured the final place in the semi final draw as Dublin were unable to beat Cork.





Wexford's Drona Furlong breaks through the tackles of Cork's Sara Hayes and Gemma O'Connor

AUG 2007

Gala All Ireland Junior & Senior Camogie Finals

Under 21 All Ireland Hurling Final

Gala
Everything and More!

9th September 2007
Croke Park

12.00	Gala All Ireland Junior Camogie Final Derry v Clare
2.00	Under 21 All Ireland Hurling Final
4.00	Gala All Ireland Senior Camogie Final Cork v Wexford



By MARY NEWMAN
Cork colleges camogie

THE SUN may only have decided to peep it head form behind the clouds this week but the dreaded word school is already being mentioned.

Yes, in less than a week it will be back to the classrooms for the legion of young camogie players who had been hoping to enjoy a carefree summer of green fields, flying sliotar and balmy summer evenings.

Instead we had club mentors tearing their hair out as they strove (and almost certainly failed) to meet deadlines for completion of league competitions and battled with wind rain muck and gutter to fulfil their championship fixtures in weather most associated with winter training.

Despite the best efforts from everyone there is a pile-up of fixtures and with the evenings getting shorter it will take a huge effort to get everything completed.

However it's back to the college camogie action swiftly and with their season only about to commence again.

The busy Cork Colleges committee are not sitting idle but they are casting their eyes early as they sent out a call to the clubs through the city and county in an effort to gather their teams together for next season's colleges intercounty competitions early.

Clubs are being asked if they have any players attending secondary school born between 1994 or 1995. This would be next year's (2008) U14 players whom they think are good enough for the Cork Colleges team to get in touch with the colleges committee. They are asked to forward the name, date of birth, school, club and a mobile or phone contact. Equally so the clubs can send their details and the schools they attend and the Colleges Committee will be in touch with their camogie teachers once they have the name and school. Clubs are encouraged to pass on information regarding the player's ability etc. They are hoping to run a prelim trial in mid-September and will then hopefully have two panels again this season.

● The annual James Hurley U14 intercounty blitz will be on the May 31, 2008 at Inniscarra with as usual a big entry expected from other counties.

The girls will also go to the Clare, Galway, Kilkenny and Tipp blitz as the season progresses.

Clubs with players interested can forward details to Rob Lotty on sarslotty@eircom.net



Cork and Carrigaline players Conor Hurley and Nicholas Murphy signing jerseys at the recent Carrigaline camogie camp. Picture: Howard Crowdy

School calls for players

ALL-IRELAND TICKETS

Tickets for the gala All-Ireland junior and senior camogie finals which will be played as part of a triple header with the Cadburys All-Ireland U21 hurling final in Croke Park on September 9 are currently on sale on www. Ticketmaster i.e.

Admission Prices: Adult €20, Student/OAP €10 Juveniles €5.

Group passes: Juveniles €5 one adult free with every 10 children. Additional adult tickets €20.



Rachel O'Shea and Orla Coughlan in action during the recent Carrigaline camogie camp. Picture: Howard Crowdy



Orlaigh Hickey pictuted with her hurley which was signed by Nicholas Murphy at the Carrigaline camogie camp. Picture: Howard Crowdy

Shinpads standard for all second-level games

By ROB LOTTY
Munster Post Primary Camogie

THE MUNSTER Post Primary Camogie AGM is scheduled for 7pm, Wednesday, September 5, at St Mary's, Charleville, and the Cork Colleges Camogie AGM is at 7pm, Friday, September 7, at Sars, Glanmire.

Shinpads are now compulsory for all second level games while the new standardised grading system is in operation.

The 'Fax Rule' for schools not playing by the fixed date will also be invoked when required. Schools are requested to send details of girls for the Cork Colleges U14 trials and the Munster interprovincial 'panel (Leaving Certs only) to the secretary.

SENIOR A: Bandon, Charleville, Fermoy, Coachford, St. Caimin's, Ursuline's Thurles, Nenagh.
SENIOR B: Borrisoleigh, Carrigaline, Cashel, Christ The King, Clonakilty, Col. Choilm, St. Flannan's, Lismore, Templemore, Col Ennis, Tulla, Borriskane, Scariff, Carrig On Suir.
SENIOR C: Glanmire, Mallow, Kinsale, Hospital, Carrignavar, Midleton, Newcastlewest, Roscrea, Youghal, Doon, Laurel Hill, Waterford, St. Als, Pres Thurles.
SENIOR LEAGUE: Group A: Fermoy, Borrisokane, Cashel. Group B: St. Caimin's, Nenagh, Ursuline's. Group C: Bandon, Clonakilty, Carrigaline. Group D: Ennis, St. Flannan's, Coachford, Colaiste Choilm.
INTERMEDIATE A LEAGUE: Group A: Tulla, Templemore, Borrisoleigh. Group B: Scariff, Doon, Kinsale Group C: Waterford, Lismore, Carrig On Suir.
INTERMEDIATE B LEAGUE: Group A: Macroom, Mallow, Carrignavar. Group B: Carrigtwohill, Glanmire, Midleton. Group C: Thurles, Roscrea, Laurel Hill. Group D: Newcastlewest, Hospital, Dromcollogher.
INTERMEDIATE C CHAMPIONSHIP: Rathkeale, Blackrock, Dunmanway, Croom, Corbally, St. Patrick's, Passage, Cobh, Col Daibheid, Shannon, Killenaule, Tipperary, Mount Mercy
HAYES INTERMEDIATE TROPHY: Nagle Rice, Blarney, Kilfinane, Col An Phiarsaigh, St. Aidan's, Ballingarry, Millstreet, North Pres
JUNIOR A: Bandon, Charleville, Christ King, St. Caimin's, Coachford
JUNIOR B: Borrisokane, Borrisoleigh, Carrigaline, Carrig On Suir, Scariff, Nenagh, Clonakilty, Col Choilm, Ursuline's, Col Ennis, Kinsale, Lismore, Tulla, St. Flannan's, Fermoy, Cashel
JUNIOR C: Roscrea, Rice College, Carrignavar, Dromcollogher, Templemore, Hospital, Mallow, Waterford, Pres Thurles, SMI Newcastlewest, Midleton, Doon.
U16½ A: Group A: St. Aidan's, Coachford, Croom. Group B: Killenaule, Glanmire, Youghal. Group C: Rathkeale, Col An Phiarsaigh, St. Als
U16½ B: Sr. Patricia Trophy. Dunmanway, Kilfinane, North Pres, St. Patrick's, Ballyphehane, Nagle Rice, Dungarvan, Kilmacthomas, Mount Mercy
HAYES BLITZ: At Rathcoole, On Wed 3rd Oct. Beara, Desmond College, Colaiste Kanturk, St. Fanahan's, Boherbue, Mannix College, Kilmallock, Pres, Mitchelstown, Causeway, Dunmanway, Kenmare, Pres Clonmel, Loreto Clonmel, Ferrybank, Ballingarry, Kanturk VEC, Davis College, Dungarvan, Boherbue, North Pres, AG North Mon, Tramore, Causeway, Ballyphehane, St. Brogan's, Kilmacthomas

SEVENS A: At Charleville on Wed 23rd Sept. Bandon, Coachford, Charleville, Nenagh, St. Flannan's, Ursuline's, Christ King, St. Caimin's.

SEVENS B: At Fermoy on Wed 23rd Sept. Borrisokane, Borrisoleigh, Fermoy, SMI Newcastlewest, Clonakilty, Tulla, Carrigaline, Kinsale, Carrig On Suir, Lismore, Col Choilm, Scariff, Col Ennis, Cashel, Hospital.

SEVENS C: At Fermoy & Inniscarra on Wed 23rd Sept. Blarney, Carrignavar, Col An Phiarsaigh, Col Daibheid, Doon, Dromcollogher, Ballingarry, Ballyphehane, North Pres, Pres Thurles, Glanmire, St. Als, Midleton, Hospital, Rathkeale, Rice College, Pres Clonmel, Loreto Clonmel, Bruff, Roscrea, St. Pats Shannon, Templemore, Corbally, Crosshaven, Kilfinane, Croom, Tipperary, St. Mary's Mallow, Youghal, Nagle Rice, Passage, Killenaule, Cobh, Millstreet, Kanturk VEC, Pres Mitchelstown, Davis Mallow, St. Angela's, Buttevant, Killaloe, Mount Mercy, Blackrock, Nenagh VEC, Dungarvan, Ursuline-Waterford, Ferrybank, Tramore, Abbeyfeale, Ennistymon, Castletroy, Ennis Comm, Waterford

CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

U14C: Sunday 2nd September Quarter Douglas V Tracton @ Douglas @ 12noon.

U12/U13: These are training away and playing challenge games in preparation for their Seandun games which will commence hopefully in September.

U11 training continues as they await their semi-finals in Seandun.

Community Games: Our community games team travel to Mosney this Friday for the 6th year in a row to compete in the National All Irelands on Saturday, under the guidance of Helen Duggan, Niall Kavanagh, Anne Kearney; they will meet a team from Galway in the semi final on Saturday. Best of luck to all

Congratulations to Douglas GAA U 10s for a fantastic win at Mosney Football All-Ireland finals. Best of luck to Douglas hurlers as they also travel to Mosney this weekend, hopefully we can bring back both camogie and hurling All-Irelands and make it all three wins for Douglas.

Cork U16A Intercounty team: Congratulations to Ailin and Maria O'Donovan, Pamela, Katrina Mackey and Julia White.

All five girls played in the All-Ireland final v Kilkenny but it was not a good day for Cork, beaten by a very experienced and skilled Kilkenny team on the day. Well done to Ger Sheehan selector and the girls on their achievement on reaching the All-Ireland final.

Congratulations to Amanda O'Regan who played a great part for Cork senior A team in their All-Ireland semi-sinal against Tipperary Best of Luck to Amanda and the Cork team in the All-Ireland v Wexford on Sunday September 9 at 4pm in Croke Park. Your support would be welcomed.

ST CATHERINE'S
St Finbarr's 3-8 St Catherine's 0-8

On Sunday last, we took on county champions St Finbarr's in the quarter-final of this year's Championship. Their three goal winning margin slightly flatters the Barrs but nevertheless, we had to bow to their superior experience and strength.

The loss, through injury of our top forward Denise Twomey was to prove a major factor in the outcome of this game.

At half-time we trailed by a point but were on level terms by the first minute of the second half. However it was becoming obvious that our opponents had taken a strong grip in various parts of the field with the crucial scores coming in the 17th and 20th minutes when they goaled.

Great credit to our girls for continuing to take the game to the Barrs and we finished strongly scoring four points in the last 10 minutes.

And so our first season at top level is now over and, hopefully we will learn from this year's experience. Well done to all our players and managing team on their efforts and hopefully we will succeed at this grade some time in the future.

Team: D.Leahy, F. Noonan, A. Fitzgerald, H. Lane, Y.O' Neill, E. Power, D. Neville, O. Cotter, N. Mulcahy, F. Cotter, L. Higgins, L. Power, F. Neville, D. Twomey, M.O' Keeffe.
Subs: J. Hurley for M. O' Keeffe, A. Hogan for F. Neville, E .O'Keeffe for H. Lane, S.Noonan, A. Hayes, M. Daly, A. Mangan, E. Harpur, C.O' Brien, D. Mulcahy, K. Higgins, M. Mulcahy.
Scorers: D. Twomey 0-2, A. Hogan 0-1, L. Higgins 0-1, O. Cotter 0-4 (2f).

U11 Imokilly League

On Tuesday night last our Under11 team met Bride Rovers in this league game which took place in Ballynoe. After a very exciting game of camogie we ran out winners on

St Catherine's 2-0 Bride Rovers 0-0

Panel: E. Spillane, L. Hartnett, M. Galvin, N. Corcoran, L. Ahern, A. Fitzgerald, M. Mulcahy, K. England, A. Hegarty, M. Leahy, B.O' Keeffe, A.O' Mahony, A. Roche, K. Mulcahy, M. Walsh, A. Mulcahy.
Scorers: M. Mulcahy 1-0 N Corcoran 1-0

U11 East Cork League 12-a-side

On Friday last our U11 squad were out again, this time they travelled to Killeagh to fulfil this fixture. In a wet and windy game the home side proved too strong for our girls and ran out comfortable winners 12-1 to 0-0.

Team: E. Spillane, L. Hartnett, M. Galvin, L. Ahern, A. Mulcahy, M. Mulcahy, A. Fitzgerald, J.O' Keeffe, K. England, M. Walsh, N. Corcoran, K. Mulcahy. **Subs**: C .Mc Carthy, A .Roche, A.O' Mahony, B. O'Keeffe.

U16 Championships 2007

This competition is scheduled to get underway early in September. Our girls will play Kilbrittain in the preliminary round of this competition and the winners will go on to meet Ballinora in the first round

SEANDÚN

Seandun chairperson Ross Corcoran is calling on all the clubs in the Seandun division to e-mail him regarding the upcoming Seandún league entries. Clubs are asked to send what grade they would like to enter before the officers meet to agree the final groups. Clubs are asked to contact the chairperson by the weekend.

Only four left in camogie championship

by Mary Newman

IT'S down to the semi-finals in the Evening Echo Senior camogie championship with the four quarter-finals played in the week gone by. First into the arena were Inniscarra and Cloughduv, and it was the Cloughduv girls who advanced with an exhibition of point taking, notching up a 0-17 to 2-4 victory.

At midfield Breige Corkery was a tower of strength as she drove Cloughduv forward while Catherine Corkery, Una O'Donoghue and Claire O'Donoghue also impressed up front. In defence, Joanne O'Callaghan, Orla McCarthy and Aoife Murray made life difficult for the Inniscarra forwards. But Inniscarra kept searching for scores with Rena Buckley and Fiona O'Connell grabbing two late in the game. However, it failed to stop Cloughduv who marched on to the semi-final where they will met St Finbarrs.

The Barrs had a 3-8 to 0-8 victory over St Catherines in a game that failed to generate much excitement. Just one point separated the sides at the interval as Barrs led 0-4 to 0-3, but the champions showed their experience in the second half with Vivienne Harris and substitute Claire Spellman grabbing goals to seal their place in the semi-final. Last season these teams met in round one with the Barrs making Cloughduv re-enter the championship via the back door, so this will be one not to be missed.

The only divisional side remaining in the championship Muskerry had too much strength for Barryroe, with Sile Burns striking five goals for Muskerry to advance 5-11 to 3-6.

For many Milford are the form team and a lot of fingers are pointing in their direction as potential champions as they kept their aspirations on course with a 3-13 to 1-14 victory over Ballygarvan to reach the last four.

In the senior B championship Eire Óg beat Carrigaline 3-8 to 3-4. Rockban recorded their third victory in the round robin series of championship games with a 3-8 to 0-6 win over Douglas with Cartiona Foley and Sile Burns again to the fore for Rockban who are now assured of a place in the last four. Ballinhassig had too much strength for Kilbrittan/Timoleague as they kept their aspirations on the second section of the senior B round robin series on the score 3-10 to 3-7.

With the focus at senior level now turning to Croke Park and All Ireland day on September 9, the semi-finals of the senior championship have been put on hold.

In Senior B this evening Valley Rovers and Ballinhassig met in Carrigaline at 7pm while Glen Rovers and Bishopstown are in action on Thursday night at 7pm with the venue to be announced.

In the Evening Echo junior B championship it is down to the semi-finals this evening at 7pm with Brian Dillon's meeting Buttevant and Kildorrey taking on Enniskeane, with

Aug. 2007

Burke leads the way in Valley's win

Valley Rovers	2-10
Ballinhassig	1-4

By BY CONOR WARD
Evening Echo Senior B Camogie

ELAINE BURKE produced an outstanding display to earn Valley Rovers a nine point victory over Ballinhassig in the first round of the Senior B Camogie Championship last night at Carrigaline.

Although the game was keenly contested in the early stages, the Valley Rovers forwards were more threatening, with Burke opening their account with a point from play, followed by two 45s. Full-forward Catriona Collins responded with a free for Ballinhassig, before a Burke free gave Rovers a four point lead in the 12th minute.

Ballinhassig had plenty of possession but were held off by the Rovers defence on numerous occasions, and then Burke pushed them further ahead with good points in the middle of the first half. Ailis Butler was also prominent in the in the Rovers attack. Ballinhassig responded with a free from Emer O'Sullivan after good build-up play from Catriona Collins. Some good defending from Clodagh Fleming and Maeve Fleming in the Ballinhassig full-back line prevented Rovers from taking a goal before half-time, although Burke added an excellent long point to give Rovers a 0-9 0-2 lead at the break.

Rovers began the second half brightly, Elaine Burke adding another free from the right in the 32nd minute. Ballinhassig then went on the attack with Catriona Collins aiming for goal from a short free, only to blocked by the Rovers defence.

Two long-range goals in quick succession from Burke then put the tie effectively beyond Ballinhassig. The former Cork captain struck twice from frees in the space of two minutes, adding to her impressive personal tally.

Ballinhassig went in search of goals themselves but were unable to make the breakthrough, with Emer O'Sullivan having a penalty saved in the 50th minute. Substitute Aisling O'Brien was making an impact for Ballinhassig, and they were eventually rewarded with a good goal from Sinead O'Callaghan in the 54th minute. After some good play from Lisa Jordan, the ball broke to O'Callaghan, who shot low to the net.

Ballinhassig won another penalty late on but were very unfortunate to see Emer O'Sullivan's effort strike the crossbar. Aisling O'Brien did make a good run and scored a quality point for Ballinhassig as full-time approached.

Both sides now have one game remaining in the round-robin series that includes four teams, with two to advance to the next round.

Scorers for Valley Rovers: E Burke 2-9 (2-3f, 0-2 45s) A Butler 0-1.

Ballinhassig: S O'Callaghan, 1-1 (0-1f), C Collins (0-1f), E O'Sullivan (0-1f), A O'Brien 0-1 each.

VALLEY ROVERS: J Harrington; L Davis, M Hurley, A O'Callaghan; C Deasy, L Hawkes, A Coughlan; M McCarthy, M Hawkes; L Bugler, E Burke, O Deasy; A Butler, D Crowley, E Foley.

Subs: I Coughlan for D Crowley 40, A Murphy for A Butler 51, N Murphy for L Davis 57.

BALLINHASSIG: L Jeffers; A O'Riordan, C Fleming, M Fleming; L Jordan, E O'Sullivan, M Holland; E O'Regan, A O'Leary; S O'Callaghan, D Coomey, C Finn; T Holland, C Collins, B Cronin.

Subs: S McCarthy for B Cronin 19, A O'Brien for T Holland (half-time), K McCarthy for E O'Regan 44.



Cork senior camogie captain Gemma O'Connor collects a Honda Civic courtesy car from James Flynn of Honda, and Andrew Whitaker of Johnson and Perrott, ahead of the All-Ireland camogie final against Wexford on Sunday. Picture: Larry Cummins

Gemma has the drive to win

THE Cork camogie captain, Gemma O'Connor, is hoping the first passenger in her new car will be the O'Duffy Cup.

Gemma was handed the keys of a brand new Honda Civic this week by staff at Johnson and Perrott in Mahon, for leading her team to the Gala All-Ireland final, where they will take on Wexford this Sunday.

"I got a call from James Flynn, the Honda brand manager, asking me if I wanted to drive a new car and I was thrilled. It's brilliant for camogie to get this kind of recognition.

"I have a new Golf, which I bought earlier this year, but this is a lovely car as well, so it will be great to drive it," she said.

Mr Flynn said the firm had sponsored vehicles for a lot of the Cork hurlers in recent years so it was happy to extend that to the camogie captain.

"We also sponsored a car last season for the Cork ladies football captain Juliet Murphy, and felt this year we should look after the camogie girls," he said.

"We have also sponsored the Cork camogie jubilee teams of 1982-83 who will be presented at half-time in Croke Park.

"We are delighted to be of assistance to the former players who have done their bit for Cork," he added.

Kids enjoy camogie camp in Carrigaline

By HOWARD CROWDY
Carrigaline Cúl camp

'THE second Carrigaline Camogie Camp was held in the grounds of the GAA Complex in Carrigaline and attracted over 60 youngsters who were eager to learn more about camogie, and have fun over the three days of the camp last week.

The girls, aged between 7 and 13, not only learnt new skills in camogie, but put their new found practices and ideas learnt from their coaches and trainers to the test with matches in the afternoon.

A tournament was run off on the last day of the camp consisting of four teams, namely the Ballea, The Rock, Kilmoney and Church Hill teams, with certificates of completion, medals and awards being presented.

Special guests for the camp this year were Cork senior footballer and All Star recipient Nicholas Murphy along with Conor Hurley, both from Carrigaline, who has become a regular on the Cork minor hurling team, with both players contesting All Ireland titles in the coming weeks. Both players went onto present certificates of completion and medals to each of the participants this year.

Organiser Brian Maye and Chairman Carrigaline camogie club, went onto thank everyone for their assistance and co-operation and who helped out in any way in the running of the event including sponsors, parents, trainers and players themselves. Special mention was given to sponsors Collins Super Valu, Novartis and the Cork County Camogie Board, with grateful thanks being given to the Carrigaline GAA Club in making their venue available.

He was delighted to see both Cork players at the prize giving, adding that it was a 'great honour to have two great club players and Cork players in their midst, wishing them both the very best in All Ireland glory in the coming weeks. Thanks were also given to the dedicated group of coaches who trained the youngsters over the past three days, and these included Carol Lordan, Sandra Moran, Meave Barry, Grainne O'Keeffe, Deirdre O'Leary, Megan Scully and Una O'Farrell.

This year two players from each team were presented with special trophies, namely the 'Most Improved Player' and 'Hardest Worker' with each of the teams coaches announcing the winners, and were as follows —

Ballea — Hardest Worker — Rachel Williams
Most Improved Player — Caitlin Kearney
The Rock — Hardest Worker — Jessica Fitzgerald
Most Improved Player — Lucimai O'Leary
Church Hill — Hardest Worker — Aoife Cotter
Most Improved Player — Alex Duboy
Kilmoney — Hardest Worker — Orla Coughlan
Most Improved Player — Amy Maye



Pictured with their medals at the camogie camp were Rachel O'Shea, Leanne Fitzgerald and Rebecca O'Shea. Picture: Howard Crowdy

Aug. 2007

John is chuffed to referee final



LINDA MELLERICK

TIPPERARY'S John Morrissey has been handed the honour of refereeing this year's All-Ireland Senior Camogie final. Its nine years since John took charge of such a prestigious event due to his own county's phenomenal success.

As long as Tipp were reaching All-Ireland finals John was always going to be out on the wings.

It's Cork versus Wexford this year and when Ardstiurthóir Síle Wallace, Cumann Camogaíochta Na nGael, approached John in Templemore last Sunday week to offer him the role; in his own words he was chuffed.

John is one of the game's better referees.

He will follow the rule book (which is a little too controlled) and is consistent with his decisions.

When asked how he will ref the final and if there are any particular little quirks which he will focus in on (trying to get a bit of info) John laughed and replies: "All of them, whatever's in the rule book."

John keeps himself in good shape. The very evening I spoke with him he had just returned from a 30-mile cycle. Regularly out running doing laps and sprints he will continue his regime up to and after his big day.

John began refereeing years ago by chance. He was involved in a junior Camogie club in Clonmel and was asked if he'd ref a league match they were involved in as they were stuck. He obliged, really enjoyed it (despite being attacked by his own players) and caught the refereeing bug.

His first inter-county match was a junior league game in 1993 in the Mardyke between Cork and Carlow.

John thoroughly enjoys his role. He has taken charge of so many games that it is hard to pick out ones that stand out. But he recalls a challenge match between Cashel and Glen Rovers when the game was 12-a-side, and a game involving Carlow IT a few years ago as two of the 'classics'.

Will he be nervous on September 9?

"Well I suppose I'll be a little nervous alright, more excited really. I didn't think I'd get another final to be honest with you."

How does John feel the final will go?

"Wexford won't need any long speeches in their dressing room. The very fact that they are there will be enough. I suppose the one worry would be that they would fall down in the final, but I don't think they will.

"That first game this year between them (referring to the first round of the Championship when Wexford defeated Cork by 10 points and John was ref) was thoroughly enjoyable."

Whatever about the controversy that surrounds hurling and football referees there have been some appalling refs at camogie intercounty level over the years.

The public outcry is never as severe however due to the lack of attention the game gets nationwide and lack of knowledge about the game.

Most GAA followers will watch the All-Ireland and have commented in the past on the lack of fluency in the game due to the plethora of frees awarded. But they think that is how the game is played and they are the rules. They're not, most of the time. This 'no contact' section of the rule book is taken completely out of context by some.

How can hurling (because that's what it is) be a non-contact sport. This stop/ start type of game is detrimental to the following and success of Camogie as a sport.

I half caught the Sunday Game last week and the section where they were discussing referees, the standard, their duty, etc.

I didn't quite catch who was speaking at the time but I heard one speaker say that it is not the referees job to ensure a game flows; it is the players job and if they play the game (any game) as it should be played then this would happen.

I agree to a certain extent but I believe it is BOTH the players and the referees role.

We've all witnessed matches at all levels where the standard of refereeing has been terrible. Through no fault of the players it is often the referee who stands out more than the 30 players on the pitch.

And when that occurs something is wrong.

John Morrissey hit the nail on the head when I wished him the best of luck for the day when he said: "Thank you, hopefully it'll be a great game and the less involvement I have the better."



Rachel O'Shea pictured in action at the Carrigaline Camogie club camp. Picture: Howard Crowd

CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

GLEN ROVERS

Senior

Well done to our senior team who performed superbly to record a draw in our second game in the Evening Echo round robin series of games in the Senior B championship.

Having lost out to Rockbán in our opening game when we felt we hadn't done ourselves justice the girls turned in a superb display to grab a draw two late goals also from Lydia Cunningham proving to be the decisive scores on an evening when every one of our panel did well.

From goalkeeper to substitutes this was a team effort and the focus of the team was shown to its full with our two late goals. We led a the break 0-5 to 0-3 having shot eight first half wide's we knew we should have led by more, Bishopstown turned in a strong second half display as we began to lag behind, but a Karen O'Connell point quickly had us back on track before Lydia struck for the all important goals.

It's back to the action quickly as we meet Newcestown in out third game next Friday, August 31 at a venue to be announced for this game later in the week.

Senior

A reminder again to any former players who may be interested that this year who are fielding a junior side and players who may have been out of the game for a little while might like to come along and join us, call to the Glen Field any Monday or Wednesday night from 6.30pm onwards.

Underage

A Busy weekend for our U18 team as they endeavour to get their championship programme completed this weekend we play two games this Saturday evening we travel to Ballygarvan for a 7pm throw in with the home side before Rockban come to the Glen Field on Sunday starting time here is 6.45pm. Our U10 team travel this afternoon to participate in the Ballinhassig tournament.

On Saturday next we met Milford in the under 14 "A" league semi final the game goes ahead in the Town Park pitch Mallow at 3.30pm

Our under 16 A championship opponents will be Ballygarvan while our second Under16 team will meet Barryroe.

Our second under16 team have also made it through to the semi final of the league, well done to this young side we will have dates for all these games next week

A reminder that its back to the Sunday morning training this weekend for our players from 5 to 12 years 11.45 to 1pm new members welcome

Thanks

Our thanks to Dave Healy Plant Hire and to Alert Alarms who jointly sponsored hoodies for our senior team recently. Hopefully our members will support the lads when they are in need of either services.

DOUGLAS

Seniors

Our Senior B team played Rockbán in championship last but unfortunately Rockbán took the win, next game is against Glen Rovers, date and venue to be confirmed.

Junior Shield

This year we have entered junior team and they will have five games in the league. Their first out was last Thursday night against Valley Rovers, Douglas coming away with the win; it was great to see some players return having taking some time out. In this league Douglas will meet: Kilbrittain, St Finbarr's, Glen Rovers, and Aghabullogue.

U16A: This team travelled to Dublin last weekend to compete in a blitz run by St. Vincent's Camogie Club. On their way up Douglas stayed overnight in Kilkenny and played a game against St Martin's which they won, that night had great craic celebrating two birthday's Ailin O'Donovan and Ciara Clark staying in the haunted castle. Saturday morning onto Dublin, conditions for the weekend were appalling. First game Douglas V Thomastown Douglas taking the win 2-4 to 1-5: 2nd game Douglas V St Vincent's, Douglas 2-10 to 1-0: 3d game Douglas 3-16 Athenry 0-4: Douglas into the final to meet Thomastown unfortunately it was Thomastown who took the spoils beating Douglas on score line of 1-5 to 1-3.

Back in Cork to Douglas GAA club coach Jimmy O'Mahony praised the girls on the behaviour, their commitment to their games for the weekend after all they had played five games in 24 hours. The team were presented with their medals by Joe Long Vice Chairman of the Camogie club. Jimmy also thanked Finbarr O'Donovan selector and Breda Heffernan and Phil Nason who gave up their weekend to go and look after the girls. special mention was made to Chloe Nason (mascot) :

U16A Championship: Douglas V Milford is down for Saturday 22nd September, venue to be confirmed:

U16B Championship: Douglas V Courcey Rovers, date to be confirmed.

U14A semi-final: Douglas V Milford: Saturday 1st September in Carrigaline at 3.30pm.



TEAM PLAYERS: Pte Gemma O'Connor, Cork camoige team, Capt Alan Quirke, Cork footballer, and Lt Andrew O'Shaughnessy, Limerick hurler, who are all members of the Barracks Garrison at Collins Barracks, Cork, and will play in this year's All-Ireland finals. Picture: Dan Linehan



THE 60 SECOND INTERVIEW

Angela Walsh

Cork ladies football and camogie

Q: First time you gave an autograph?
A: After the first All-Ireland win in 2005.
Q: First pint?
A: I don't drink pints, it's Smirnoff Ice and obviously it was when I turned 18!
Q: I'm afraid of
A: Mice and rats.
Q: Team-mate no-one should room with
A: Brid Stack, she'd keep you up all night talking.
Q: Boxers, briefs, thong?
A: A mixture of the three. It depends on my mood!
Q: The one thing nobody knows about me is that
A: I won All-Ireland medals in athletics.
Q: My ring-tone is
A: Some random one from Motorola phone, I don't really like it.
Q: If I have to Sky-plus one show it's
A: Prison Break or Grey's Anatomy — it's a close call!
Q: Ideal honeymoon location?
A: Thailand.
Q: Colin Farrell or Brad Pitt?
A: Brad Pitt. Colin Farrell is too rough looking.
Q: The one website I always visit is
A: Bebo
Q: I drive a
A: Ford Fiesta called Philomena, which I share with my sister Ciara.
Q: For a living I
A: Teach PE.
Q: If I were a character from history I would be
A: Mary Robinson.
Q: The tattoo I would most like is
A: Something small not in an obvious place.
Q: Is a cross between a tiger and a lion a liger or a tion?
A: Liger.
Q: The most expensive item of clothing I have ever bought is
A: Dress for €450.
Q: What's on the ipod?
A: I'd listen to anything.
Q: Any idea what's going on in Lost?
A: No.
Q: Love to share an energy bar with?
A: Kerry's Kieran Donaghy or Dan Shanahan of Waterford.
Q: You'd do 40 laps to avoid?
A: Pat Kenny.
Q: Best buddy from another team?
A: I have good friends in many counties but my best friends are in Cork.



Fiona Page, Athenry, Galway; Angela Walsh, Killeagh, and Eimear O'Regan, Clonakilty who were conferred with Bachelors of Science in Physical Education from the University of Limerick.



Cork senior camogie stars Emer Dillon and Sarah O'Donovan - both members of Ballygarvan - at the club's dinner dance in the Carrigaline Court Hotel

Thompson on fire for Carrig

Carrigaline	1-8
Kilbrittain/ Timoleague	1-4



In attendance at the Fr O'Neill's Hurling Blitz were Una Sloane, Fiorrie Cullinane and Ger Kearney.
Picture: John Walshe

A MAJOR scalp for Carrigaline as they record their first victory in the senior grade at championship level with a four point winning margin over Kilbrittain/ Timoleague in the *Evening Echo* senior B championship in Brinny last night.

By MARY NEWMAN
Evening Echo Senior B championship

From the throw-in the fast moving Carrigaline youngsters looked as if they would be a handfull for their opponents.

Maria Moran at centre field was superb as she kept the ball moving, while their off-the-ball running and general enthusiasm caused major problems for Kilbrittain/ Timoleague.

At the finish, Carrigaline held their lines under intense pressure and that ensured they held their led to the full time whistle.

Aided by the strong wind in the first half Maria Moran shot them into an early lead with a point.

Laura Thompson had stretched it to two before Miriam Deasy edged Kilbrittain/ Timoleague ahead as she made no mistake from close range after good work by Danielle O'Sullivan.

By the 12th minute Marie Maloney had Kilbrittain two points clear, but from here to the half-time whistle they were under increasing pressure as Carrigaline lifted their game and tore into Kilbrittain.

Three points from Laura Thompson, who showed great accuracy from placed balls and one from 14 year-old Patti O'Keeffe had them two ahead and full value for their lead of 0-6 to 1-1 at the break.

From the restart Kilbrittain/ Timoleague set about getting back on level terms.

Points from Mary Murphy and Val O' Keeffe had them on par inside four minutes, however, this was to be their only score until two minutes to full time as they found no way past the close marking Carrigaline defence where Joanne O'Keeffe and Amy Collins excelled.

Time out of time Kilbrittain/ Timoleague attacked but Carrigaline held their line.

Laura Thompson edged Carrigaline further ahead with a pointed free.

Then two incidents turned the game in Carrigaline favour inside three minutes.

Kilbrittain/ Timoleague's persistence paid off and they won a penalty, but the Carrigaline defence held firm saving Marion Murphy's goal attempt.

Two minutes later Laura Thompson's attempted a 15 metre free which was batted clear by the Kilbrittain defence only as far as Thompson, who's shot for goal was finished to the net by Pattie O'Keeffe.

Kilbrittain/ Timoleague came in search of scores.

Val O'Keeffe pointed a long range free to cut the deficit to three points, but it was Laura Thompson who had the final say pointing with seconds remaining to ensure her side of their first victory in this season's championship.

CARRIGALINE: R Harrington, J Kiernan Joanne O'Keeffe, E Power D O'Leary, A Collins, S Cotter M Morse,(0-1) Jacqui O'Keeffe P O'Keeffe(1-1), G O'Keeffe, D Smythe, U O'Farrell, L Thompson, (0-6 0-3 frees 0-1 45" 0-2 play), C O'Keeffe.

KILBRITTAIN/TIMOLEAGUE: M Fulham, V Smith, C Deasy, A O'Sullivan, M Dullea, Marion Murphy, M O'Sullivan, V O'Keeffe (0-2 frees), Eilish O'Sullivan, S Sexton, Eimear O'Sullivan, Danielle O'Sullivan, Mary Murphy (0-1), M Deasy (1-0), M Moloney (0-1).

Referee: C Egan (Glen Rovers).

Buttevant look to have the edge

By MARY NEWMAN
Evening Echo Junior B County Final

THE first county final of 2007 and it's Buttevant and Enniskeane who meet in Coachford in the Evening Echo Junior B final at 7pm this evening.

Buttevant had to battle to the finish in their semi-final meeting against Brian Dillon's before victory was secured, while Enniskeane turned in a strong second-half performance in their semi-final against Kildorrey to book their place in the final.

Buttevant are a young side that have enjoyed plenty of success at under age level.

They have built their squad around these teams and they will be hoping to build on that success to take the club's first junior B championship title.

They are a strong side as they showed in their wins thus far.

They had a good victory over a fancied Sliabh Rua side before defeating Brian Dillon's.

They showed that the younger players have now come through the ranks and can hold their own on the adult stage.

Last season's Cork U16 captain Dawn O'Keeffe is a reliable goalkeeper who denied Brian Dillon's certain goals to keep Buttevant alive in the semi-final, while current Cork U16 players Darina O'Callaghan and Eimear Healy are excellent performers.

Eimear Harrington, Sarah Breen, Michelle O'Keeffe and Dawn Farrell have had plenty of colleges experience and they will put in a huge effort to take the title.

Enniskeane will be hoping to continue on the victory path following on their victory in the junior 13-a-side title in 2006.

This season they made the decision to participate in the junior B grade and they have successfully made the step up with confidence.

In their path to tonight's final they had a good first round victory over Na Piarsaigh and boosted by this went in against Kildorrey in confident mood.

They are another club who are working hard at under age level and the game is enjoying a huge boost and is going in the right direction.

Marita Collins, Natasha Buttimer, Orla Coughlan and Katie Buttimer have been to the fore to date for an Enniskeane side that are a well balanced outfit.

Both sides are evenly matched Enniskeane have the experience of last year's success behind them but Buttevant are equally as experienced.

Several of their side have under age inter-county experience and though a slightly younger side they will not fear the challenge Enniskeane will pose.

Buttevant started out the season as favourites to lift the title and on form could just about shade it.

Round-robin series is still wide open

THERE'S an interesting clash this evening at Ballinora (7pm) as Newcestown and Glen Rovers meet in the fourth round of the round-robin series in the Evening Echo Senior B championship, ***writes MARY NEWMAN.***

Both sides are still in the hunt and chasing a semi-final spot with the group still wide open.

Rockbán and Douglas head the group with just one game to go.

Both are on four points and look safe, but both have a game in hand.

Newcestown are on three points with just tonight's game to play.

Bishopstown have one point with a game in hand, Glen Rovers are on one also but have another game after tonight and that will be against Douglas so it makes for and interesting finish to the section.

Newcestown will go in as favourites after their superb victory over a Rockbán side that are tipped to go all the way.

In that game Newcestown showed plenty of determination as they took the lead and refused to die hanging on grimly to their two-point lead to the final whistle.

In their opening game they drew with Bishopstown before they ran Douglas close, losing out in the finish by just two points.

They have excellent displays from players like Colleen Long, Rose Desmond, Colette Desmond and goalkeeper Lisa O'Sullivan, who made a number of superb saves to deny Rockbán.

Glen Rovers bounced back from a first round defeat at the hands of Rockbán to take a share of the spoils in their clash with Bishopstown.

In that game the Glen trailed by six points with as many minutes to go, but they showed tremendous battling qualities to grab a draw with two late goals from Lydia Cunningham in a highly entertaining encounter.

They are a young side, eight of their finishing 15 tonight are still eligible for minor grade, but they have experienced players such as Aoife Walsh, Cornellia Shortt, Kelly Newman and Aideen Guiton guiding the fortunes of their youngsters.

Boosted by the result in their last outing the Glen girls will battle to the finish to get something from tonight's clash.

They will have to be at their best to deny Newcestown a share of the spoils.

Newcestown shock Rockbán in Camogie B Championship

Cork Senior B Camogie Championship

NEWCESTOWN	2-6
ROCKBÁN	1-7

by Peter Ledwith

Rockbán's County Senior B Championship ambitions received a setback, when they lost to Newcestown in a closely fought encounter in Inniscarra.

The Rockies went into the match as firm favourites – having defeated Glen Rovers and Douglas in their previous group matches. But, Newcestown who had just a single point to show from two outings had other ideas.

Torrential rain before the start made conditions made fluent camogie difficult. As a result scores were few and far between in the first half –which ended with Newcestown 0-4 to 0-2 ahead.

The tempo increased considerably on the resumption. Rockbán's inter county stars Catriona Foley and Síle Burns began to exert their influence. In form Burns converted her third free and when Sarah Coleman levelled – the balance appeared to have swung in the mid cork teams favour. Burns put Rockbán a point up – but the lead was short lived as substitute Alison Houlihan goaled for Newcestown with her first touch of the sliothar.

As time ticked away Newcestown led by a goal – before Burns grabbed a dramatic equalizer for the Rockies. Deep into injury time Newcestown second substitute Rachel O'Donovan slammed home what proved to be the winning goal. Burns pulled a point back – but it was not enough to deny Newcestown their first win of the campaign on a 2-6 to 1-7 scoreline.

Rockbán can still qualify for the knock out stages of the championship - if they defeat Bishopstown in their final group tie.

The match will not take place until after Cork's clash with Wexford in the All Ireland Camogie final on September 9 - due to Catriona Foley and Síle Burns's involvement with the Cork team.

ROCKBÁN: Elaine Harte; Mairead Burns, Sinead Keohane, Sarah Ryan; Coleen Foley, Catriona Foley, Deirdre Foley; Louise Crowley 0-1, Niamh Keohane; Therese Howard, Valerie Mulcahy, Aine Geaney; Sarah Coleman 0-1, Síle Burns 1-5 (0-3f), Onora Mulcahy. **Sub:** Una O'Sullivan for Onora Mulcahy.

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Marian McCarthy, chairperson Cork Camogie Board, presents the Murphy, Lowe, & Taffe trophy to Orla Coughlan, captain of the Enniskeane team that defeated Buttevant in the Evening Echo sponsored, Junior B Camogie final in Coachford last night. Picture: Damien Quirke

Orla's class helps Enniskeane to win

Enniskeane	1-07
Buttevant	1-03

By PETER MCNAMARA
Junior B Co camogie final

ENNISKEANE'S star midfielder Orla Coughlan stole in the show in this Evening Echo sponsored Junior B County camogie final in Aghabullogue last night.

The West Cork side's captain finishedwith a personal tally of 0-07 but it was her exhibition in the art of long range point-taking both from placed balls and open play that stole the show.

Buttevant went into the game as slight favourites following recent wins over Sliabh Rua and Brian Dillon's but Enniskeane had other ideas and right from the off, played with great intensity and hunger as they chased a second consecutive title at this grade.

Enniskeane opened the scoring two minutes in as Coughlan cooly slotted over a long-range free.

Scores were few and far between but that did not reflect the honest endeavour and high work-rates of both sides.

As both sides went in search of early scores the first big cheer of the evening came from the Buttevant support as Cork U16 star Eimear Healy took a free close to the sideline which dropped dangerously into the square, was only half cleared by the Enniskeane rearguard and fell kindly to wing-forward Niamh Walsh whose snapshot nestled in the Enniskeane net.

Game on, as up until now Buttevant seemed to be slow to get to the pace of proceedings.

Their midfield partnership of Dawn and Jean Farrell began to get more and more into the game and began to deliver some quality ball into their inside forwards for the likes of Eimear Healy and a highly skilful Darina O'Callaghan.

O'Callaghan was operating at centre-forward following her positional switch with Fiona O'Connell which now saw the latter placed at top of the left.

The two later combined to set-up Buttevant's first point of the contest which left just a puck of the ball between the sides.

Coughlan subsequently added to her team's tally — and her already growing reputation as a classy player — as she found her range to bring Enniskeane back into the game.

The next major score of the opening half saw Enniskeane raise a green flag of their own which proved to be the only other goal in the contest.

Centre-forward Celine Nyhan drove a telling ball in on top of the Buttevant defence after some hard graft out the field and despite the best efforts of last year's U16 Cork keeper Dawn O'Keeffe who blocked the initial shot, Louise Duggan had the presence of mind to pull first time on the ball after a goal-mouth scramble.

The match was evenly poised at 1-02 a piece going in at the break.

The second half was owned solely by Coughlan. As the second half progressed it became apparent that Enniskeane's extra bit of experience came to the fore at crucial periods.

However, Buttevant can feel aggrieved by the fact that they were not awarded what seemed a perfectly legitimate goal at a critical juncture in the game. .

Instead referee Peter Downey awarded a free out and Enniskeane survived, broke down the field themselves and engineered a 13 metre free following a mazy run by wing-forward Ellen Healy.

Up stepped Coughlan who really played a captain's part and suddenly the whole complexion of the encounter changed and Buttevant found themselves chasing for the remainder of the game.

Their coach Pat Spratt introduced substitute Orla Johnson in a reshuffling of his charges which saw Laura Harrington take up the centre-forward berth but it was to no avail as Coughlan, who capped her Player of the Match performance with two further points, combined with Katie Buttimer and Ellen Healy to see Enniskeane run out four point winners in the end in what was a highly entertaining contest from the opening to the final whistle.

Afterwards a jubilant Enniskeane selector Dermot Curtin touched on the fact that he firmly believed they could win despite going in as the underdogs and also felt that the game was a close fought contest.

In contrast a somewhat downbeat John Madigan felt that the disallowed goal was a huge turning point in the game but conceded that Enniskeane were a fitter side coupled with that experience ascertained from last year made the difference.

The final word has to go to Enniskeane team captain Orla Coughlan he accepted the trophy from Marion McCarthy after a superb all round display.

We could very well see her grace the Croke Park surface in time to come sporting the red and of white of Cork.

Scorers Enniskeane: O Coughlan 0-7(0-5f), L Duggan 1-0
Buttevant: N Walsh 1-0,T.Reilly, M O'Keeffe, E Healy (0-1f) 0-1 each.
BUTTEVANT: D O'Keeffe; J O'Callaghan, L Harrington, S Breen (capt); N Curran, T Roche, T Reilly; D Farrell, J Farrell; N Walsh, F O'Connell, M O'Keeffe; D O'Callaghan, AM Sheehan, E Healy O Johnson replaced AM-Sheehan.
ENNISKEANE: C McQueen; E Milner, M Barron, M O'Donovan; C O'Mahony, M Collins, N Buttimer; O Coughlan, K Buttimer; E Healy, C Nyhan, L Duggan; J Crowley K Crowley, M O'Leary.

Newcestown seal tie with a superb opening half

Newcestown	4-7
Glen Rovers	2-6

NEWCESTOWN laid the foundations for victory with a superb opening half display in this highly entertaining Evening Echo Senior B championship encounter in Ballinora last evening.

Aided by the strong wind they made better use of possession and inside the opening 15 minutes led 2-3 to no score Theresa McCarthy twice nipping in behind the Glen defence to fire home goals while Colleen Long pointed two frees with Evelyn Crowley also striking one.

Through that opening quarter Glen shot four wide's as they battled to get on the score board and they did eventually find their range in the seventeenth minuet as Denise Luby pointed a free to open their account.

Continuing to put the Glen defence under pressure Colleen Long had added a point before McCarthy struck for goal number three.

Glen worked hard against the wind and began to get to grips but again they were guilty of shooting another five wide's before Karen O'Connell had their second point.

Just as they began to find their feet they were dealt a blow when Alison Crowley finished to the net but it was an improving Glen who had the last of the last say of the half with a Luby point.

Alison Houlihane pointed to extend the Newcestown lead from the restart but with the Glen beginning to gain the upper hand it was now the Newcestown defence that was under pressure.

A goal from Denise Luby was quickly followed by a Karen O'Connell point but two pointed Colleen Long free steadied the Newcestown nerves with 13 minutes on the stop watch.

From here to the finish possession was mainly with the Glen Denise Luby pointed before shooting low to the Newcestown net and now the margin was down to seven points, time after time Glen attacked but the Newcestown defence held despite severe pressure. As in the first half, the Glen girls shot scoreable wide's as they battled to cut the gap their tally of 16 wides over the hour to Newcestown five telling its own story.

At the finish it was Newcestown craft and experience that helped them hang on thanks in the main to their excellent first half display

NEWCESTOWN L O Sullivan, U Crowley, A Holland, F Deasy A Finn, H O Mahony, R Desmond E Crowley(0-1), F Crowley, T McCarthy(3-0), C Long(0-5) , A Coughlan, G Cronin, A Houlihane,(0-1) A Crowley(1goal),

GLEN ROVERS K Newman, L Kelly A Guiton, Z Buckley, A. Walsh, M Hegarty, B Walsh, R Foley, A Keating, K O Connell (0-2) D Luby (2-4 2-2), A Murphy, L. Crowley, L Cunningham, S Gallen

Referee: Colette O'Mahony St Finbarr's

SEPT. 2007

Time to honour the ladies of '82 and '83

CUMANN Camogaíochta Na nGael will honour the Cork All-Ireland camogie champions of 1982 and 1983 at half-time in Croke Park on All-Ireland Camogie final day.

It's a tremendous occasion for former players, not only because they relive the day itself but because it's a chance to catch up again with former friends and teammates.

Star of that All-Ireland final Mary O'Leary along with Cathy Landers is organising the team's weekend away.

Val Fitzpatrick returns from the States to attend and just looking through the panel of players, there'll be plenty of laughs.

Taking a trip down memory lane; Cork had little difficulty in accounting for Tipperary in the Munster Championship final of '82.

They progressed to a semi-final clash with Kilkenny in Nowlan Park.

Angela Higgins and Mary Geaney remained on the injured list, while Miriam Higgins returned to the side having too being injured for the Munster final.

This match is remembered for a sensational comeback by Kilkenny.

Cork dominated the first half. Goals from Val Fitzpatrick and Marion Sweeney saw Cork comfortably positioned at 3-5 to 0-6 at the break.

With the wind at their backs Kilkenny started to pick off scores.

Conceding numerous frees, Cork allowed Angela Downey a total of 1-10 from placed balls.

The match came to a riveting finish. Bridie McGarry cut a sideline ball from 30 yards over the bar to level the game with two minutes remaining.

The game ended in a draw.

Mary Geaney returned to the team for the replay at Ballinlough.

Billed as the game of the championship it certainly lived up to expectations.

Kilkenny opened in devastating form and ran Cork ragged.

The Rebels trailed by 3-6 to 1-2 at the break.

Cork stormed into the game on the resumption.

Great goals from Mary O'Leary, Marion Sweeney and Geaney brought them back into contention.

It was score-for-score right to the finish with McGarry once again converting a sideline for the equalising point.

Cork raced down the hill from the dressing rooms for extra-time to a thunderous roar from the massive Cork following.

Pat Lenihan responded with a marvellous goal and O'Leary added two points.

They held out for a sweet victory and danced around the pitch triumphant when the final whistle blew.



Cork's Sandie Fitzgibbon clear past Kilkenny's Sineád Millea in an All-Ireland semi-final where Kilkenny staged a massive comeback in the drawn game only to be denied by the Cork girls in the replay.



LINDA MELLERICK

Cork lined out with four players, Eileen Dineen, Ger McCarthy, Val Fitzpatrick and Noelle O'Driscoll participating in their first All-Ireland final.

They were hot favourites to take the title at the expense of Dublin.

It wasn't as easy as predicted.

Dublin enjoyed a whirlwind start. Cork lost Captain Pat Lenihan with a leg injury and unsettled they trailed at the break by 2-5 to 1-3.

In a tremendously fought second half, Cork pulled back Dublin's lead and forged ahead.

Mary O'Leary was the main architect of this revival.

She tormented the Dublin defence; a stinging shot hitting the back of the net. Lenihan returned to the field of play and it lifted the side.

With time almost up a draw looked inevitable until O'Leary stepped up and struck a free from 45 yards sweetly between the posts.

Mary O'Leary (1-6) and Pat Lenihan (1-1) were the scorers in Cork's 2-7 to 2-6 triumph.

As in 1982, Dublin provided the opposition in the All-Ireland final of '83.

They raced into a three point lead before Mary O'Leary pulled one back.

Trailing by a point at half O'Leary equalised on the resumption.

The game swung from end to end in the second-half as Cork's teamwork and high resolve kept them in the game.

Five minutes from time Claire Kelleher got the vital break.

Collecting a low cross she blasted the ball to the Dublin net edging Cork ahead by two.

For the second year in succession Cork had scored a narrow victory over Dublin; 2-5 to 1-6.

Recalling those memorable games and in particular that winning point in 1982 Mary O'Leary calmly declares that 'I felt no pressure at all. The match was level; we couldn't lose it so the pressure as such was off.'

Pressure felt or not, this Cork team are back in Croke Park on September 9 because of that score and back-to-back All-Ireland titles.

1982 All-Ireland Senior Camogie Champions: Marion McCarthy — Eire Og Eileen Dineen — Eire Og Miriam Higgins — Eire Og Cathy Landers — Killeagh Martha Kearney — Na Piarsaigh Clare Cronin — Old Als Val Fitzpatrick — Glen Rovers Ger McCarthy — Glen Rovers Mary O'Leary — Watergrasshill Pat Lenihan (Capt) — Killeagh Marion Sweeney — Killeagh Noelle O'Driscoll — Eire Og Subs:- Anne O'Donovan — Glen Rovers Angela Higgins — Watergrasshill Sandie Fitzgibbon — Glen Rovers.

Coach — Tom Nott.

1983 All-Ireland Senior Camogie Champions: Marion McCarthy — Eire Og Eileen Dineen — Eire Og Miriam Higgins — Eire Og Cathy Landers — Killeagh Martha Kearney — Na Piarsaigh Clare Cronin — Old Als Marion Sweeney — Killeagh Sandie Fitzgibbon — Glen Rovers Mary O'Leary — Watergrasshill Val Fitzpatrick — Glen Rovers Claire Kelleher — Eire Og Mary Geaney — Eire Og Subs:- Liz Lynch -Douglas Angela Higgins — Watergrasshill Noelle O'Driscoll — Eire Og Ger McCarthy — Glen Rovers.

Coach — Tom Nott.

Ballinhassig triumph at the Declan Crowley blitz

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie news

NOW in its eight year, the annual Declan Crowley Memorial Blitz organised by the Ballinhassig camogie club has gone from strength to strength.

Saturday last was no exception.

The glorious sunshine made a welcome appearance on the day once again and made for a great day's camogie.

It greeted the young participants whom the Ballinhassig club had invited to participate.

Twelve teams battled it out for honours: Ballinhassig A and B, Valley Rovers A and B Courcey Rovers, Inniscarra Sliabh Rua, Blarney, Glen Rovers, Ballincollig, Barryroe and Ballygarvan.

The day honours the memory of one of the clubs former workers, the late Declan Crowley, who gave huge help in the running of camogie actively up to his untimely passing.

With 12 teams participating the teams were divided into three groups with games played on a round-robin basis.

After hectic battles Ballinhassig A, Barryroe, Valley Rovers and Courcey Rovers made it through to contest the semi-finals of the Declan Crowley Perpetual Cup, which was sponsored by BJ Automation.

Ballinhassig A defeated Barryroe, while Valley Rovers A were victorious over Courcey Rovers.

In the final, victory went to the home side on a score line of 4-2 to 2-0.

The Tony Jeffers Shield, sponsored by Kinsale Lions Club was contested for by the runners-up in each group.

Blarney defeated Inniscarra with Glen Rovers getting the better of Sliabh Rua.

In the final the Glen Rovers girls held the upper hand to record a 4-0 to nil victory.

The Joan Lucey Perpetual Shield, sponsored by The Sportsman Rest, Ballinhassig was played for with Ballygarvan edging out Ballincollig to set up a final meeting with Valley Rovers B, who defeated Ballinhassig B in a very closely contested game.

In the final Ballygarvan triumphed on a 2-0 to no score margin.

Well done once again to the Ballinhassig club for a superbly organised event.

SEPT. 2007

Síle filled with burning ambition

Rockbán star hopes to do club and county proud

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie

CARRIGNAVAR native Síle Burns can't wait for Sunday and finally run out onto Croke Park for the first time.

It's hard to imagine that the Carrignavar native is only playing in her first senior final. A recently qualified physiotherapist currently seeking out employment she has been holding a hurley in her hand for as long as she can remember.

This comes as no surprising really when you realise she is the daughter of former Cork and St Finbarrs hurler, Denis Burns, who was a member of the Cork three in-a-row panel that took All-Ireland honours from 1976 to 1978.

Síle doesn't feel any pressure as she looks forward to finally lining out with the first 15 on Sunday. A sub on the senior team that took the title in 2002 and the losing team of 2004, Síle missed out on 2005 and 06 when she decided to take a break from inter-county camogie.

"I missed out on the last two years. In 2005 I went to America for that summer. About 16 of my friends were going and I made the decision to go as I felt it was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

"I made the decision to head away. The following year I was on placement with college and I knew at the start of the year when I was asked to join the panel I wouldn't be around to attend the training sessions as I was based in Castlebar. There was no point in making a commitment I couldn't honour.

"I decided to take a clean break any how, because during the first year away in 2005 I was really exhausted. I had been playing from U10 all the way up, 12 months of the year in both camogie and football so I needed that summer off.

"This year I am really enjoying it. I'm playing more than ever, but after having a break it was great to be part of it all again."

Sciath Na Scoil camogie played a big part in helping Síle develop into the player she is today. It was with Scoil Oilibhéir in Dublin Hill that she won four Camogie division one medals.

"It was great getting to the final and playing down in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. The highlight of the year for us kids was to make it there. I was on the team for four years so I would have been a lot younger that most of my teams mates.

"Most of them played club camogie with the local club Glen Rovers, so I suppose I was a little bit different that I was playing with a boys hurling team out in Carrignavar.

"They did try to get me to join them, but then a camogie team started when Carrignavar and Whitechurch joined forces to form Rockbán."

Dad Denis is without doubt her guiding light. He has passed on his skills to his youngest daughter, who lines out with the local Rockbán club.

"Dad is a huge help to me. I started when I was about three or four years of age and I always seemed to have a hurley in my hand. He is always there with help and advice for me when I need it.

"Dad was coaching the boys U10 and 12 teams and even thought I was only seven I fell in and played hurling with the boys. I played all up the line to U12 and then Rockbán started a camogie team so I joined up and most of us have been playing since then. We won underage camogie titles from U12 to U16 and then last year we won the junior "A" league and championship. We are all great friends and its helps build up team spirit."

Despite holding All-Ireland senior medals won as a sub, Síle is determined to win a medal on the field this time round.

"I remember 2002 vividly getting off the bus and heading in despite being no. 28 and with no chance of coming on.

"I can recall vividly entering Croke Park and looking around in total awe and my knees just wobbling underneath me. I found it overwhelming.

"I think this year we will have more experience. All of the girls have been through it so often and know the whole drill by now. On Sunday I think that will stand to us and hopefully we will be more composed.

"It's a huge advantage that we have those years behind us, because definitely the Wexford girls are going to be nervous and hopefully, that like bit of experience we have will give us a little extra edge."

Despite attending college at the University of Limerick Síle only played Ashbourne Cup for the first time last year. UL took three Ashbourne cup titles in-a-row, but she lost out winning a medal. She did manage to win two O'Connell Cup medals with UL and while she would be more familiar with the Tipperary girls from College, she hasn't come face to face with many of the Wexford side.

"I do know Mary Lacey from UCD, but not having played much Ashbourne competition I would not have come across many of the Wexford girls. I suppose we will are going a little bit into the unknown."

Juggling camogie and ladies football is a huge commitment and is something Síle finds tough.

"I could never see myself giving up one sport for the other. I really enjoy both, it is difficult at times when you feel your being pulled in a lot of directions and every team wants you to give 100%. I just wonder how the girls who play inter-county at both levels do it, because I just do it at club level and its just about ok."

"My family are hugely supportive and are at every match. It's great on Sunday the club are organising buses to go to Croke Park. Hopefully some of the younger players will play there some day."

With somebody such as Síle Burns as a role model that's very likely to happen.



Cork's Síle Burns solos past Kilkenny's Aoife Fitzpatrick during this year's championship. Picture: P.J Browne

SEPT. 2007

CAMOGIE >> All-Ireland Junior Championship Final Preview

Clare return with confidence

Orla Considine takes a look ahead to Sunday's eagerly anticipated final clash between Clare and Derry in Croke Park.

Clare v Derry @ Croke Park, Dublin Sunday 12pm

AFTER a long season, Clare have returned to Croke Park this year with a renewed confidence and a burning desire to go that one step further. This Clare team have achieved a good vein of success this year with only one competitive defeat so far which has been encouraging considering the amount of experimentation with new players, especially in the league.

Clare got through the National League having drawn with Down, only to lose to them in the League Play-off, and also had wins over Antrim, Kildare, and Sunday's opposition Derry. In the championship, they faced Down and Antrim who had given them stiff tests in the league but on both occasions Clare recorded easy wins.

In the week after securing qualification for the All-Ireland semi-final, Clare faced the challenge of Tipperary in the Munster Intermediate Championship which Clare also won comfortably, securing a place against Waterford in the Munster Final. As Waterford were to be Clare's opposition in the All-Ireland semi-final, it was agreed that the Munster Final game would not be played until after the All-Ireland Semi-Final, but Clare then faced a thirteen week layoff as a result because the semi-final against Waterford was deferred until August 19.

Waterford had won the National League, having beaten Down so Clare knew that they would have to overcome strong opposition in order to get to the final but the Banner started at a blistering pace and set the foundations for that win in the opening twenty minutes. Similar style and commitment will be required of the Clare girls on Sunday if captain Deirdre Murphy is to hold aloft the New All-Ireland Cup.

Clare have prepared for this game in much the same fashion as they have approached all their games this year. As before, Clare travel to play a challenge game in the weekend prior to the match, which gives the girls an edge in the week leading up to the game. There is also no room for complacency this year as all the panel are fighting for those coveted places on the team which are not assured even at this late stage.

Last Saturday Clare travelled to Buttevant in Cork to play Cork's Senior B selection who are still in the hunt for an All-Ireland title. Clare played without Catherine O'Loughlin, Claire Commane and Sharon O'Loughlin who were all rested, giving Stephanie Moloney, Marie O'Halloran and Áine O'Brien their chance to impress and give the management some positive selection headaches ahead of Sunday's crucial decider. Stephanie Moloney scored 1-3 as did O'Brien, with Sharon McMahon also chipping in with 1-1 and Aoife Ryan and Aiveen O'Shea converting a point each. Indeed Clare eventually won this game by a point and it certainly provided Clare with some interesting and useful information ahead of Sunday's final. The Cork forwards' constant movement was difficult to moniter but after only conceding one goal, the backs will feel satisfied that they were able to handle Cork sufficiently.

The hard work is now done and all that remains is some fine-tuning and focus in order to be ready for the challenge that lies ahead. One hour and Derry are all that remain between Clare and All-Ireland glory and it would be reckless to belittle the challenge that Derry pose. They reached the same stage last year and were only beaten by two points by a Dublin side who were going for two in a row. They are a physically strong team and are expected to run at the Clare defence at every opportunity and they won't want to leave it behind as they did last year.

However, Clare have the ability and pace to overcome this obstacle. They realise the task ahead and should be extremely focused.

Clare's forwards will once again seek to repeat the scoring prowess of their championship season to date where they have recorded a total of 9-40 from three championship games and only conceded 1-21. Claire Commane is Clare's top scorer accounting for 3-14, Catherine O'Loughlin 2-3, Corina Roseingrave, 2-2, Sharon O'Loughlin 1-4, Fiona Lafferty 0-4, Stephanie Moloney 1-0, Sharon McMahon and Aoife Ryan 0-3, Deirdre Murphy and Marie O'Halloran 0-2, Kate Lynch 0-1. More than any other year, Clare have variety of options for scores and do not just depend on one or two players to cover the shortfall. The commitment, passion and skill has all been evident this year but after losing two finals in three years, they may need a favourable bounce of the ball to eventually see them over the line.

Verdict: Clare



Left: Aoife Griffin in action during junior Clare camogie training in Clarecastle Thursday evening.
Yvonne Vaughan



Siobhan Lafferty
Kilnamona
Age: 19



Fiona Lafferty
Kilnamona
Age: 18



Catherine O'Loughlin
Kilnamona
Age: 36



Denise Lynch
Kilmaley
Age: 22



Rachel Lynch
Clooney
Age: 23



Deirdre Murphy
Clooney
Age: 26



Cathy Hally
Wolfe Tones
Age: 33



Aoife Griffin
Clarecastle
Age: 16



Aine O'Brien
Newmarket-on-Fergus
Age: 17



Stephanie Moloney
Broadford
Age: 17



Dee Corcoran
Celbridge
Age: 26



Amy Colleran
Clooney
Age: 25



Jane O'Leary
Newmarket-on-Fergus
Age: 21



Sharon McMahon
Newmarket-on-Fergus
Age: 20



Aiveen O'Shea
Sixmilebridge
Age: 15



Aoife Ryan
St Vincent's
Age: 23



Marie O'Halloran
Kilnamona
Age: 23



Aimee McInerney
Newmarket-on-Fergus
Age: 18



Kate Lynch
Kilkishen
Age: 16



Jane Scanlon
Clarecastle
Age: 23



Carina Roseingrave
Kilnamona
Age: 17



Claire Commane
Corofin
Age: 23



Sharon O'Loughlin
Clarecastle
Age: 23



Edel Keating
Corofin
Age: 23



Helen McMahon
Kilmaley
Age: 22

Sept. 2007



Nothing to fear, but fear itself

As the Clare camogie squad face into the All-Ireland final on Sunday, the management team are quietly confident writes Eoin Brennan.

THERE was a certain buzz around the Clare junior camogie panel as they began their training routine in Clarecastle last Thursday evening. Maybe the sight of cameras, reporters and officials contributed to the mood but looking around at the players, the youthful enthusiasm that exists in the panel was obvious.

Long gone is the stereotype of the take no prisoners camogie player. This is an era of youth, speed and more importantly, intelligence in Clare camogie. And the only ingredient missing has been national success.

Clare have been on the brink of success for too long. Beaten in the finals of 2003 and 2005 and reaching the penultimate stage last year, the management team stepped aside and a new set-up of Colm and Eoghan Hanley and John Nihil assumed the role of taking Clare to the next level. That's exactly what they have done.

Their experience at schools level was the springboard for their masterplan and they set about transforming the squad by injecting a significant number of young players to the panel and while many people predicted a transitional period for the team, Clare have exceeded all expectations by reaching the All-Ireland final next Sunday.

But Colm Hanley maintained it was all part of their overall plan.

"We're delighted to be there.Anytime you get to the All-Ireland final is fantastic whether it's your first year or fifth year but it was the aim at the start of the year and we are after getting there now so hopefully we can finish the job now.

"This might sound strange but we brought in those young players to make sure we got there to be honest. The thing is that these players have been playing at the highest level with both the county and more importantly with the schools in the last few years where four or five schools have been successful. So we knew that they would be more than capable of competing and they have really added to the panel. Ironically they have brought a lot of experience to the side because of the fact that they have played in plenty of these types of games. This is nothing new for them. Croke Park is obviously a big step but they will be well able for it. There will be no fear of them."

John Nihil also felt that youth has been the big difference this year. "They have no fear number one. They have absolutely no fear of losing. In fairness the schools have won All-Irelands which has been a big help to camogie in Clare. I've been involved with some of the schools so I knew there was a great number of players and it was just a matter of gelling them together and we did that in the league. I can see this team going on and on and with a few more young girls that are coming on the scene, camogie in Clare will go from strength to strength.

"It may be a lot of the players' first year but they have old heads which is great and with the encouragement of the older girls, they should come through."

Derry are Clare's adversaries on Sunday and they perhaps provide a different opposition to the teams Clare have played in the championship so far. They are a more physical side but the management team have done their homework so as Eoghan Hanley explained, they are under no illusion as to what to expect on Sunday.

"We've seen them playing recently. We played them in the league ourselves and beat them in that game in Dublin but we also saw them playing against Waterford in the championship down in Tipperary. We know that they are a strong team. They're fast and they have one or two players which we have noticed are fairly handy so we will have to keep an eye out for them. But realistically if our players can play to their potential, we can match them. In the game in Dublin, it was a close encounter and I'm sure that they have improved a lot but we have definitely improved as a team. In those league games, we were also trying out players so it's going to be all on the day."

Colm Hanley also shared that confidence in his player's ability as he stressed, "If we hurl the way we can hurl, basically we should go on and win the game, it's that simple. That is all we have to worry about and we cannot concern ourselves with what Derry do."

Above: Aoife Ryan and Amy Colleran stretch during junior camogie training in Clarecastle on Thursday evening.
Yvonne Vaughan

Below: The management team of Colm Hanley, Eoghan Hanley and John Nihil



SEPT 2007

CAMOGIE >> All-Ireland Junior Championship Final Preview

Second time charm for Clare captain

Clooney/Quin's Deirdre Murphy will lead Clare out in an All-Ireland final for the second time in three years, writes **Emer Connolly**.

Emer Connolly

THE captain of the Clare camogie team is hoping it will be a case of third time lucky when she takes to the Croke Park turf for Sunday's All-Ireland junior camogie final.

Deirdre Murphy is no stranger to the All-Ireland final stage, but has suffered no shortage of heartbreak, losing out in two finals (both replays), over the past four years. Murphy was a member of the Clare team when they lost the All-Ireland final replay to Galway in both 2003, while she captained the side which lost to Dublin in the 2005 replay.

The 26-year-old has been involved in the intercounty set-up with Clare for the past 10 years. Nothing short of a victory on Sunday will atone for the two final defeats.

"For this team to get to Croke Park twice and to lose after replays, we have to win it for ourselves. If we win this final, you could see a very bright future for Clare camogie. Defeat in this final could mean the end of the road for a lot of players," she said.

Murphy joined the intercounty panel at the age of 16. Apart from two years when the team disbanded - 2001 and 2002 - she has been a regular on the side, over the past decade. She was captain two years ago and again this year. Does she find it difficult to keep the momentum going?

"A lot depends on us winning on Sunday. If you lose something you are annoyed, but it is still only sport. You play it to win, but you become conditioned to it and have the craic with the teammates. In January, you would be looking forward to getting back into it. When I am near home, I enjoy it so much," she said.

She believes that the addition of a handful of new, young players, allied to the strength and experience of the more established seasoned members of the team, has provided a good balance this year.

Younger players such as Kate Lynch (Kilkishen), Stephanie Moloney (Broadford) and Corina Rosengrave (Kilnamona) have fitted in well on the panel and have blended in alongside veterans like Catherine O'Loughlin, Cathy Halley and Deirdre Corcoran.

"The amount of new players on the panel has brought a freshness and they have been an inspiration to the older players," she said.

Clare have a good idea what to expect on Sunday, having played against Derry twice over the past year. Clare defeated Derry by one point in last year's league final and again were single-point victors in this year's league. Derry will be hoping for revenge, but Murphy and company are truly hopeful of a third victory over the northern side.

"Nothing matters, except getting it right on the day. We have to be confident in our own ability. We know there is nothing between us and Derry. We have to pray for a bit of luck on the day. If we play to the standard we are capable of, we will do it," said Murphy, who is a qualified secondary teacher.

She is enjoying the build-up to Sunday's all-important tie.

"When we got to the final in 2003, I was living in Dublin. Two years ago, being captain and living around home, I noticed more hype. Now, going into this year's final, we are more used to it (the hype)," she said.

It has been a very busy summer for Murphy. Along with her arduous training schedule with both her club Clooney and the intercounty side, she has just been appointed Munster Regional Development Co-ordinator for camogie. She is looking forward to challenges that lie ahead in her new post and the challenge of combining her job with her favourite pastime.

She describes the job as "anything to do with getting hurleys into young girls' hands."

Murphy is one of five development co-ordinators responsible for the promotion of camogie in Ireland. Previously, there had been three such officers and this has now been increased to five, in an effort to increase interest in the game.

"We want to increase the profile of the game. Everybody says ladies football is doing well, but more people are playing camogie. We wouldn't see ourselves as being in competition to football. We can co-exist," said Murphy, who is based at Limerick Institute of Technology in her new post.

"Girls who play sport have a very good attitude to life and enjoy being fit and healthy," she said.

"The standard of camogie in general has gone up. County teams now prepare very professionally and fitness levels are phenomenal. There is great enthusiasm and there will be a challenge to keep it going," she said.



Below: Captain Deirdre Murphy at the junior Clare camogie training in Clarecastle on Thursday evening.
Yvonne Vaughan

SEPT. 2007

Three the magic number as Cork defend their crown

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL
AT CROKE PARK, DUBLIN
Sunday, September 9, 4pm
Cork v Wexford



PICTURE: BRIAN LAWLESS / SPORTSFILE

Senior captains Mary Leacy, from Oulart, Wexford, and Gemma O'Connor, from Cork City meeting at a photocall ahead of the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final which will be taking place this Sunday at Croke Park, Dublin.

Cork stand on the threshold of three camogie titles in-a-row, and if they get a good start against Wexford on Sunday, then that dream should become reality, writes **Mary Newman**

The countdown is on as Cork and Wexford get ready to do battle in Croke Park on Sunday for the O'Duffy Cup - the symbol of camogie supremacy in the Gala All-Ireland senior championship final.

Cork are bidding for three in a row. Can they achieve what the hurlers failed to do last season or can Wexford take the prized possession back home for the first time since 1975?

It's a repeat of the national league final as Cork defend their All Ireland crown. The sides have meet on three occasions already this year, with victory going to Wexford in the opening game of the league series and in the first game in the round robin series of the All-Ireland championship, with Cork nipping in between to take the league title by the narrowest of margins - a late pointed free from Jennifer O'Leary giving them the crown.

Wexford will be determined to topple the champions and take their first All-Ireland senior title since 1975 when a side captained by Gretta Keogh, just one day after her wedding, brought the county their third All Ireland title. Since then they have only contested the final on one occasion, losing out in 1990 to great rivals Kilkenny

Current Wexford manager Stella Sinnott was playing that day, so she will be hoping to guide her charges to the precious medal she herself failed to win.

Wexford are captained by Mary Leacy, daughter of Margaret O'Leary who was on the Wexford winning side of 1969, while also on the team is Una Leacy, a sister of Mary's. Áine Codd is the daughter of Kit Codd (Keogh) who was on the winning team of 1978.

Wexford have turned in some fantastic performances in this year's league and championship campaign, finishing their league programme unbeaten up to the final, while they lost out in just one championship game to Tipperary.

Cork have performed well in their path to the final bouncing back after their first round defeat at the hands of Wexford by defeating Tipperary, Galway, Kilkenny and Dublin before recording a comprehensive semi final victory over old rivals Tipperary.

The Cork team has no major injury worries to report. Aoife Murray is certain to start in goal and the side is sure to contain last season's winning captain Joanne O'Callaghan who is solid and reliable.

Amanda O'Regan has regained her form following a few recent injury worries.

Catriona Foley and duel stars Mary O'Connor, Rena Buckley and the ever-reliable Anna Geary should feature in strong Cork defence.

Up front the Cork forwards have proved themselves to be match winners and they will take on the Wexford defence to get the scores on the scoreboard.

Cork have the names for the big occasions - Gemma O'Connor, Briege Corkery and Jennifer O'Leary are amongst the finest camogie players in the country, Emer Dillon is playing well in the Cork inside line, along with the hard working Angela Walsh and Una O'Donoghue, while Orla Cotter and Síle Burns - who have slotted in to the team well this year - will test the Wexford defence to its limits at every opportunity.

Wexford have threatened to make the big breakthrough for the last few years.

Now is their big chance but they will have to remain focused and have nerves of steel if they hope to take the title.

Cork have been there before and know what is required Wexford will pose their strong challenge in a number of areas so a good start is vital for Cork. If they get that good start then the title should be heading Leeside for the third year in a row.



PICTURE: MATT BROWNE / SPORTSFILE

The Cork Squad ahead of the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Semi-final against Tipperary at Nowlan Park, Co. Kilkenny.

CORK PANEL: Aoife Murray, Joanne O'Callaghan, Catriona Foley, Rachel Moloney, Emer Watson, Amanda O' Regan, Rena Buckley, Síle Burns Anna Geary, Briege Corkery, Mary O'Connor, Jenny O'Leary, Emer Dillon Orla Cotter, Gemma O'Connor, Una O'Donoghue, Angela Walsh, Jenny Duffy, Ellen Clifford, Rosarie Holland, Sarah Hayes, Sarah O'Donovan, Marie O'Neill, Emer Farrell, Elaine Burke, Eimear O'Sullivan, Eimear White, Regina Curtin, Denise Twomey.

SEPT 2007



CONOR GEORGE

Walsh is a master of all trades

IN the world of ladies GAA she's the perfect poster girl.

Outrageously-talented, down-to-earth, funny and the possessor of movie-star good looks.

When it comes to ladies football and camogie Angela Walsh is, simply put, the whole package but there is so much more to this Killeagh girl that mere words simply don't do her justice. She really is that good, at whatever she turns her hand to.

Not only is she on the brink of making history, standing on the edge of winning a Treble-Treble, she is a former All-Ireland athletics champion, a former international volleyball player, an intelligent girl who achieved first class honours in her PE course in UL and is a bloody nice person to top it all off.

Her accomplishments and achievements and, it must be said, her care-free attitude all add up to one uniquely interesting subject.

A 22-year-old PE teacher in Dungarvan (she starts her first job this week), Cork ladies footballer and camogie player, self-confessed messer and proud lover of the colour pink — she's actually wearing pink flip-flops, pink t-shirt, pink watch and a pink hair-band when we meet.

It's hard to miss: "The pink, yeah, I absolutely love pink. As far back as I can remember I have everything pink, shoes, dresses etc. Even the bedroom I share with my younger sister (Ciara) is two shades of pink!"

She also an engaging conversationalist, witty and utterly charming. On top of that she's a bloody good footballer (two-time All-Star) and camogie player. She's, as they say, the real deal.

As a footballer she is as tough a defender as there is but as a camogie player she is the focus of Cork's attack, leading the charge from her centre forward berth. Defender and attacker rolled into the one body.

Seems contradictory, until you see her play that is.

In football, despite her positioning, Walsh is not a negative player. She doesn't strangle opponents, she chloroforms them by getting to the ball first and not leaving it behind her when she gets there.

On the football pitch what spooks forwards so much about her is that she plays like a forward, sidesteps in possession, swerves around opponents when bringing the ball forward and even though she plays full back she is not afraid of attacking, a forward's worst nightmare.

It is when looking at her playing football with Cork that you truly appreciate just how important she is to the Cork camogie team. A wolf in sheep's clothing.

In hurling (camogie) and football forwards are notorious for being a softer touch than defenders. Backs have this aggression within that simply revels in full-on combat. They love the physical aspect of the game. It's their bread and butter.

If the ball is there to be won then heaven help the forward who gets in the way. Forwards, on the other hand, are supposed to avoid the manic charge of the back, are supposed to slip their marker, get out of traffic and score. Finding a player who can allow those conflicting interests co-exist is rare. Very rare.

Not even famous duel players have managed it over the years. For Cork Denis Walsh, duel Munster medal winner was a defender in both codes, Teddy McCarthy a midfielder or forward in both, Jimmy Barry Murphy a forward, Seán Óg Ó hAilpín a defender in both.

None of them crossed the divide between forward and back. Angela does — with ease — and it is what makes her the player she is, in both football and camogie — even if she remains frustratingly modest about her accomplishments.

"I tell you what; I wouldn't make a good back in camogie to save my life. No. Not at all," insists Angela.

"In football I've played nearly every position. I started midfield, went centre forward, full forward and then back into the backline, spending a year playing centre back and then one day the full back was sick and I went in there and haven't been moved out of there since.

"In football I like playing full back to be honest. At this stage I find it difficult playing on other positions.

"In camogie then I've always been a forward. I wouldn't be comfortable in the back line to be honest.

"Oh I'd fight hard and all that but looking at the likes of Mary O'Connor, she's a defender out and out, doing the simple things right and is brilliant but I prefer to run onto the ball and play in the forwards.

"No, I wouldn't make a good back in camogie at all, wouldn't want to try, to be honest," she added.

Her insistence of her own perceived limitations on the camogie pitch are endearing. She's a modest girl for all her overwhelming talents — a trait that helps make her such an engaging person off the pitch — but modesty can't hide the reality — Angela is a high achiever. That's a given. Everything she has turned her hand at in her (almost) 22 years on this planet has been mastered.

To enable her to study PE in Limerick she needed 495 points in the Leaving Cert. She achieved this with points to spare. Her sporting interests started with athletics, she went on to win All-Ireland medals in Cross Country.

In secondary school she played volleyball, she played for Ireland for two years and when she took up football she became an All-Star and one of the backbones of what is a marvellous Cork team. In camogie she already had two All-Ireland medals and is on the verge of adding a third. Whatever she turns her hand to she excels at.

One gets the sense that Angela was always a star in waiting, one of those supremely-talented people who was destined to become great at whatever sport she chose.

Her sporting career is full of glittering successes, starting way back when she just wanted to be one of the gang, wanted to be involved and wanted to follow (literally) in the footsteps of her older sister Niamh.

"I remember when I was eight years old I was with my mother watching Niamh running during her athletics training in Youghal," recalls Angela. "I was in my school uniform and I begged my mother could I go out with them and once



Cork's Angela Walsh in full flight against Galway in last year's camogie All-Ireland semi-final.

Angela out to take the final step

SEPT 2007



Cork dual football and camogie players celebrate winning their second All-Ireland medal in the space of three weeks last year, from left, Elaine O'Riordan, Catriona Foley, Briege Corkery Rena Buckley, Angela Walsh, Mary O'Connor and Regina Curtin after the TG4 All Ireland ladies senior football final in Croke Park last year.

she gave me the go ahead I tore after them, wearing runners but still in my school uniform and there I was racing up the hill after the group and that was the start of the athletics for me."

Like night follows day she harnessed that youthful exuberance and turned raw talent into success, going on to become an All-Ireland champion.

"I have two individual All-Ireland medals An U12 Cross Country (won in Belfast) and an U12 Mosney medal and besides that I have team medals and school medals. Athletics was huge when I was small and I loved it.

"I still love it and I believe that it has stood to me and my fitness over the years. It's something my father says to me all the time, that the athletics has really helped my fitness, that it's the athletics that made me.

"From there you go with the flow I suppose and when I started secondary school volleyball was the main sport so I took that up and played with the Irish team for two years, travelling all over Europe. I was playing with the National squad but then towards fifth and sixth year GAA kind of took over so I don't now what's next!"

What's next is a tilt at making sporting history as Angela is one of those few Cork players who are bidding for a Treble-Treble, winning three All-Ireland medals in-a-row in both camogie and ladies football.

It's a mind-boggling feat, something so far out there that most mortals wouldn't even dream of. Angela still has to pinch herself at times to realise that it's actually a real possibility.

"Yeah," she says with a kind of wonderment in her voice, "I know that's frightening. It actually scares me like because we've been so successful the last three years, it's just amazing really. Kinds scary!

"When I started out three years ago we'd have been delighted to win just one All-Ireland but we've been going so well, it's just fantastic. It's, well history really, isn't it?

"Two doubles and going for a treble double. It's still weird to say. My mother is always saying to me that you won't appreciate all you've won until ten years time when you look back. And I suppose she's right because we don't get a chance to appreciate it because we're straight back into it again.

"Eamonn (Ryan, Cork ladies football coach) is always saying to us that you get a very short time at the top and we've been very fortunate.

"All the duel players to be involved with two great teams at the same time and we're very lucky to be with both teams. It's hard to manage both and managements are equally understanding which is very lucky.

"The three in a row. It's on the tip of everyone's tongue and you can't avoid it because the fact is we're going for three in a row in both. Amazing really."

The twin assaults on the All-Ireland championships and history begin next Sunday when the camogie team face Wexford, a side they know intimately having faced them in both the league and the championship already this season. It adds an interesting footnote to Sunday's clash in Croke Park.

"We actually played Wexford two weekend's in a row. We beat them in the league final by a point in a very close game, we were lucky to be honest, and the following weekend we met them in the championship and they absolutely annihilated us.

"We were basically dumbfounded. It was the first time we had lost in quite a while to Wexford and it knocked us back a bit but Wexford are the team to beat this year. Ironically they were the first team we played this year and they're going to be the last game of the season so it's come full circle.

"Wexford have been so strong this year. They've only been beaten by one team, Tipperary in one of the round robin matches but they had already qualified so it didn't really matter to them.

"And they are so hungry like. I think it's 13 years since they've been in an All-Ireland Final and they are so up for it. The whole of Wexford is just delighted with the thought of them.



Angela Walsh showing her football skills against Kidare in the National Football League.

"It's a bit of a strange one actually because we're going for three-in-a-row and everyone wants to see Cork beaten this year, that's a fact. Wexford are actually favourites going into the game, it's motivating for us because even though we're the team going for the three in a row we're still not the favourites but we'll use that to our advantage.

"Cliché it may be but it's fact, it'll be about who wants it more. Wexford are going to be so up for it and we'll have to match that. We'll have to better that if we're to win but hunger and desire won't be a problem for us on Sunday."

Angela's achievements on the pitch point to the conclusion of her being a perfectionist, someone who not only demands the very best of her self but invariably delivers.

She may leave nothing to chance when it comes to her sporting career but there are, she explains, little aspects of her character that mightn't quite mesh with the image of totally focussed athlete.

TOMORROW
We take a look at how the Championship has gone this year

"Oh God no, not at all. My older sister is a perfectionist. I'm not. I just do it. I'd be pure laid back, very easy going.

"Like I'm absolutely, so superstitious. It wrecks a lot of people's heads. My friends from College think I'm a complete freak. Don't pat the knife, three 7s for luck, don't walk under a ladder, black cat for luck, things like that. Completely sad but what can you do!

"When it comes to sport I'm the same. I like to wear the same gear, like for matches I'd always wear the same socks and stuff like that. I just think they're very lucky and keep wearing them.

"Off the pitch? Ah sure I'm quiet out.

"Honestly I am. Well, yeah there is a touch of the divil in there I suppose but sure that's in everyone."

This year's camogie final is one that Angela is eager for, absolutely ravenous. She's been playing the best camogie of her career and while she already has back-to-back medals to her credit there's a little unfinished business with Croke Park for her.

"This is my third year on the panel. Three years ago I was playing all year but was dropped for the All-Ireland Final.

"It was sort of my own doing because we had a lot of football coming up to the All-Ireland and I wasn't really playing that well and the girl who took my place was in better form but after that I made up my mind that I was definitely going to make it and I was centre forward all through last year as well.

"I didn't have a great final though and was taken off. I was just dead on my feet I think but this year is the first year I can actually say that I'm happy with the camogie I'm playing. I wouldn't class myself as an extremely skilful player but I have speed and strength and that stands to me."

The omens are also good this year for the Killagh girl. She hit 1-1 in the semi-final and has been one of Cork's most impressive campaigners in the championship.

"I was happy with the game the last day. Yeah, that was my first goal in the championship.

"Actually the first day I ever played camogie for Cork we played Wexford in the league semi-final three years ago and I scored a goal and I hadn't scored a goal since until the last day in the semi-final.

"There's also the fact that Wexford are the only team we've lost to and that is actually exciting because it's a challenge. We know that we didn't really play well the last day and were missing some players.

"We were also maybe a little flat on our feet because we were after playing them the week before and it was a very close game but to be honest it was maybe the kick in the arse we needed because we realised quickly that we couldn't afford to lose any more matches or we wouldn't get to Croke Park.

"So it may have been a positive in that way."

It all seems to come very easily to this young woman but there have been and continue to be sacrifices to be made and she doesn't shy away from making the hard decisions when it comes to her sporting career.

"It is tough but I wouldn't be sitting here if I didn't love it and we're part of fantastic teams so no one is going to turn their back on that.

"After we won the first All-Ireland I had planned to go to America on the J1 visa the next summer but then I was 'maybe I won't' when we won the two All-Irelands and now here I am going for the three in a row and I haven't gone to America yet but sure what of it.

"This is the life I chose so I'm happy with it," Angela added.

Sept 2007

Cork's camogie stars ready to make history

Here, *The Corkman* takes a look at the Cork camogie panel which will be vying for the three-in-a-row on Sunday

GEMMA O'CONNOR (CAPT.)
ST FINBARR'S
Member of Irish Defence Forces
GEMMA is the first St. Finbarr's player to captain a Cork senior side, after the club won the county championship last year.

Already the holder of senior and minor championship honours, and senior and junior national league medals as well as provincial honours, Gemma was named on the All-Star Camogie teams for the last three years in a row, and as camogie Player of the Year for 2006.

Her brother Glenn was on the minor hurling team which lost out to Tipperary in the All-Ireland final last Sunday, while her uncle, Bill Geaney, captained the minors to the title in 1974.

JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN
CLOUGHDUV
Just completed Sports Coach Masters at UCC
LAST year's All-Ireland-winning captain, Joanne is in her seventh season on the team. She has minor, Intermediate and senior All Ireland Championship medals to her credit as well as Ashbourne Cup and Gael Linn honours.

She also has three Cork senior county championship medals with Cloughduv, and she is an accomplished hockey player who has represented Munster. Joanne spent the last 12 months coaching in primary schools and she hopes to take up full time employment after the final.

AOIFE MURRAY
CLOUGHDUV
Quantity surveyor
AOIFE also has three Cork county senior championship medals with Cloughduv. She captained the side to their third title in 2005. She has Junior, Intermediate, Minor and Senior medals in her cabinet, as well as a Munster championship and under age championship honours.

Aoife is the sister of former Cork inter-county senior hurler Kevin Murray who won an All Ireland medal with Cork in 1999.

EMER WHITE
BARRYROE
Just completed Leaving Cert.
THIS is Emer's first season on the senior panel. She holds national league and provincial medals.

Emer is a member too of the senior B team to play Wexford in the All-Ireland semi final on September 15.

MARY O'CONNOR
KILLEAGH
National Development Officer with the Camogie Association
MARY was previously a Gaelic Games under age coach with the East Cork GAA board, but she now works as a National Development Officer.

She holds senior All-Ireland medals, and a national league, and she helped the footballers claim the All-Ireland title last year. She also has county, provincial and All Ireland club medals with Grenagh Ballingarry where she played for many years.

RENA BUCKLEY
INNISCARRA
Student UCD
A DUAL All-Star, Rena was named as The Corkman/Springfort Hall sports person of the year in 2006. She won All Ireland senior and national league and provincial medals with the footballers, while she won her second senior All Ireland camogie medal last year. She also has minor, intermediate and junior medals.

This is Rena's fourth year on the senior team. She is studying physiotherapy in Dublin.

BRIEGE CORKERY
CLOUGHDUV
Stonemason
THE holder of three Cork county senior championship medals as well as minor, intermediate and senior All Ireland and Munster honours, Briege is also a prominent footballer and she won an All Ireland medal at senior level.

She has numerous under age honours in both camogie and football and was named as national female sports person of the year in 2005. She is also the recipient of a Jury's award and all star honours.

RACHEL MOLONEY
COURCEY ROVERS
Nutritionist
RACHEL holds Ashbourne cup medals with UCC as well as minor and senior all Ireland championship honours with Cork. She has won inter provincial honours with Munster and is the holder of all Ireland honours at senior, intermediate, junior and minor levels as well as provincial honours.

AMANDA O'REGAN
DOUGLAS
Teacher
AMANDA is an accomplished basketball player and a member of the Irish squad. Her father Michael won an All-Ireland minor football medal while her mother Christine is the holder of Junior All-Ireland medals.

A school teacher and former student at UL with whom she won three Ashbourne cup medals, she is the holder of All Ireland minor, junior and senior medals, as well as provincial honours at junior and under-18 level.

ANNA GEARY
MILFORD
Business studies student UL
ANNA was the Centenary Camogie Ambassador for Cork Secondary Schools and was named as on the Colleges All Star team of 2004 and on the Camogie All Stars in 2005 and 2006. She was Player of the Match in last years All-Ireland final, while she captained the Cork minors to an All Ireland title in 2003. She won three minor championship medals in a row.

Anna has two senior All Ireland medals and ten All Ireland colleges' medals with St Mary's, Charleville, while she has won underage and senior B championships with Milford.

JENNIFER O'LEARY
BARRYROE
PE teacher
JENNIFER was named on the All-Star teams of 2004, 2005 and 2006 and is the holder of All Ireland medals at senior, minor and intermediate level. She captained University of Limerick to Ashbourne cup in 2005, and has represented Munster at senior level.

EMER DILLON
BALLYGARVAN
Pharmacist
EMER was selected as Player of the Match by the Sunday Game panel after the 2005 All Ireland senior final. She is also a prominent hockey player and has represented both Munster and Ireland.

Emer won a senior county championship medal with Carrigdhoun while she also holds junior and under age championship medals with Ballygarvan, and All-Ireland senior, intermediate and minor medals as well as inter provincial honours and all Star awards.

UNA O'DONOGHUE
CLOUGHDUV
Food analyst
UNA captained Cork to All Ireland glory in 2002 and also led her club to their first senior county championship title in 2001.

She is the holder of Ashbourne cup and league honours with UCC, as well as All Ireland senior and national league medals with Cork.

Una has also won three senior county championship medals with as well as under age honours with Cloughduv.

ANGELA WALSH
KILLEAGH
PE teacher
ANGELA is the holder of county junior championship honours with Killeagh and was a prominent member of the Cork ladies football and camogie teams that took national league titles last season.

She holds two All-Ireland senior camogie and ladies football medals.

ELAINE BURKE
VALLEY ROVERS
Solicitor
ELAINE is the holder of Senior and Junior All Ireland medals, senior national league with Cork and Ashbourne cup and league medals with UCC as well as senior and junior county championship honours with Carrigdhoun and her club Valley Rovers. She captained the Cork team to the All Ireland title in 2005. She is also a keen golfer.

CATRIONA FOLEY
ROCKBÁN
Student UCC
CATRIONA holds a Junior B county championship medal with her club, and she is also an accomplished footballer with her club and county. She was a member of the panel in last year's All-Ireland final win.

She was introduced in the senior final of 2003 when Cork lost out to Tipperary, and made a successful recovery from a knee operation which sidelined her for most of 2005. She is the holder of All Ireland senior and minor medals as well as provincial honours at minor, junior and intermediate level.

Her father, Dan Joe, won All Ireland minor and under-21 honours.

EMER WATSON
MILFORD
Student
WITH All Ireland colleges honours with St Mary's Charleville as well as All Ireland minor and intermediate medals, Emer has won championship medals with her club from under 16 to Senior B grade. Her mother Ann is the holder of All Ireland junior medal with Limerick from 1977.

SÍLE BURNS
ROCKBÁN
Physiotherapist
SÍLE is the holder of All Ireland minor and intermediate medals as well as Scith Na Scoil under age honours with Scoil Oilibeir Dublin Hill where her mother Phil is vice principal. She is the daughter of former Cork senior hurler Denis Burns who won All Ireland medals with Cork.

ORLA COTTER
ST CATHERINE'S
Just completed Leaving Cert at Loreto, Fermoy
ORLA become the only player to play in two senior All Ireland finals in the same year last season, winning senior and senior B All Ireland medals.

This is Orla's second year on the senior panel after she made her debut against Galway in the semi final. She captained the Cork minor team last year and holds provincial honours with Cork and has won All Ireland junior colleges honours as well as senior and junior national league medals.

ELLEN CLIFFORD
ST FINBARR'S
Senior technical analyst
ELLEN is very involved with under age coaching with her club and is currently vice chairperson of the Cork Juvenile County Camogie Board.

She is the holder of All Ireland Junior and senior medals as well as National league medals at senior and junior level. Ellen also holds senior county championship with St Finbarr's whom she captained to win the senior B title in 2001.

SARA HAYES
COURCEY ROVERS
Lab analyst
SARA played at under age level with Cork. She is the holder of All Ireland senior and minor medals as well as Ashbourne Cup with UCC and senior B championship with her club.

SARAH O'DONOVAN
BALLYGARVAN
Student
SARAH has two All Ireland senior medals and a Junior medal won in 2004, All Ireland minor honours as well as provincial medals in minor junior and intermediate. The UCC student won a senior county championship medal in 2004 with Carrigdhoun and has also played international ladies soccer at under 19 level.

Her brother Chris was a member of the minor hurling team which lost to Tipp on Sunday.

EMER O'FARRELL
SARSFIELDS
Marketing
EMER won an All Ireland junior medal in 2004 she was a member of the senior panel last year. She also holds National junior and senior league and provincial honours and was a member of the CIT team that won the Purcell Cup in 2001.

She holds Munster championship medals at senior, junior and intermediate levels.

JENNY DUFFY
ST. FINBARR'S
Camogie development officer
JENNY recently took up the post as Camogie Regional Development officer in Munster. A former student at Cork Institute of Technology, Jenny is the holder of an All Ireland league medal with CI T as well as senior and junior All Ireland Championship medals and a senior championship with her club.

MARIE O'NEILL
WATERGRASSHILL
Student at UL
MARIE is also a prominent ladies footballer and has won under age All Ireland and senior B national league medals.

This is her second season on the senior panel. The business studies student is the holder of All Ireland senior minor and intermediate medals as well as a Junior B college's medal won with Loreto Fermoy.

ROSARIE HOLLAND
BARRYROE
IT developer
ROSARIE is the hold of senior minor and junior All Ireland medals, as well as an Ashbourne Cup medal with UCC.

She Also holds senior national league honours at club level, and Senior B and under age championship honours. Rosarie returns to the panel following a season abroad.

REGINA CURTIN
MILFORD
Student
REGINA made a successful recovery from injury last season to rejoin the squad. She holds All-Ireland senior and intermediate camogie medals as well as All-Ireland ladies football honours.

She also holds national league honours in both codes, and she is also a member of the senior B team.

EIMEAR O'SULLIVAN
BALLINHASSIG
Student CIT
EIMEAR holds senior All Ireland Senior B honours as well as national league and provincial medals. She is also a member of the senior B team that will play Wexford on September 15.

She is a sister of former inter county All-Ireland medallist Linda O'Sullivan.



PICTURE: BRIAN LAWLESS / SPORTSFILE

Senior captains Mary Leacy, from Oulart, Wexford, and Gemma O'Connor, from Cork City at a photocall ahead of Sunday's final.

SEPT 2007

Codd is hooked on title success



Wexford's Aine Codd holds off Cork's Orla Cotter during their Gala All-Ireland Camogie Championship clash in Ballincollig in May 2007. Picture: Larry Cummins

THE added pressure of maintaining a strong family tradition will be put firmly to the back of the mind of Wexford's most experienced player as she takes to the field next Sunday in Croke Park.

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie News

Aine Codd is surrounded by All-Ireland winners.

Her mother Kit (Keogh) won medals with her native Wexford and Dublin, while her aunt Gretta captained the Wexford side in 1975 just one day after her wedding.

Her aunt Bridget also led the county to senior honours in 1969 and for good measure her brother Thomas was a member of the Wexford senior panel that took the All-Ireland title in 1996.

"I suppose I was born with a hurley in my hand," Aine Codd said. "From the time I could walk I was out on the pitch.

"Mum was always involved and up to recently she was deeply involved at club level.

"She has taken a step back recently and has taken up golf, but she never misses a match. My aunts are also still involved with clubs in their own areas.

"Eileen, Josie and Gretta spend a lot of time involved and they are all regular attended at county matches.

"Since we began to progress the interest has grown and we have a band of regular supporters who follow us to all our games, which is great."

It was inevitable that camogie would played a huge role in Aine's education.

In primary school at Piercetown National School she participated in the INTO camogie sevens and the Rackard leagues.

Ironically, there was no camogie in Presentation Wexford secondary school.

"With no camogie in the school I turned to basketball and hockey and I kept up both sports for a while. I finally dropped the basketball as it was impossible with college to play all three, but I still play hockey in winter with Wexford to keep fit."

Progressing to college in UCD the heartbreak of losing an Ashbourne cup final to UCC IN 2000 is something that still disappoints. "Two of the Cork girls Una O' Donoghue and Elaine Burke would have played with UCC that day.

"We managed to win the Ashbourne Shield in my years in college, but an Ashbourne Cup medal would've been nice."

Aine finds it a bit strange that conversations sometimes turn to soccer around the Codd and their extended family tables, but with such a famous first cousin as Irish soccer international former Cork City player Kevin Doyle it's inevitable.

"For a family with a great GAA tradition it was funny that one of us would end up an international soccer player.

"It's definitely strange to be so interested in the game, but its great for him and for my aunt Bernie, who also played junior camogie for Wexford."

Family play a huge part in Aine's sporting life. As well as the huge army of aunts with All-Ireland medals, one of her biggest fans is her 85 year-old grandmother Mai Codd.

"My gran is a big follower and is always tuned in to the games and interested in how we get on. She won't be travelling on Sunday, but will be glued to the television cheering us on."

The Process Technology Engineer with GEA has been based in Naas since taking up employment with the company five and a half years ago, but she is no stranger to travelling home to Wexford for training having attended college in UCD.

"Certainly its tough going up and down to training, but this year it's been worthwhile.

"It's been a long year thank God and it really is great to be training with the county team in September. For so many years we have striven to get this far and we are really thrilled to be in the final."

One of the longest serving players on the Wexford panel Aine is now enjoying her 13th season in the Purple and Gold, but she has had her fair share of disappointments.

"I suppose since 2004 we have been knocking at the door. We lost the league final that year to Tipperary and then they beat us again in the All-Ireland semi final.

"We lost again at the semi-final stage in 2005. In 2006 we failed to make it from our group. This year we qualified for the league final coming through the group stages unbeaten, but we lost out to Cork by a point in the last second.

"We were long overdue a spot in the All-Ireland final and hopefully, the pendulum will finally swing our way.

"Victory on Sunday would be the icing on the cake for so many of us, who have been around a long time."

The last time Wexford were in the final back in 1994 present manager Stella Sinnott was a member of the team. Aine and her team-mates are hoping to give Stella something to be proud of on Sunday next.

"Stella has done huge work for camogie in Wexford. She is a wonderful manager, she handles every situation well and she is someone we all look up to and respect.

"In the dressing room when she speaks you could hear a pin drop.

"We have a range of ages on the panel, a few of us who have been around since 1995, to the very younger ones some, who are still schoolgirls, but Stella commands huge respect.

"The players just want to do it for her on Sunday as much as for themselves.

"At the start of the season Stella had a quiet word with a few of the long serving players such as Kate Kelly, Aoife O'Connor and myself.

"I suppose really she just asked us to lead by example in regards to setting the standards for training etc, but they are no bother at all.

"They are great girls and they have huge respect for Stella and her fellow selectors."

Amongst the Wexford backroom team is Noel Ryan, who has had huge input into the development of many of the current senior squad.

"From U14 upwards Noel trained many of us at inter-county level, including Michelle Hearne, Ciara O' Connor, Rosemary Breen, Kate Kelly, Michelle O' Leary and myself. We won the U16 All-Ireland title in 1995 and also took two Leinster U14 and U16 titles.

"Throughout it all Noel has been a huge part of our successes to date and we are hoping that continues this weekend."

One of Aine's most prized possessions is her Camogie All-Star award, which she won in the centenary year.

"It was a huge honour to be selected for an All Star, given the calibre of the players with whom I was selected. I was also honoured that year to be chosen as the Camogie Ambassador for Wexford. I felt the whole year helped make people more aware of the game and helped raise the profile of our sport in the county. I was delighted to be part of it."

The hunger to success is very evident and a second big day is looming in November when Aine will walk down the aisle with boyfriend, Monaghan native Michael McGuinness.

"An All-Ireland medal will do nicely for me to bring a wonderful year to its conclusion."

Watch out Cork.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP 2007



■ Wexford's Michelle Hearne and Louise Codd in action against Sara Hayes of Cork in the National League camogie final at Nowlan Park in May.

D-DAY FOR LADIES

THE WEXFORD Senior camogie selectors have handed a starting berth to speed merchant Bróna Furlong for Sunday's Gala All-Ireland championship final against three-in-a-row seeking Cork in Croke Park (4 p.m.).

The Duffry Rovers performer has been named at right half-forward after making a huge impression when introduced in the second period of the commanding 2-18 to 0-14 penultimate round win over Galway.

The player whom she replaced on that occasion, Aoife O'Connor, will start on the substitutes' bench as Wexford bid to bridge a gap of 32 years since their last All-Ireland Senior success.

The fact that none of the current panel members were born when the county last lifted the O'Duffy Cup sums up the importance of the game, with the Slaneysiders back in the decider for the first time since 1994 after a string of superb displays this season.

And while Cork are aiming to complete the first part of a 'Rebel treble', with their footballers also looking for a third crown on the trot, Wexford will take great heart from their displays against the Leesiders so far this season.

They marked their first competitive league outing in Piercestown on February 24 with a 2-4 to 0-9 success, but sadly endured a 3-8 to 2-10 defeat when they met again in the decider in Nowlan Park in May. However, preparations for that game weren't helped by poor fixtures scheduling which meant that five dual players had lined out in a league football final less than 24 hours earlier.

Just six days later, Wexford travelled to Ballincollig for the first round of the Gala championship and stunned the home side with a memorable 4-12 to 0-14 victory.

And while the holders will be a different proposition in a final, there is sufficient ability within the Model county ranks to suggest that they will give them one hell of a game.

The full team is: Mags D'Arcy; Noeleen Lambert, Catherine O'Loughlin, Avis Nolan; Áine Codd, Mary Leacy (capt.), Deirdre Codd; Kate Kelly, Caroline Murphy; Bróna Furlong, Rose-Marie Breen, Michelle O'Leary; Una Leacy, Michelle Hearne, Ursula Jacob. Subs. - Helena Jacob, Bridget Curran, Aoife O'Connor, Lenny Holohan, Katrina Parrock, Claire O'Connor, Louise Codd, Síona Nolan, Bernie Holohan, Colleen Atkinson, Stacey Redmond, Karen Atkinson.

Sept 2007

WEXFORD v. CORK - GALA ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL, CROKE PARK, SUNDAY, 4 P.M.

Very important that big-day pressure is handled properly

Incredible dedication has earned overdue final spot

Tom Dempsey



THE WEXFORD camogie team fulfil an ambition that has been harboured by Wexford hurling people for a long time, as they play in an All-Ireland final in Croke Park in September, going into the game with a very realistic chance of victory.

It is every player's ambition to play on such a stage and I think the camogie world will readily admit that this particular team more than any other deserve to perform on the biggest stage, having suffered some agonising defeats at the penultimate stage over the last few years.

Finals in themselves are fantastic occasions, with a huge crowd expected at headquarters at the weekend. It is every young player's dream to run out on the hallowed turf and I'm sure all concerned next Sunday will realise what a privilege it is to wear the purple and gold in front of thousands of Wexford fans.

This Wexford panel has shown an incredible dedication and the last few yards from the dressing room to the field will represent the final steps in a journey that has taken thousands of miles. There is, however, a certain pressure involved in both the lead-up to an All-Ireland and on the day, and it's very important that it's handled properly.

In my experience (which is very limited given that Wexford only reached one final in my career), there are two ways you can approach the week of a match. One is to try to avoid the hype (which is almost impossible), or the other is to go with it and enjoy the experience and all that comes with it.

In 1996 we chose the second option (or should I say Liam Griffin chose it) and went with the flow whilst being careful not to lose focus and make sure to be grounded on the day of the match.

Two things became our gospel: (1) turn every negative thought into a positive and (2) just play the game concentrating on the next ball. By doing this, the result takes care of itself.

We also kept reminding ourselves that we are not guaranteed to play in another All-Ireland (prophetic thoughts indeed), and we were going to leave nothing behind whether 20 years of age or 36.

However, different strokes for different folks and every player will have their own way of approaching the game and they shouldn't change it on this occasion.

Cork represent a mighty challenge and as we all know are chasing three titles in a row. This can bring its own pressures and as we've seen last year with their hurlers it can have a draining effect.

However, they will have a lot of talent on display. Mary O'Connor is their lynch-pin at centre half-back and the professional way she approaches the game is almost legendary. They have a strong midfield with Briege Corkery consistently proving herself to be a fast and skilful player.

Up front they have many options and scoring machine Jenny O'Leary allied to the physical presence of Orla Cotter will provide plenty of challenges for the Wexford defence.

I do believe, however, that Wexford have nothing to fear, having had the edge on two of the three occasions these teams have met this year. Stellah Sinnott and her selectors have done a marvellous job in preparing the undoubted talent in our ranks, and Eddie Flynn's reputation as a trainer grows with every outing.

At the time of writing the Wexford team hasn't been announced. However, the defence possesses huge quality with Mags D'Arcy having a great season in goal. Catherine O'Loughlin consistently reminds us why she picked up an All Star two years ago, and against Galway she was ably flanked by Avis Nolan and Noeleen Lambert.

The half-back line boasts three of the most talented players in the country. Mary Leacy always stands out with her ability to get lengthy clearances in tight situations. Áine Codd is a tremendous half-back, who always plays with great passion and consistency (I can't say too much here in case people say I'm biased!), and Deirdre Codd's confidence must surely be top class after the Galway game.

Midfield is very strong also, with Aoife O'Connor and Caroline Murphy forming a very good partnership in the Galway game. Caroline Murphy's workrate is incredible and her direct opponent is in for a tough hour.

Up front is where I believe the match will be won and a repeat of the scoring feast served up against Galway would surely ensure victory. Kate Kelly would, on present form, have to be rated as the top camogie player in the country, and with Una Leacy, Michelle O'Leary (brilliant against Galway), Rose-Marie Breen and Ursula Jacob, she combines to make a formidable forward line.

In every team you have a leader who never accepts second best for herself or her teammates, and in Michelle Hearne, Wexford have that type of leader. She is so important to the team, not just for her contribution but also for her presence, so watch that space on Sunday.

Bróna Furlong is also a player who could have a huge impact, as Croke Park is tailor-made for her athletic abilities, and certainly if she is called upon or selected to start would be a huge ace in Wexford's pack.

All in all I believe Wexford have the talent and hunger to bring the O'Duffy Cup back to Slaneyside for the first time in 32 years. They will need to fight the battle with huge intensity and I have no doubt they will.

It will be an emotional day as there are lots of connections between Sunday's team and the '75 team and I'm sure memories will come flooding back when the team hits the field.

Whatever the result on Sunday, this group of players along with their management team of Stellah, Alan, Noel and Eddie have brought Wexford camogie back to its rightful place, and they will be welcomed back into our county as the heroes that they undoubtedly are.

Loch Garman abú!



■ Cork's defensive lynch-pin, Mary O'Connor, bursting past Michelle O'Leary during the National League final in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny, last May.

County Board calls for big support

WEXFORD COUNTY Board would like to wish the Senior camogie team and their management the best of luck in the Gala All-Ireland final next Sunday, September 9, in Croke Park. The whole county is behind you.

We would like to say a special thank you to everyone who has worked so hard over the last two weeks fundraising for the All-Ireland campaign. Thank you to all those who took up collections at the church gates last weekend, and to the people of Wexford who have been so generous in their support.

It is great to see the effort that some clubs have put in decorating the roadsides and their club grounds and parishes. We would call on everyone to put out a Wexford flag and have a sea of purple and gold for next Sunday - see you up in Croke Park.

We all know that the Wexford supporters are the best in the country to get behind their teams, so please make the effort and come out to support the girls. For those unable to travel, the match will be live on RTE and there will be live coverage on South East Radio.

The CD, 'The Girls of Wexford', is available for sale in BPM Records and I would like to thank Theresa Kehoe and the band for all the hard work to make sure that it got out there in time.

We would also like to thank Marty Hore of Hores Stores, Wexford, for presenting hurley grips to the girls. The Wexford camogie jersey is now available in Hores Stores.

Sept 2007

THE CHAMPIONSHIP 2007

WEXFORD v. CORK - GALA ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL, CROKE PARK, SUNDAY, 4 P.M.

Meet the Wexford panel

THE WEXFORD Senior 'A' squad of 27 for Sunday's Gala All-Ireland championship final has been selected from an overall group of 43 players who have been working together since November 18 last.

And the benefits of that collective training are seen in the fact that the 'B' team is also preparing for a penultimate round clash with holders Cork which is down for decision on Saturday, September 15, at a venue to be announced.

Apart from the 27 players profiled on these pages, the extended panel also includes:

LUCY CLONEY (Glynn-Barntown) - Age: 19; Student, U.C.C. (Arts).
SIOBHÁN CULLEN (Oulart-The Ballagh)- Age: 19; Student, T.C.D. (Occupational Therapy).
FRANCES DORAN (Buffers Alley) - Age: 21; Primary Teacher, St. Brigid's (Castleknock).
SHELLY DOYLE (St. Ibar's-Shelmalier) - Age: 21; Receptionist, J. Donohoe Ltd., Enniscorthy.
GRETTA HEFFERNAN (Oylegate-Glenbrien) - Age: 23; Clerical worker, J.C. Breen Transport.
SHARON KEHOE (Oulart-The Ballagh) - Age: 20; Student, W.I.T. (Exercise and Health Studies).
SHELLEY KEHOE (Oulart-The Ballagh) - Age: 17; Student, Coláiste Bríde (Enniscorthy).
STACEY KEHOE (Oulart-The Ballagh) - Age: 17; Student, Coláiste Bríde (Enniscorthy).
MAG KELLY (St. Ibar's-Shelmalier) - Age: 25; Beauty Therapist and salon owner.
AISHLING MORAN (Oulart-The Ballagh) - Age: 25; Clerical Officer, Wexford County Council.
EMMA MORAN (Oulart-The Ballagh) - Age: 20; Student, U.C.D. (Nursing).
SARA NOLAN (Rapparees) - Age:19; Student, St. Patrick's, Thurles (B. Ed.).
CIARA O'CONNOR (Rathnure) - Age: 22; Pharmaceutical Tech., Waterford Regional Hospital.
NIAMH O'CONNOR (Rathnure) - Age: 23; Garda in Bray, Co. Wicklow.
ORLA POWER (St. Martin's) - Age: 22; Student, W.I.T. (Business Studies).
MARY WALSH (Blackwater) - Age: 27; Secondary Teacher, Carlow V.E.C.

There's one amazing statistic from the 'A' panel of 27 for Sunday's final - no fewer than 21 of them are farmers' daughters, including 13 of the starting 15! It makes the WFC sponsorship of the team extremely appropriate!

MAGS D'ARCY



Club: St. Martin's. **Age:** 19. **Occupation:** Student, U.C.D. (Sports Management). Daughter of Ornagh (nee O'Mahony), former Wexford player. Member of the 'Underdogs' football squad 2006. Mags has kept a clean sheet in four of her six championship games to date. **Honours include:** Leinster Under-14 1999, 2000; Leinster Under-16 2002; Club Senior 'B' 2003; Leinster Senior 2003, 2004, 2007; Ashbourne 2007; Leinster Poc Fada runner-up 2007.

NOELEEN LAMBERT



Club: St. Martin's. **Age:** 24. **Occupation:** Quality Assurance Officer, Kerry Foods, Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow. Sister of Wexford hurler Barry Lambert, and daughter of Robert who represented the county at Senior level in the National League. Having a tremendous season at right corner-back where her impressive first touch is put to good use. **Honours include:** Leinster Under-14 1996; Leinster Junior 2003; Club Senior 'B' 2003; Leinster Senior 2007.

CATHERINE O'LOUGHLIN



Club: Monageer-Boolavogue. Age: 23. **Occupation:** Engineer, Aircon Engineering, Enniscorthy. **Honours include:** All-Ireland Junior with Coláiste Bríde 2000; Leinster Under-16 2000; Junior Gael Linn with Leinster 2001; Leinster Senior 2001, 2004, 2007; Leinster Junior 2003; Club Senior 'B' 2004; All Star 2005; All Star nominee 2006; Ashbourne All Star 2005, 2006; Ashbourne player of the tournament 2005; Senior Gael Linn with Leinster 2006.

AVIS NOLAN



Club: Monageer-Boolavogue. Age: 30. **Occupation:** Software Analyst, Core International, Kilkenny. The sole survivor from the last panel to reach the All-Ireland Senior final in 1994, and a former schools star with Coláiste Bríde (Enniscorthy). Avis waited patiently for her chance on the 'A' team and took it with open arms when she was selected at left corner-back for the last group game against Galway in Monamolin. **Honours include:** Leinster Senior 2000, 2007; Club Senior 'B' 2004 (capt.).

ÁINE CODD



Club: St. Martin's. **Age:** 27. **Occupation:** Process Engineer, GEA, Naas, Co. Kildare. Daughter of Kit (nee Kehoe), former All-Ireland medal winner with Wexford and Dublin, and first cousin of Irish soccer star Kevin Doyle. **Honours include:** All-Ireland Under-16 1995 (capt. and player of the match); Club Junior 1996; Ashbourne Shield 1998; Ashbourne Combined team 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001; Club Intermediate 1999; Leinster Senior 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2007; Club Senior 'B' 2003; County Centenary Ambassador 2004; All Star 2004; All Star nominee 2005, 2006.

MARY LEACY



Club: Oulart-The Ballagh. **Age:** 21. **Occupation:** Social Science graduate, U.C.D. Member of the Wexford Intermediate football squad. **Honours include:** two All-Ireland Féile na nGael (capt. in 1999); Leinster Under-14 1999 (capt.); Leinster Under-16 2000; Leinster Senior 2001, 2004 (capt.), 2007 (capt.); All-Ireland Senior with Coláiste Bríde 2003, 2004; Leinster Junior 2003, 2004; All Star 2004; All Star nominee 2005; represented Ireland in second level Compromise Rules v. Scotland 2004; Club Senior 2003, 2004 (capt.), 2005, 2006; Ashbourne 2007 (capt.); All-Ireland sevens 2006.

DEIRDRE CODD



Club: Duffry Rovers. **Age:** 21. **Occupation:** Student, D.I.T. (Forensics and Environmental Analysis). First cousin of Louise Codd. A wholehearted player, had a marvellous second-half in the win over Galway. **Honours include:** Leinster Under-14 1999, 2000; Leinster Under-16 2000, 2002; Club Intermediate 2001, 2003 (capt.); All-Ireland Senior with Coláiste Bríde 2003, 2004; represented Ireland in second level Compromise Rules v. Scotland 2004; Leinster Senior 2004, 2007; Leinster Junior 2004; All Star nominee 2005.

AOIFE O'CONNOR



Club: Rathnure. **Age:** 28. **Occupation:** Medical Sales Representative, Pfizer, Cork. Daughter of Teddy O'Connor, former Wexford hurler, and one of four sisters on the extended Wexford panel along with Claire, Niamh and Ciara. Aoife has been dogged by injury all year. **Honours include:** All-Ireland Senior Club 1995; three Leinster Senior Club; Club Senior 1995, 1996, 1999, 2000; three Senior 'B' Club; Leinster Senior 1999, 2000, 2001.

CAROLINE MURPHY



Club: Ferns St. Aidan's. **Age:** 23. **Occupation:** General Operative, Kerry Foods, Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow. Member of the Wexford Intermediate football squad, and captained their Leinster-winning Juniors in 2005. Caroline has a tremendous appetite for hard work and is a real driving force in the middle of the field. **Honours include:** Club Intermediate 2000; Leinster Senior 2004, 2007; Leinster Junior 2004.

KATE KELLY



Club: St. Ibar's-Shelmalier. **Age:** 27. **Occupation:** Business Development Manager, One Card Solutions, Waterford. Daughter of Peggie (nee Doyle), All-Ireland medal winner with Wexford, and sister of Mag who is on the extended panel. Member of the Wexford Intermediate football squad. **Honours include:** All-Ireland Under-16 1995; Leinster Senior 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004; two Ashbourne with W.I.T. 1999, 2001; Leinster Centenary Ambassador 2004; All Star 2004 and 2006; All Star nominee 2005; Senior Gael Linn with Leinster 2006; four Senior Club 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002; two Leinster Senior Club 2001, 2002.

ROSE-MARIE BREEN



Club: Monageer-Boolavogue. **Age:** 27. **Occupation:** Primary School Teacher, St. John of God, The Faythe, Wexford. Daughter of Co. Treasurer, Rose Breen. Married Colm O'Loughlin earlier this year. The vice-captain of the team. **Honours include:** All-Ireland Under-16 1995; Leinster Senior 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004; Leinster Junior 2003, 2004 (capt.); Club Senior 'B' 2004; Senior Gael Linn with Leinster 2006.

MICHELLE O'LEARY



Club: Rathnure. **Age:** 27. **Occupation:** Primary School Teacher, Cushinstown N.S. Put her blinding pace to good use in the semi-final win over Galway when she created numerous chances in a brilliant individual display. **Honours include:** All-Ireland Under-16 1995; All-Ireland Senior Club 1995; three Leinster Senior Club; Club Senior 1995, 1996, 1999 (capt.), 2000; three Senior 'B' Club; Leinster Senior 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2007.

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THE CHAMPIONSHIP 2007

WEXFORD v. CORK - GALA ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL, CROKE PARK, SUNDAY, 4 P.M.



UNA LEACY
Club: Oulart-The Ballagh. **Age:** 19. **Occupation:** Student, U.C.D. (Social Science). Sister of team captain Mary, and daughter of Margaret (nee O'Leary), a key player in 1975, who was selected on the camogie team of the century. **Honours include:** five All-Ireland Féile na nGael; Leinster Under-14 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002; Leinster Under-16 2002; All-Ireland Senior with Coláiste Bride 2003, 2004, 2005; All-Ireland Junior with Coláiste Bride 2004 (capt.); Leinster Junior 2003, 2004; Club Senior 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006; Ashbourne 2007; Leinster Senior 2007.



MICHELLE HEARNE
Club: St. Ibar's-Shelmalier. **Age:** 26. **Occupation:** Primary School Teacher, Piercestown N.S. Married to Michael Martin with one son, Conor. Member of the Wexford Intermediate football squad. The goalscoring specialist of the team. **Honours include:** All-Ireland Under-16 1995; Leinster Senior 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2007; four Senior Club 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002; two Leinster Senior Club 2001, 2002; All Star nominee 2004.



URSULA JACOB
Club: Oulart-The Ballagh. **Age:** 21. **Occupation:** Student, W.I.T. Sister of substitute goalkeeper, Helena, and of Wexford hurlers Michael and Rory. Father, Mick, was the county's first hurling All Star in 1972, while mother, Breda, played camogie with Wexford. **Honours include:** Leinster Under-14 1999; Leinster Under-16 2000; All-Ireland Junior with Coláiste Bride 2000; All-Ireland Senior with Coláiste Bride 2003, 2004 (capt.); represented Ireland in second level Compromise Rules v. Scotland 2004; Club Senior 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006; Leinster Senior 2004; All-Ireland Freshers with W.I.T.; two All-Ireland Féile na nGael; All Star nominee 2005; All-Ireland sevens 2006.



HELENA JACOB
Club: Oulart-The Ballagh. **Age:** 25. **Occupation:** Accountant, Campus Services, W.I.T. The substitute goalkeeper, she will be guarding the posts for the Senior 'B' team in the All-Ireland semi-final against Cork on Saturday week. **Honours include:** Leinster Under-14 1996; Leinster Senior 1999, 2000; Ashbourne with W.I.T. 2001; Selected on Combined Ashbourne team 2004; Club Senior 2003 (capt.), 2004, 2005, 2006; All-Ireland sevens 2006.



BRÓNA FURLONG
Club: Duffry Rovers. **Age:** 20. **Occupation:** Student, D.C.U. (Sports Science and Health). A talented, super-fit all-rounder, she has represented Ireland in athletics. **Honours include:** Leinster Under-14 2000; Club Intermediate 2001, 2003; Leinster Under-16 2002; All-Ireland Senior with Coláiste Bride 2003, 2004, 2005 (capt.); represented Ireland in second level Compromise Rules v. Scotland 2004; Senior Gael Linn with Leinster 2006.



LENNY HOLOHAN
Club: Rathnure. **Age:** 27. **Occupation:** Primary School Teacher, St. Joseph's N.S., Gorey. Twin sister of Bernie and a key attacker on the Senior 'B' side which has reached the All-Ireland semi-final. **Honours include:** All-Ireland Senior Club 1995; three Leinster Senior Club; Club Senior 1995, 1996, 1999, 2000; three Senior 'B' Club; Leinster Senior 1999, 2000 (capt.), 2001, 2003, 2004, 2007; played for Rest of Ireland against All-Ireland champions Tipperary in 2001.



BRIDGET CURRAN
Club: St. Ibar's-Shelmalier. **Age:** 23. **Occupation:** Special Needs Assistant, Murrintown N.S. Member of the Wexford Intermediate football squad. A player with a great attitude, she made an appearance at full-forward in the semi-final success over Galway. **Honours include:** Leinster Junior 2003; Leinster Senior 2003, 2004, 2007; Senior Gael Linn with Leinster 2006; four Senior Club 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002; two Leinster Senior Club 2001, 2002.



KATRINA PARROCK
Club: St. Martin's. **Age:** 17. **Occupation:** Secondary School Student, Loreto (Wexford). The youngest member of the panel who celebrated her birthday on Sunday last, she is a fine prospect who also excels in football, hockey and soccer. Scored four goals in last year's championship campaign and has been used as an impact substitute in a number of games this year. **Honours include:** Leinster Under-14 2002; All Star nominee 2006; Leinster Senior 2007.



CLAIRE O'CONNOR
Club: Rathnure. **Age:** 26. **Occupation:** Primary School Teacher, Gaelscoil Osraí, Cill Chainnigh. Younger sister of Aoife, she is also a member of the coaching team for the Hurling Development Programme being implemented by George O'Connor, and a familiar face at summer camps. **Honours include:** All-Ireland Under-16 1995; All-Ireland Senior Club 1995; three Leinster Senior Club; Club Senior 1995, 1996, 1999, 2000 (capt.); three Senior 'B' Club; Leinster Senior 1999, 2000, 2003, 2007.



LOUISE CODD
Club: Duffry Rovers. **Age:** 21. **Occupation:** Nursing graduate, U.C.D. Equally at home in the half-back line or at midfield, she played a starring role when U.C.D. won the Ashbourne Cup earlier in the year. Daughter of former Duffry stalwart Tom Codd. **Honours include:** Leinster Under-14 1999, 2000; Leinster Under-16 2000, 2002; Club Intermediate 2001, 2003; All-Ireland Senior with Coláiste Bride 2003; Leinster Senior 2003, 2004, 2007; Leinster Junior 2004; Ashbourne 2007.



SÍONA NOLAN
Club: Monageer-Boolavogue. **Age:** 19. **Occupation:** Student, Crumlin College (Sports Therapy). A very accurate free-taker and the leading scorer with the Senior 'B' team, having amassed 1-35 to date in league and championship. Her favoured position is midfield and is also capable of lining out in the half-forward line. **Honours include:** All-Ireland Senior with Coláiste Bride 2003, 2004, 2005; All-Ireland Junior with Coláiste Bride 2004; Club Senior 'B' 2004; Leinster Senior 2007.



BERNIE HOLOHAN
Club: Rathnure. **Age:** 27. **Occupation:** Secondary School Art Teacher, Kilkenny College. Captain of the Senior 'B' team who will face Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final on September 15, lining out in the half-back line. Niece of former sharpshooter Jimmy Holohan. **Honours include:** All-Ireland Senior Club 1995; three Leinster Senior Club; Club Senior 1995, 1996, 1999, 2000; three Senior 'B' Club; Leinster Senior 1999, 2000, 2001 (capt.), 2003, 2004, 2007.



COLLEEN ATKINSON
Club: Oulart-The Ballagh. **Age:** 23. **Occupation:** Branch Manager, Gardiner Grain, Carnew, Co. Wicklow. Sister of Karen. A dependable full-back on the Senior 'B' team, Colleen has made a marvellous recovery from a serious knee injury and will captain her club side in the forthcoming county Senior final. **Honours include:** Leinster Junior 2003 (capt.), 2004; Leinster Senior 2003, 2004, 2007; Club Senior 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006.



STACEY REDMOND
Club: Oulart-The Ballagh. **Age:** 18. **Occupation:** Student, completed Leaving Cert. in Coláiste Bride (Enniscorthy) and about to start in W.I.T. A bright prospect with high skill levels. **Honours include:** four All-Ireland Féile na nGael; Leinster Under-14 2002 (capt.); Leinster Under-16 2002; All-Ireland Senior with Coláiste Bride 2003, 2004, 2005; All-Ireland Junior with Coláiste Bride 2004; Club Senior 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006; All-Ireland sevens 2006; Leinster Senior 2007.



KAREN ATKINSON
Club: Oulart-The Ballagh. **Age:** 20. **Occupation:** Student, W.I.T. (Business Studies). Left corner-back on the Senior 'B' team, she played in that position in the 2004 National League final. **Honours include:** four All-Ireland Féile na nGael; Leinster Under-14 2000 (capt.); Leinster Under-16 2002; All-Ireland Senior with Coláiste Bride 2003, 2004; Leinster Junior 2003, 2004; Leinster Senior 2004, 2007; Club Senior 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006; All-Ireland sevens 2006.

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Cork must be wary of very hungry Wexford

by Jim O'Sullivan

CONSISTENT with the general trend in camogie, the manager of the Cork side contesting Sunday's All-Ireland senior final in Croke Park is a man!

What's unusual in the case of John Cronin is that he is a farmer, but what really distinguishes him is his success rate — managing five winning U16 teams between 1999 and 2003 and leading the senior side to victory in the last two All-Ireland campaigns.

Twelve players from those U16 squads are involved and include some of the top names in the game. For him and the rest of the management, it represents a major commitment (having started back into training in February). What helps him is that they usually train in the UCC complex, The Farm, which is just a 12 minute drive from home.

In his first year in charge, Cork went into the 2005 final facing the threat of a third consecutive defeat at the hands of Tipperary. But, they turned the tables, repeated the dose last year and, for good measure, proved too good for them once more in this season's All-Ireland semi-final.

On the other side, Wexford overcame Galway to qualify for their first final since 1994 — having last won the title in 1975 — with a team which included Brian Cody's wife Elsie.

If Cronin has a concern about the extra pressure that three-in-a-row creates, he knows the Cork players have no reason to be complacent as Wexford hammered them by four goals earlier this year.

That game was played shortly after Cork beat Wexford by a point in the final of the National League. "They came out the following Saturday in Ballincollig and they beat us by four goals. We have a bit of ground to make up on them, we learned a lot from that match," says Cronin.

"They're a hungry team and they'll be up there for it — they'll take a lot of beating. The hunger is there, but it takes a huge effort and huge sacrifices. We had a break after the semi-final, but some of them had football."



Wexford's Aine Codd, with her cousin Republic of Ireland and Reading star Kevin Doyle when they met up in Croke Park ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final. Picture: Sportsfile

He admitted: "There is a lot of pressure on the dual players, but they are coping well. At the same time, you'd wonder how long will it last. Mary O'Connor has broken all rules. She's one of the 'elder' players and she's still going better than ever. She minds herself and keeps herself very fit, but she's making huge sacrifices in her social life and things to play both games."

O'Connor is employed as the Camogie Association's National Development Officer and that's demanding in its own right.

"The job is harder because I'm trying to cover 32 counties. And as you get older (she was 30 in March), any sports person will tell you it takes the body longer to recover from games. And ladies football in particular can be quite intensive, very physical. I have made no secret of the fact that this is my last year playing dual, I'm not going to be playing inter-county football next year.

"Not that the spirit isn't willing, it is very willing. Please God, if I'm picked to play on the 23rd that will be my last time playing with Cork (in the All-Ireland final against Mayo)."

She agrees Wexford represent serious opposition, commenting: "they will have a no-fear factor. It's going to be a very different game from last year's final. They're going to bring a huge freshness and a huge hunger to the game. The one thing I'll say is that we have been here before and lost as well. We're going to have to play our own game and concentrate on ourselves."

Mahony sparkles for Laois

by Cóilín Duffy

THE free-taking of Louise Mahony powered Laois to a six points win over Meath (1-15 to 1-9) in yesterday's Gala All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship final at Leixlip.

Mahony sprung into action after Meath dominated the opening half and held a 1-9 to 0-3 interval lead. Christine O'Brien goaling with a superb strike from 13 metres in the 11th minute.

Laois could only manage one point from a Mahony free in the opening quarter, after which Meath led by 1-4 to 0-1 with some excellent scores from O'Brien, Dearbhla O'Carroll, Jane Dolan and freetaker and captain Aileen Donnelly who landed five first half points.

But all was to change on the restart.

The Royals weren't to score in the second half, as Mahony was in devastating form with six points from frees, before she fed Elaine Cuddy for the Midlanders goal in the 48th minute.

Laois sealed victory with two Mahony frees in the fifth minute of injury time to ensure Denise Quigley lifted the Nancy Murray Cup.

On Saturday Carlow captured their first national camogie title thanks to a 0-10 to 1-3 win over Monaghan in the Máire ni Cheinnéde Cup final at Toureen in Mayo.

IT Carlow GAA development officer Valerie Crean was in outstanding form scoring nine points.

Carlow led by 0-6 to 0-1 at half-time and, although Monaghan bounced back in the second half with a tremendous display from Player of the Tournament Isobel Kieran at centre-half-forward, a late goal from Aisling McElvaney was consolation for the northern side.

Flynn: Slaney stars can lead Cork a merry dance

by Therese O'Callaghan

WEXFORD trainer Eddie Flynn has an interesting story to tell.

Flynn toured the world as a dancer with Riverdance, enjoying five-a-half wonderful years, before deciding he had enough of life on the road, and is now leading Wexford against Cork in the All-Ireland final on Sunday (Croke Park 4pm).

"I loved Riverdance. I was being paid for something I loved doing, and I was seeing places that would cost a fortune if you had to pay.

"We spent a lot of time around Europe, but it gets to a point where you get tired of moving around. Buses, trains, and hotels, became routine. The spark was gone. So I came home for Christmas 2000 and never went back."

He continues: "I am a qualified fitness instructor. Jim Kilty was doing some of the training with the girls this year. I know Jim from courses I was on, so I agreed to come in as assistant trainer. It was meant to be me doing a night and Jim doing a night. But, Jim just got so bogged down with work I ended up doing all the nights. It is my first time training a camogie team, even though I was involved with a few club teams (men) before. But, the girls have worked unbelievably hard and there is a wealth of talent there.

"They can look after themselves off the pitch as well. They are on good diets and you can see a lot of them have toned up and have lost a little bit of weight. However, you can do a lot of work on the training field and can undo that work when you leave. But, I know they are making the sacrifices both on and off the pitch. I'm not saying they didn't do this before. I can only talk about this year. They have worked so hard. That is why I think they can do it. They can win this All-Ireland.

"I am being totally honest with you. If they perform the way they can, yes, there is a huge chance they can pull it off. The confidence is there. They know if they play to their potential, it should go well.

"Obviously the odds are stacked against them in that they have never played in Croke Park. But, when the whistle goes, there is not much Stellah Sinnott, Alan Aherne, Noel Ryan or I can do.

"The work is done, come 4pm Sunday it is up to them."

'Call Camogie women's hurling

by Colm O'Connor

CAMOGIE president Liz Howard admits she would favour a name change for the sport to women's hurling.

"I would love to see it being called women's hurling because I think it effectively is hurling now; the women are stronger, they are more toned and are superb athletes.

"They are people who will give out about me saying that, but I would personally prefer to see it called women's hurling," she said on the Road the Croker on RTÉ last night.

Former Cork camogie player Linda Mellerick added: "Since it has gone

15-a-side and in Croke Park and
the hurling pitch, I have been to
games over the years and the st
dard has been phenomenal. And
suppose the name camogie pro
does take from what it really is,
some great games of hurling."

Meanwhile Ireland and Readin
star Kevin Doyle has thrown his
weight behind Wexford's pursuit
this year's All-Ireland title.

His cousin Áine Codd will be li
out for the Model County in Sun
Final against Cork in Croke Park.

"I will be hoping to catch the
on Sunday and that Áine and th
of the team will be able to do th
business," said Howard.

Camogie final must remain 'showpiece'

by Jim O'Sullivan

CAMOGIE Association President Liz Howard is adamant that the Gala All-Ireland senior final should take centre stage on Sunday's Croke Park programme.

The game, in which champions Cork take on a Wexford team chasing its first title since 1975, will follow the All-Ireland U21 final between Dublin and Galway, which has a 2pm start.

Cork manager John Cronin feels that the senior camogie decider should precede the U21 final, on the basis that it would be watched by a bigger crowd. Under the present arrangement, he fears that hurling supporters will leave the stadium in big numbers once their game is over.

Pairing the hurling and camogie finals wasn't about upgrading their game, according to Howard, but more a matter of having 'a platform' where the two sports could be combined.

"The U21 championship probably didn't get the greatest profile down the years and I personally think it's a wonderful grade, so there was a kind of a natural fit there with the senior camogie final and the U21 final. And I'm a great believer in trying things. Of course the junior counties were offended because the final went out of Croke Park. But, we negotiated with the stadium management and they have allowed three games (with the junior final between Clare and Derry starting at noon)."

While this is the second year of the two-year trial agreed, Liz Howard is looking forward to seeing how Sunday's arrangement works out before they talk about next year.

"I think there's room to sit down and negotiate," she added. "Some people in the GAA thought the U21 final should be the last game, but I think the Gala senior final must always be the main game. Last year we possibly hadn't the greatest final ever, but I have witnessed poor U21 finals as well.

"I would never concede that the senior final would be sandwiched in any triple header. I think it must always be the main feature, but I'm always prepared to talk. We have good relations with the GAA and we're lucky that our liaison officer is Liam O'Neill.

"He is a great facilitator and will always bring you back to basics. It's about dialogue, it's about compromise. However, the one place I will never compromise on is that on the senior Gala final must be the showpiece on the day."

Sinnott faces final selection headache



Therese O'Callaghan

ONE of the most difficult tasks Stellah Sinnott has faced since taking over as manager of the Wexford senior camogie team last year was selecting the starting 15 for Sunday's Gala All-Ireland final.

A well-known player and a link with the most recent Purple and Gold squad to run out in Croke Park in 1994 (beaten by Kilkenny), she has the distinction of featuring on the only side that ever won four-in-a-row All-Ireland club titles, with Buffer's Alley.

Elsie Walsh captained one of those teams — Elsie is the wife of Kilkenny hurling manager Brian Cody.

Stellah retired from the inter-county scene 10 years ago, but she can still fondly recall her first outing. "It was against Cork. I was 15 and had to mark Mary O'Leary. I will never forget that one," she laughs.

Her response was briefly interrupted to autograph a little girl's jersey. "I'm not used to this!" she admits.

But, somehow, the popular leader looks very much at home in the splendour of Wexford Park.

"We are in here for the past few weeks, the facilities are great," she explains. "Everything is going really well. The biggest difficulty is picking the team. This year, we have the strongest bench in a long time. Every single one of them is fighting for their place. We used four subs in the semi-final. The self-belief is huge and as a unit there is a great bond there. We got a wake-up call against Tipperary when we were beaten. That was no harm because it made us realise things don't just happen — you have to work hard for results.

"As management, we are thrilled to be at this stage. This is where we wanted to be when we came together last November. The girls responded. We have no problems at all. I hope they will take the day in their stride and react the way we want. I don't have any fears. Mind you, there is still a lot of work to be done; mentally, more than anything," she adds.

Sinnott admits they have been working on a few game plans, trying to improvise for probable scenarios.

With Cork warm favourites, they must have a few tricks up their sleeve.

"It is hard to have one game plan because you don't know how the game is going to go. So, we have been looking at a few. Cork are going for their third successive title. They are seasoned campaigners and will have the upper hand in that area. But, really the opposition becomes irrelevant if we have our minds on the job. We are going for our first win since 1975 and that brings a certain amount of pressure. But, you expect that. My job is to keep the players grounded and I will take on whatever comes with it. It is important to deflect that pressure away from the girls and keep them level headed."

This is a whole new experience for the team, with the exception of corner-back Avis Nolan, who was on the panel in 1994. Other than that, a new era is dawning for Wexford camogie. They enjoyed a visit to GAA headquarters a couple of weeks ago, got to walk out on the pitch. But, the real day is hard to mimic.

"They won't have experienced anything like this. We travel up on Sunday morning. Not having to overnight will help the nerves a little more."

Stellah will have her own nerves to steady a few weeks later. An 18-handicap golfer with Enniscorthy Golf Club, she competes in the All-Ireland Intermediate Cup semi-final in Athlone on the weekend of September 28.



Wexford captain Mary Leacy with Cork captain Gemma O'Connor at Croke Park yesterday ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final. Picture: Inpho

'Home' training has Buckley buzzing

by Jim O'Sullivan

FOR the last few weeks, Rena Buckley has been enjoying what the majority of her colleagues on the Cork senior camogie and ladies football teams probably take for granted. She is able to travel to training sessions from her home in Inniscarra!

That's something her parents appreciate too, because for the previous two years she was in college in Dublin at this time of the year, meaning lots of trips to the capital for her father — transporting her to training sessions and games.

In her third year as a physiotherapy student in UCD, she is currently on placement until Christmas — in the South Infirmary Hospital in Cork for a six-week spell and in the Mater in Dublin for a month.

"It means I'm home for training and it's brilliant. The last few years I have been in Dublin in the run-up to the finals," she explains.

Rena's sole focus for the past 10 days has been on getting herself tuned up for Sunday's gala All-Ireland senior camogie final in Croke Park against Wexford. In addition, she is also a member of the Cork team which will meet Mayo in the All-Ireland ladies football final there on September 23.

She is one of half a dozen dual players, of whom four play on both teams. Notably, for the past two years when each of the teams annexed All-Ireland titles, these players have managed to achieve a remarkable level of consistency.

Burn-out hasn't been a problem, possibly because players at this level tend to be younger than their male counterparts. More significantly, the respective managements have worked in close harmony.

But, for the girls themselves, it hasn't been easy and, if anything, it's proving to be particularly demanding.

"I suppose psychologically it's probably getting a slight bit harder," she commented. "You are more used to the physical aspect at this stage. It's just a question of getting yourself mentally prepared for each match as it comes — and that can be a very hard challenge.

"With the club championship just gone by, you are trying to psyche yourself up every time. You're saying to yourself, 'this is championship, you have to be right'. When that keeps happening it's difficult enough, but thankfully we have managed on the county scene until now. And hopefully we can get it right for the final.

"We all love playing and that's the reason we are involved. But, the fact that you are winning keeps things going. You're not 'down' coming to training. You're buzzing.

"On the other side, Wexford have a lot of dual players as well. And their junior (ladies football) team is into the All-Ireland final, so they are in the same boat as ourselves. We're all just training as hard as we can. As long as we're winning and enjoying it, that's the main thing."

Motivation shouldn't be a problem for the team on Sunday, she feels. It's not merely the fact that defending their title creates an added pressure, but the consideration that Wexford were the only team to beat them in the round robin series of games,.

"The way we looked at it, it was the first round of the championship, it gave us the incentive to go and prove ourselves. Wexford won't fear us and we know they are a strong side.

"But, we'll be looking on the positive side... that this Cork team has confidence and self-belief. And, hopefully we'll have the hunger as well."

Sept 2007

Cork defend title as they bid for three in a row

Camogiechat
With Mary Newman

All roads led to Croke Park on Sunday next as cork bid for three in a row of Gala All Ireland senior titles. Wexford will provide tough opposition as both sides battle it out for the O Duffy Cup. It a repeat of the national league final as Cork defend their All Ireland crown

THE sides have meet on three occasions already this year with victory going to Wexford in the opening game of the league series and in the first game in the round robin series of the All Ireland championship.

Cork nipping in between to take the league title by the narrowest of margins a late pointed free from Jennifer O'Leary giving them the crown.

Wexford will be determined to topple the champions and take their first All Ireland senior title since 1978 when a side captained by Gretta Keogh just one day after her wedding brought the county their third All Ireland title, since then they have only contested the final on one occasion losing out in 1990 to Kilkenny, playing that day was current Wexford manager Stella Sinnott who will be hoping to guide her charges to the precious medal she herself failed to win.

Wexford are captained by Mary Leacy a daughter of Margaret O'Leary who was on the Wexford winning sides of 1969 also on the team is Una Leacy a sister of Mary's while Áine Codd is the daughter of Kit Codd (Keogh) was also on the winning team of 1978.

Wexford have turned in some fantastic performance in this year's league and championship campaign finishing their league programme unbeaten up to the final they lost out in just one championship game to Tipperary.

Cork have play performed well in their path to the final bouncing back after their first round defeat a the hands of Wexford defeating Tipperary, Galway Kilkenny and Dublin before recording comprehensive semi final victory over old rivals Tipperary.

The Cork team show little change from the semi final line out with no major injury worried to report Aoife Murray starts in goal with last season's captain Joanne O'Callaghan and Amanda O'Regan in the corner back positions with Catriona Foley full back, duel star Mary O'Connor is centre back with Rena Buckley and Anna Geary flanking her in the half back line in a strong defence. Captain Gemma O'Connor is partnered by another duel star Briege Corkery at centre field Una O'Donoghue

Angela Walsh and Jennifer O'Leary form the cork half forward line with Emer Dillon Orla Cotter and Sile Burns in the inside line. Orla Cotter and Sile Burns slotted in well to the team this year and they will test the Wexford defence to its limits at every opportunity in their first senior final.

Wexford have threatened to make the big breakthrough for the last few years now is their big chance they will have to remain focused and have nerves of steel if they hope to take the title.

Cork have been there before and know what is required Wexford will pose the strong challenge in a number of years therefore a good start is vital for Cork if they get it the title should be heading Leeside for the third year in a row.

BEST WISHES GO TO ALL THE GIRLS IN THEIR QUEST FOR GLORY



Senior captains Mary Leacy, from Oulart, Wexford, and Gemma O'Connor, from Cork city, meeting at a photocall ahead of the Gala All-Ireland Senior and Junior Camogie Championship Finals, which will be taking place on Sunday in Croke Park, Dublin.
Picture: Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE

Cork v Wexford has the potential to be a great final

JOHN SEXTON previews the All-Ireland senior camogie final between Cork and Wexford on Sunday next.

THE All-Ireland senior camogie final, which has been dominated by Cork and Tipperary since the turn of the century, will have a new complexion on Sunday when Cork, winners in 2005, and 2006, will be going for that all elusive "Three in a Row" but out to stop them in determined fashion will be the ladies from the model county of Wexford who have been gradually improving their status over the past few years.

Back in early May both teams met in the final of the National League in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny and Cork were extremely lucky to come away with a one point win. However, when the two teams met again in the first round of the round robin series of the championship in Ballincollig, just six days later Wexford turned the tables with a convincing win.

While they maintained that form in the future rounds of the championship, they lost to Tipperary in the final round but then Cork scored a good win over Tipperary in the All-Ireland semi-final, while Wexford accounted for a good Galway side, so on that form it's pretty difficult to analyse the merits of each team going into this final.

Will Cork's experience of playing in finals be an added bonus, or will the determination of the Wexford team gain for them what they feel will be their just reward after so many narrow defeats at the semi-final stage over the past few years.

In the league final, Wexford were completely dominant in the first half and having led by five points at half-time, they were to dominate the third quarter to go six points in front and it wasn't until five minutes from time when Jennifer O'Leary squared the circle with a goal after a great run that Cork showed signs of winning.

The amazing feature of that game is that Cork scored 3-4 of their 3-8 during the last ten minutes and Wexford scored 2-2 of their 2-10.

On that form it looks very much a fifty/fifty basis going into this final and if Cork are to prevail they will need to get into the game right from the start and no doubt I feel that their coach John Cronin will have them fully tutored to meet this challenge head on and go into the game with all guns blazing.

Aoife Murray in goal, Joanne O'Callaghan, Mary O'Connor, Catríona Foley and Amanda O'Regan are the stalwarts in defence and if team captain, Gemma O'Connor of the Barr's and Briege Corkery can rise to their usual heights at midfield, the Cork forwards, spearheaded by Jennifer O'Leary, Emer Dillon, Orla Cotter, Síle Burns and Una O'Donoghue should clock-up sufficient scores to bring the O'Duffy Cup back to Leeside.

However, Wexford will not be found wanting and with players like Noleen Lambert, Mary Leary and Clair O'Connor in defence and the outstanding Kate Kelly and Caroline Murphy at midfield, those classy forwards Una Leary and Michelle Ahearne up front and the three Codds (reminding us of the hurling final of 1956) this could provide the setting for one of the best finals of the decade.

> It is very much a 50/50 basis going into what could be one of the best finals of the decade

Earlier defeats have focused Cork minds

GAVIN CUMMISKEY

Wexford manager Stellah Sinnott summed it up neatly when asked to explain why Cork are so dominant.

"They are strong down the middle. In defence, Mary O'Connor. In midfield, Gemma O'Connor, Briege Corkery are very strong players. Potent forward line that can score. Any of them can take a score. I just feel they are quite strong all over but we have the players to match them, I've no doubt we have."

The last remark remains to be seen. Sinnott could have listed off numbers one through 15 and come Sunday her players are the only ones standing in the way of a famous three-in-a-row.

Cork appear to have finally outlasted the Tipperary side that have been on their heels in recent years – they beat them comprehensively, 2-18 to 0-14, in the semi-finals. Wexford also showed their pedigree with an eight-point victory over Galway in their semi-final.

Wexford have beaten Cork on two occasions this season. However, these results can be taken with a pinch of salt as when it really mattered, the league final, Cork edged a tight affair. They met again six days later and the recovering Rebelettes were hit for four goals in a comprehensive defeat.

But Cork have all the medals.

"I suppose you can look at it in a positive way," said Cork captain Gemma O'Connor. "Wexford beat us and it was kind of a shock to the system. No one knew what to expect. Now we know what to do against Wexford on the day. We are prepared for Wexford really."



Gemma O'Connor: Cork's focus back.

That defeat focused the mind. Tipperary (twice), Galway, Kilkenny and Dublin were dispensed with as the champions hit their stride. Now, their main opponent seems to be themselves.

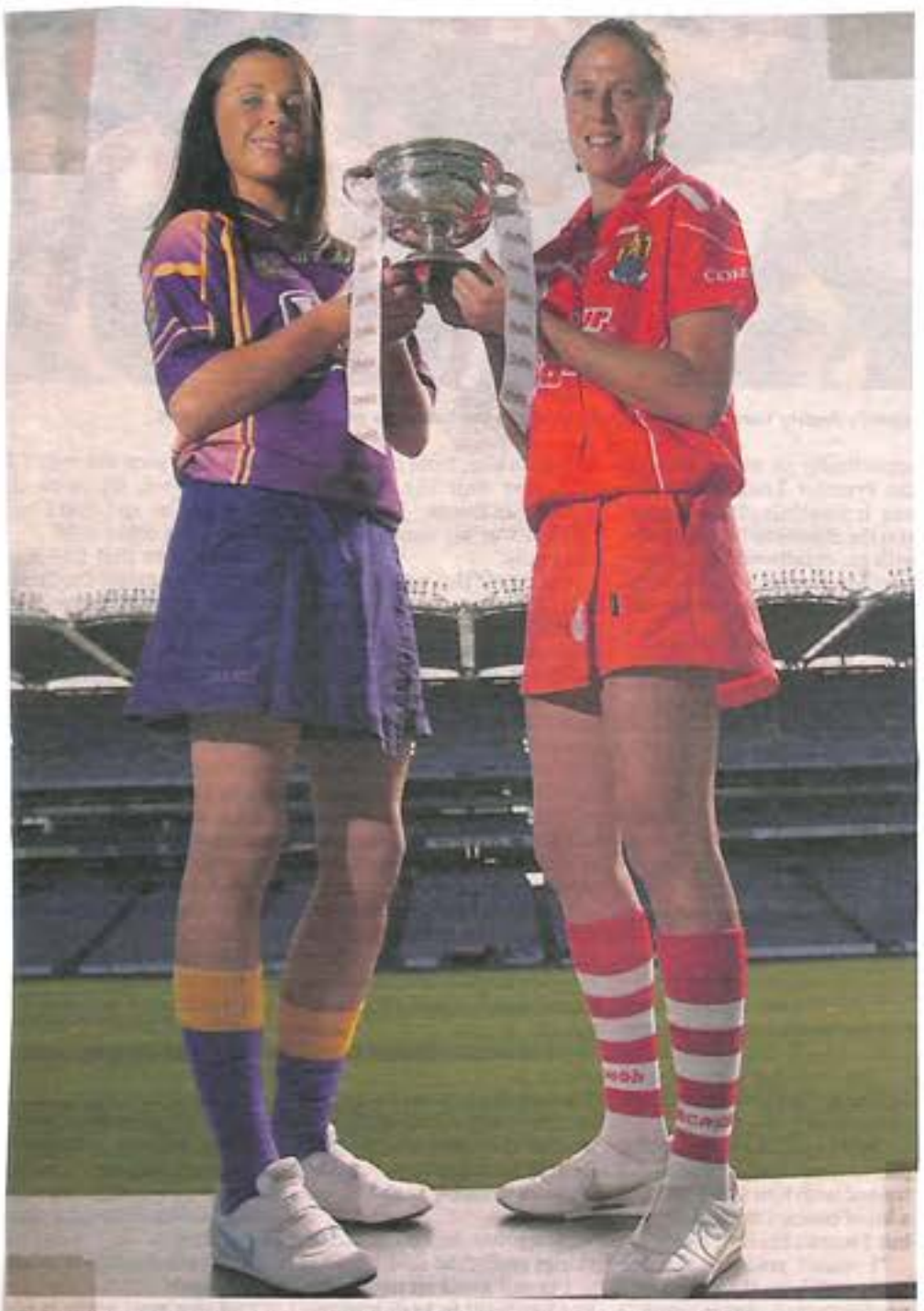
"I suppose there is pressure on us to perform well because we are champions. We'll have to keep our focus. We can't be thinking about being champions for the last two years on Sunday as some of the players have never played in an All-Ireland final before."

Most of them have been there before and the evidence suggests they're not the type of team to reflect on the past.



CLASH OF THE ASH: Junior captains Claire Doherty, from Slaughtneil, Derry, and Deirdre Murphy, from Clooney, Clare, met at a photocall ahead of the Gala All-Ireland Senior and Junior Camogie Championship finals, which will be taking place on Sunday
Picture: **Sportsfile**

SEPT 2007



Rival captains Mary Leacy, from Oulart, in Wexford, and Gemma O'Connor, from Cork City, go head to head at Croke Park ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie championship final.



■ **LUCKY OMEN:** Cork star Emer Dillon would be upset to play without her headband.

Not superstition, just a bit of a habit

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

EMER DILLON
(Cork camogie star)

CORK camogie star Emer Dillon's headband is seldom seen but is a vital component to her match preparation.

The reason is to keep her hair out of her eyes — but it is also a vital part of her game-day routine.

"Even when my hair was short I still wore the headband. I never had my hair really short or shaved my head, so there was always some bit of hair to be kept in place.

"It is not a superstitious thing — you just get so used to putting it on. It is part of my routine, like pulling on my jersey, lacing up my boots, wearing my socks and so on.

"I have a special All Ireland final one — it is plain black. I wore my special headband in the 2005 and 2006 All-Ireland finals. So, this is sort of my prize-winning headband. We defeated Tipperary in both finals. I have many other headbands, all different colours. But, black is my favourite. This is because I am reserved."

The lifespan of a headband?

"Headbands wash well and keep their shape," assures Dillon. "My special headband is only brought out for big occasions. If I travelled to Dublin next weekend without my headband I would be a bit upset."

Sharp-shooting O'Leary targeting All-Ireland glory

by Jim O'Sullivan

FOR the last few weeks Barryroe's Jennifer O'Leary has been preoccupied with camogie training and preparations for her new PE teaching job in Coláiste Colm, Ballincollig. The job began last week and her sole focus since has been next Sunday's All-Ireland senior final against Wexford in Croke Park.

A key part of the build-up is practicing her free-taking, which, combined with contributions from play, makes her the team's leading scorer with 2-22.

A graduate of UL — captaining them to victory in the 2005 Ashbourne Cup — and a medal-winner at minor, intermediate and senior level, she takes her free-taking duties very seriously. "It's a responsibility, but I'm glad to have it," she says. "It's just a matter of relaxing on the day and trying to do your best for the team. And not thinking too much about it."

She's one of several in the team who doesn't play football but in the winter she plays hockey with Belvedere.

One thing she does share in common with the majority of the players is her regard for team manager John Cronin. "It's great to have somebody like him, he's so encouraging,. He knows us since we were playing U-16 and he knows what we're good at, what we need to improve on. With the back-up team we have we are lucky, they really know their stuff."

Playing Wexford presents the Cork girls with a different type of challenge. She believes they will be their toughest opponents in a while.

"We knew what to expect from Tipperary because we were so used to playing them, what players they had and what tactics they would use. Wexford are unknown to us in the sense that we don't know what way they can perform on All-Ireland final day. From seeing them in the semi-final, they look strong all over the field."

"Tipp beat us two years in a row, so there was a period when we felt the hurt as well but the last two years have been brilliant. I know people don't want to mention three-in-a-row but it's always an incentive at the same time. It's always at the back of our heads."

In the meantime, she supports the policy of pairing their game with the final of the All-Ireland U-21 hurling championship, stressing that 'it does add to the occasion.'

"There were a lot of years when we struggled to get crowds. And there's nothing like a big crowd to build up atmosphere in Croke Park. I know it will never be packed for camogie but the more people there really gives you the incentive to go out there and do your best. In a way, to kind of show off what you can do."



Senior captains Mary Leacy, Wexford and Gemma O'Connor, Cork, with President of the Camogie Association Liz Howard and Gala Retail Services' chief executive Gary Desmond, ahead of the Gala All-Ireland Senior and Junior Camogie Championship finals which take place at Croke Park on Sunday.

Picture: Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE

SEPT 2007

SISTER ACT

FOUR MEMBERS OF ONE WEXFORD FARMING FAMILY ARE HEADING TO CROKER THIS SUNDAY FOR THE ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE FINALS



■ Marty Hore of Hores Stores, Wexford, presenting hurley grips to county Senior camogie players Katrina Parrock, Claire O'Connor, Mags D'Arcy and Mary Leacy (captain) ahead of Sunday's Gala All-Ireland championship final against Cork in Croke Park.

Sept 2007

Interesting People – Rural Lives

SISTER ACT


Aoife


Niamh


Claire


Ciara

Teddy O'Connor has four good reasons to make it to Croke Park this September. This time, however, the former Wexford hurling star will be leaving his own gear at home, as daughters Aoife, Niamh, Claire and Ciara prepare to take centre stage in the All-Ireland camogie final. **Shea Tomkins** writes.

Just a mile up the road from their farmhouse, in the sleepy village of Killane, Co Wexford, sits the area's most famous landmark, Rackard's Bar, once the home of the legendary Rackard brothers. Forget about there being something in the water around this neck of the woods, in this part of the country, hurling and camogie flows freely through the blood. Today the O'Connor farm is bustling with activity as the late harvest dictates that September will be a busier month than usual. Yet, somehow, the girls manage to juggle a hectic training schedule with helping out on the farm and also putting aside time to take in the hurling games happening around the county. They have three matches to catch today alone and that's following an early morning training session with the county.

"From February to July it's at least five nights a week training," says Claire, "and then a match thrown in as well. At the moment, because we're in the All-Ireland final, we're only allowed train with the county. We're lucky though that there are seven girls from Rathnure (the local club) on the Wexford panel and we're all best friends, so we all understand what it takes."

Each of them contributes to working on the farm – something that was instilled in them from an early age when their father made it clear that the grazing and the playing fields would have to strike a happy balance.

"It's nice to be from a farming background and have such a strong traditional upbringing," says Aoife. "We were lucky to have such a great life out in the country as children. Country life teaches you a lot of things. Most importantly not to forget your roots but to be as well educated and as smart as is out there in the world."

"Daddy used to have a dairy farm until 1997, then he sold it and went over to sucklers. Myself and Claire were flat out on the farm when we were younger. We used to do the milking until we were 18 or 19 and we never had time for a summer job until then."

Niamh and Ciara have fond memories of crossing cows holding up the Sunday morning traffic on more than one occasion. "We would bring the cattle onto the road on a Sunday morning and they used to get caught up in the middle of the people on their way to the local matches. At one stage there were so many cows, you'd have to wonder how any training got done at all," says Niamh.

Each of the girls has their own career to concentrate on these days: a garda, a primary school teacher, a pharmaceutical technician and a medical rep for Pfizer. Add farming, working, training and sleeping to the mix and you would have to wonder how they cope with so few hours in the day.

"We have no social life," laughs Aoife, "there are times when you'd love to go out and let your hair down but you just have to keep your mind focused on how it is worth it in the long run. You can socialise for the rest of your life, I suppose, and also for the winter, which we definitely do as well."

Ask the girls about their inspiration and they don't have to look too far. With sporting parents – their mam won an All-Ireland camogie medal in 1975 – they have all the advice they need should they ever start to feel any pressure from their arduous schedule.

"I think when any of us look for approval or judgement on a performance, the ultimate is to ask Mammy or Daddy. Someone might tell you you played well during a game but you come home and they will tell you the truth quickly enough. If we get beaten, there's always a post mortem when we get in and then a silence in the house. Not so much now but back when we were learning our trade. It's all a learning curve and always constructive criticism."

As they prepare for next Sunday's final against Cork (the Senior Bs play the following Sunday, also against Cork) the girls are in spirited form. Although they recognise that they go in as underdogs, they're confident they'll put it up to Cork once they set foot on the Croke Park turf. Representing their county at GAA Heaquarters for the first time, pride will be etched across their Wexford shirts.

"It's our first time playing in Croke Park," says Aoife, "unfortunately camogie players only get there if they make it to the final. Hurlers and footballers really do take it for granted but who knows, maybe things will change and we'll get more opportunities in the future."

Four girls, four hurls and the determination to return a camogie title to the south-east strikes a warning that the Cork girls are in for one hell of a battle. Croke Park ain't seen nothing yet.



The All-Ireland winning team which beat the dead certainties Cork included Brigid Doyle, Bridie Fox, Mairead Darcy, Maggie Hearne, Bridie Doran, Mary Shannon, Kathleen Tonks, Peg Moore, Kit Codd, Breda Murphy, Gretta Quigley (captain), Mary Furlong, Eileen O'Gorman,Margaret Leacy, Bernie Murphy, Joan Murphy, Elsie Walsh, Dorothy Walsh. Hard to believe, but that team beat mighty Cork by ten points, 4-3 to 1-2.

Here's to the Girls

TODAY THEY are in training, tomorrow the world! The County Wexford camogie team which for a decade has enjoyed, and striven for, and got in the top big four groups in Ireland are once more in the senior All-Ireland Final in Croke Park. We wish them all the very best. We wish them cunning, speed, accuracy, fitness, determination and a plan as devilish in deceit, subterfuge and sportly masterpieces not seen since the Japanese took Singapore.

In their honour and hope, encouragement and sustained support, we reproduce today a treasure lent to us from one of the stars of the 1975 All-Ireland win, Kit Codd, née Kehoe of Cloughbawn. And she is mother of a star of 2007,Aine Codd.

See opposite, left.

If you get out your binoculars you will identify the lot and if I get a name wrong, well, it has been said before, I'm useless. Need I say that our girls in the height of 1970s fashion, are nearest the camera.

High scorers meet in Ulster B decider

CLONDUFF will probably have to work harder than they did on Saturday evening when they play Eglish in the semi-final of the Ulster Senior B championship tomorrow evening at 6pm in Hilltown. They amassed a total of 8-17 in the preliminary round against Clontibret, without conceding a score themselves – something similar to Eglish's Tyrone title win at the expense of newcomers Derrylaughan at the start of last week (2-17 to 0-0). Shauna Jordan, Brenda Burke and Clare Ogle led the scoring there but will find the Clonduff defence, marshalled by Fionnuala Carr and Moya Maginn, more difficult to break down.

Indications are that it will still be a Keady v Clonduff final on Saturday, September 15 but Eglish can put it up to the Down champions.



CAMOGIE *pitch*

with Seamus McAleenan

■ THE 34th annual All-Ireland Camogie Sevens tournament hosted by Kilmacud Crokes will be held this Saturday with 52 teams taking part.
Teams are travelling from Milwaukee in the USA and London (Fr Murphy's and Tara) as well as from all over Ireland to be part of the prestigious day.
There will, as usual, be a huge representation from Ulster including Loughgiel, Liatroim Fontenoys and Rossa who have collected titles in recent times.

■ GERALDINE'S Portglenone collected the Antrim First Trust Junior title with a 2-7 to 1-4 victory over Dunloy on Sunday. The winners' goals came from Katie McAleese and Nuala Kelly.
And Ballycastle are the first holders of the Nancy Murray Shield after they beat Tir na nOg by 5-9 to 4-4.
Tir na nOg may do better though in Friday evening's U18 Lisa Kerr Shield final when they play Dunloy in Portglenone (6.30pm).

■ ST Columba's, Greenlough hosted a successful Brigid McErlean Memorial tournament for U8 and U10 teams at the weekend.
Glen topped the U8 competition and Bellaghy were worthy winners of the U10s. The club thanks those who participated and made donations to Breast Cancer Research.

SEPT 2007



Cathal Egan will take charge of the camogie final.

Egan gets the refereeing honour

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie news

GLEN ROVERS man Cathal Egan will be the first Cork person to run out on Croke Park on Sunday 'next when he will be the man in the middle for the Gala All-Ireland Junior Camogie Final featuring Clare and Derry. This is the first game on the triple header at headquarters.

Refereeing at club level since 2000 Cathal has refereed at inter-county level since 2005. He took charge of the Gala Senior semi-final between Wexford and Galway recently.

Cathal has had a very busy schedule and to date this year has refereed 110 official games, so he is kept very busy all year round between colleges, clubs and inter-county games. He is also a selector on the Cork Colleges U14 team for the last four years.

He refereed the Senior B All-Ireland Colleges Final in 2006, but Sunday's appointment is a deserved honour.

His umpires will be Cian O'Brien (Glen Rovers), Danny O'Neill (Sars), Maurice Browne (Brian Dillon's) and Joachim Kelly (Ballyhea).

Cathal has a special thought for his club mate Anthony O'Leary (Glen Rovers), who has accompanied him to every inter-county game and Cork county championship game over the last number of years.

"Anthony would love to have acted as umpire for me next Sunday, but has been ill for a number of weeks and will be unable to attend. I want to extend best wishes to him and hope he makes a full and quick recovery.

"I will miss him on my team in Croke Park on Sunday."

● More GAA P45-50

Cork — Wexford final repeat

by Mary Newman

IT'S a repeat of the national league final — Cork, the Senior Division 1A champions, defend their All-Ireland crown, as they bid for three-in-a-row of titles, when they meet Wexford in the Gala All-Ireland final in Croke Park on Sunday.

The sides have met on three occasions already, this year, with victory going to Wexford in the opening game of the league series and in the first game in the round robin series of the All-Ireland championship, Cork nipping in between to take the league title by the narrowest of margins, a late pointed free from Jennifer O'Leary giving them the crown.



Cork captain, Gemma O'Connor.

Cork have performed well in their path to the final bouncing back after their first-round defeat at the hands of Wexford, defeating Tipperary, Galway Kilkenny and Dublin before recording comprehensive semi-final victory over old rivals Tipperary.

CORK PANEL: Aoife Murray, Joanne O'Callaghan, Catriona Foley, Rachel Moloney, Emer Watson, Amanda O' Regan, Rena Buckley, Sile Burns, Anna Geary, Briege Corkery, Mary O'Connor, Jenny O'Leary, Emer Dillon, Orla Cotter, Gemma O'Connor, Una O'Donoghue, Angela Walsh, Jenny Duffy, Ellen Clifford, Rosarie Holland, Sarah Hayes, Sarah O'Donovan, Marie O'Neill, Emer Farrell, Elaine Burke, Eimear O'Sullivan, Eimear White, Regina Curtin, Denise Twomey

Gemma gunning for three-in-a-row

by Jim O'Sullivan

GEMMA O'CONNOR admits Andrew O'Shaughnessy didn't seek her advice in advance of Limerick's clash against Kilkenny and that she wouldn't be consulting with him before Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final in Croke Park.

She is captain of the Cork team which is in line for three-in-a-row and a member of the 4th Infantry Battalion in Collins Barracks in Cork, where the Limerick star is also based with the army.

A member of the senior squad since 2002, an uncle (Bill Geaney) captained Cork minor hurlers to victory in the All-Ireland final of 1974, while her brother Glenn was part of the Cork squad which lost in last Sunday's final.

With St Finbarr's making the breakthrough by finally winning the A championship last year, she has the added distinction of being the first from the famed city club to lead the county senior team. "Thanks to my club, I have that honour. It will be a special occasion," she stated.

"You could say that there is pressure on us to perform going in as champions. Our priority is 'to win' on Sunday and we can't be thinking about anything else. Because we were champions for the last two years, it doesn't mean it's going to work this year. We're just going to play as if we never played in an All-Ireland final."

Two years ago, Cork went into the decider under a different sort of pressure, facing the threat of a third consecutive defeat at the hands of Tipperary. Ideally, they should be as powerfully motivated this weekend, but she accepts it will be hard to approach the Wexford game in the same frame of mind.

However, if anything will help them it should be the fact that Wexford beat them in the first round of the Round Robin games in the championship. "We can look on that in a positive way," she added. "Wexford's win that day was a bit of a shock to the system. Now, we know what to expect. We'll be well prepared.

"Maybe people have got tired of watching Cork and Tipperary. Wexford being there is certainly after bring a new freshness to the championship. We're really excited about playing them for the first time in an All-Ireland final.

"It's a big incentive for them not having won for so long (1975). That will drive them on, but we have our own incentive and our own motivation."



The 1952 South Pres Convent team that won the Merriman Cup in 1952. Back: Lily McKay, Marian McCarthy, Kathleen O'Connell, Irene Daly, Mary Carbery, Kay Darcy, Claire Baldwin and Pauline Murphy. Front: Dominica Flannery, Lily Grant, Helen Ring, Aine O'Brien (Capt), Anne Stanton, Rita O'Leary and Teresa Murphy. Ref 752E.

Same as you were for Cork boss Cronin

Camogie

Maire Ui Scolai

CORK manager John Cronin last night had the luxury of naming an unchanged 15 for Sunday's Gala All-Ireland senior camogie final against Wexford at Croke Park.

Cronin knows a thing or two about winning All-Ireland titles, having been involved with the Rebels since 1998, leading them to the first of five All-Ireland U16 titles, and his side are hot favourites to complete three-in-a-row.

Unlike the reigning champions, Wexford have made one change ahead of the eagerly-anticipated Croker showdown. Bróna Furlong, an All-Ireland sprinter gets promoted after impressing in the semi-final when introduced in the second-half.

In a reshuffled Wexford side, Furlong will start at right half-forward, with midfielder Aoife O'Connor relegated to the bench.

When Wexford last appeared in an All-Ireland Final in 1994, a young Avis Nolan was a sub when the Slaneysiders lost to Kilkenny.

On their return to Croker for the first time in 13 years, Nolan will be taking her starting position at left corner-back.

"Being so young then it was great to be part of such a fine team and I thought I would see more finals, but alas I have had to wait 13 years, but hopefully it will be worth the long wait on Sunday," she said.

If the Leinster outfit are to capture their first title since 1975, and their fourth in all, they will have to get past a determined Cork team.

The same two teams met in the League final when the Leesiders won by two points, but a week later, Wexford turned the tables when they beat Cork in the opening round of the championship.

Neither team will read too much into those victories.

As Wexford captain Mary Leacy put it: "Sunday is a whole new ball game for us and I am sure Cork will look at it that way as well."

Tipperary man John Morrissey, who refereed the 1998 All-Ireland final between Cork and Galway, will once again be the man to take charge of Sunday's eagerly awaited clash.

The All-Ireland junior final makes a welcome return to Croke Park following a gap of a year and it promises to be a real cracking encounter. Derry lost to Dublin in last year's All-Ireland Final played in Tullamore, while Clare lost the previous year, also to Dublin, in a replay.

Both had rather easy semi-final victories. Clare defeated Waterford, while Derry – managed by husband and wife team of Susan and Pádraig Ó Mianáin – beat Antrim, but Sunday's game will be a much closer affair.

Cork: A Murray; J O'Callaghan, C Foley, A O'Regan; R Buckley, M O'Connor, A Geary; B Corkery, G O'Connor; U O'Donoghue, A Walsh, J O'Leary; E Dillon, O Cotter, S Burns. Subs: E Clifford, R Holland, S Hayes, J Duffy, R Moloney, S O'Donovan, E Watson, E Farrell, M O'Neill, E Burke.
Wexford: M D'Arcy; N Lambert, C O'Loughlin, A Nolan; A Codd, M Leacy, D Codd; K Kelly, C Murphy, B Furlong, R M Breen, M O'Leary; U Leacy, M Hearne, U Jacob. Subs: H Jacob, B Curran, A O'Connor, L Holahan, K Parrock, C O'Connor, L Codd, S Nolan, B Holohan, C Atkinson.
Clare: D Lynch; J O'Leary, D Corcoran, A Colleran; K Hally, D Murphy, A McInerney; K Lynch, J Scanlon; C Roseingrave, C O'Loughlin, A Ryan; C Commane, S Mc Mahon, S O'Loughlin. Subs: R Lynch, A O'Brien, H Mc Mahon, M O'Halloran, S Maloney, F Lafferty, E Keating, S Lafferty, A O'Shea, A Griffen.

Cork go with the tried and trusted

CORK have named an unchanged side for Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final against Wexford despite sickness concerns about a number of their players ***writes LINDA MELLERICK.***

Two of the starting 15, Breige Corkery and Jennifer O'Leary, are under the weather at the moment, suffering from a vomiting bug and the flu respectively, while members of the extended panel have also been hit by the bug.

Time is on the players' side, however, and Lillian Zinkant is confident they will be right for the big day.

The side that beat Tipperary in the semi-final have been given the nod for Sunday's final. The back seven and centre field has picked itself for a long time now. Up front has seen a bit of movement throughout the year but Cork's forward line is now stronger than it was twelve months ago.

Orla Cotter retains her place at full-forward, while Una O'Donoghue remains at right-half forward.

Cork Team: A Murray; J O'Callaghan, C Foley, A O'Regan; R Buckley, M O'Connor, A Geary; B Corkery, G O'Connor; U O'Donoghue, A Walsh, J O'Leary; E Dillon, O Cotter, S Burns.

● More: Page 64.

Sept. 2007

The road to Croker



LINDA MELLERICK

AS CORK enter a sixth All-Ireland final since 2002 aiming for three titles in a row, they are favourites.

Particularly so when one considers opponents Wexford will be in their first final in 13 years, having reached Croke Park only twice in the 90s.

That was back in 1992 and 1994 where they were defeated by Cork and Kilkenny respectively. These stats count for nothing.

As we take a look back at Cork's championship campaign for 2007, it will be interesting to note how their opponents fared throughout the season.

Based on Cork's league victory over Wexford in the national league final on May 6, the same result against a side who left league honours behind them was always going to be hard.

So when the sides met the following Saturday in the first round of the championship the ball was in Wexford's court.

Four first-half goals saw the visitors to Ballincollig take a commanding lead into the second-half. Unlike the previous week Wexford held firm. Wexford ran the show from the throw-in.

Out in front, winning possession and hitting diagonal balls across the pitch, they split Cork apart. A Cork team who played three tough Munster championship and league games in 10 days had no answer.

Add to this the fact that they had to line out without star keeper Aoife Murray and full-back Caitriona Foley through injury they had to yield to a better side on the day.

The score stood at 4-12 to 0-14 and it was Cork's heaviest defeat in years. The only way to turn a negative into a positive is to learn from mistakes. Cork had that defeat in the back off their minds as they faced rivals Tipperary in round two on May 27. Aoife Murray and Foley were back in the team and Anna Geary, at half-forward for the Wexford game was back in her more familiar role left half-back.

Emer Dillon still wasn't available having taken a break to study for her final exams. Marie O'Neill filled in the vacancy on this occasion. Cork travelled on this occasion and a low-scoring game saw them take triumph 0-12 to 1-5. June was almost match free due to exams with Cork undergoing solid training.

Down to play Galway in round three on June 30 the match was brought forward to June 24 to facilitate Cork's five dual players. Galway weren't happy. The Rebels went to Athenry with one positional and one personnel change to the team against Tipp.

Emer Dillon came in in place of Marie O'Neill. Breige Corkery moved from right half-forward to midfield in a switch with Orla Cotter. While not impressive, Cork justifiably took the points.

The only goal of the game came after five minutes when Síle Burns gathered from Dillon and hit an unstoppable shot low into the far corner of the net.

Ten minutes in Galway began to find their rhythm.

Cork's supply inside stopped as their defence came under pressure. Galway's inability to punish Cork when they had the chance let them down. They couldn't shake the tenacious Cork defence, nor shoot accurately.



The half-time score read Cork 1-5, Galway 0-6. Cork's performance was scrappy with little fluency.

While not chasing the scoreboard, they were chasing the game. For Cork, Síle Burns, back for the 2007 campaign, continued to impress, while Emer Dillon was improving. Cork won 1-10 to 0-8. Round four on July 15 could have proved dangerous for Cork but Cork tore asunder a poor Kilkenny.

Ann Downey was back at the helms of a team that promised so much 12 months ago but a young side failed to live up to expectations. Orla Cotter lost out to Emer Watson on this occasion as Cork ran riot.

A magical spell six minutes from half-time resulted in three goals for the visitors to Ballyraggart, ending any hope Kilkenny of a comeback.

Cork dominated from midfield up. All of Cork's six forwards got on the scoreboard and substitute Emer Farrell also got in on the act once introduced.

Cork emptied the bench comfortable in the knowledge that they were now through to the All-Ireland semi-final regardless of the result in their remaining group game against Dublin on July 28 after a comprehensive 4-16 to 1-4 win.

This was a poor game in Páirc Ui Rinn. Dublin needed something out of the game to have any hope of a play-off with Galway to go to the semi-final. As the rain poured down for the entire game, it was always going to be scrappy. The outcome was never in doubt. Even without the services of dual players Mary O'Connor, Rena Buckley, Breige Corkery and Angela Walsh Cork were in control.

Running out convincing winners by 3-10 to 1-3 the only concerns of the day lay in the injuries picked up by Anna Geary and Joanne O'Callaghan.

Thankfully both players were fit for the All-Ireland semi-final with Tipp in Nowlan Park. Rumour had it Tipp were working hard behind the scenes. Their nine-point victory over Wexford meant they were the only side to beat the Slaneysiders in the championship. Cork were on their guard.

It paid off. Apart from Cork doing their job, Tipp were poor. It ended a score of Cork 2-11, Tipp 0-9. Cork dominated midfield and their defence were far too disciplined for an ineffective Tipp forward line. The signs were there at half time after Tipp had scored a solitary point from play in the opening 33 minutes. Catriona Foley gave a masterful display at full-back. Angela Walsh caused problems for the Tipp defence and but for some excellent goal keeping from Paula Ryan the gap would have been far greater at full time.

The only worry from a Cork point of view was their lack of scoring prowess with the supply they enjoyed. The Tipperary defence were poor and yet Cork as a unit failed to ignite. Wexford will prove a tougher defence to crack.

That was it. Losing one and winning five games Cork are through to another All Ireland Final after six hours of Camogie. It's certainly a position they deserve to be in with their greatest hour ahead.

CORK'S PATH TO FINAL

Cork 0-14 Wexford 4-12; Tipp 1-5 Cork 0-12; Galway 0-8 Cork 1-10 Kilkenny 1-4 Cork 4-16 Cork 3-10 Dublin 1-3.
All-Ireland semi final: Cork 2-11 Tipp 0-9.

WEXFORD'S PATH TO FINAL

Cork 0-14 Wexford 4-12; Wexford 2-10 Dublin 0-8; Wexford 1-20 Kilkenny 4-5; Tipperary 1-17 Wexford 0-11; Wexford 3-13 Galway 0-10.
All-Ireland semi-final: Wexford 2-18 Galway 0-14.

Mary Leacy, Wexford captain and Gemma O'Connor, Cork captain, ahead of their Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final clash on Sunday.



Regina Buckley goes highest to claim this ball against Kilkenny.



LINDA MELLERICK

All-Ireland senior camogie final, Cork v Wexford, Croke Park, Sunday, 4pm.

IF ONE was to study Cork and Wexford's scoring and defensive form throughout a championship in which both sides played the same opposition then the destiny of this year's O'Duffy cup is very hard to predict.

Cork have scored 10 goals and 73 points in six games, while Wexford have amassed a total of 12-84. Defensively Cork have against them 7-41 and Wexford 5-68. 4-12 of Cork's scores against came in the first round championship game against Wexford.

Since then they tightened up considerably with only three goals and 29 points given.

On the other side of the coin they defeated Kilkenny by a massive 4-16 to 1-4, which had a large say in their 10-73 tally.

Cork's defence is regarded as the best, particularly their half back line of Rena Buckley, Mary O'Connor and Anna Geary from which many of their attacks are launched. Equally though, the Wexford back six would be a very close second.

In the National League Final they were magnificent, particularly Catherine O'Loughlin at full back and Mary Leacy at centre back.

They swarmed the Cork forward line whenever they had possession and drove the ball 70 and 80 yards up the field in the counter attack.

Add in Deirdre and Aine Codd and you have a powerful defence.

Cork's forward division can be inconsistent.

Without a doubt Jennifer O'Leary is their leader and should she be curtailed on the day, then Cork could be in trouble. They weren't impressive in the semi-final against Tipperary.

With the amount of possession they enjoy they have been criticised for not scoring more, but if one considers the 10-73 they've amassed in six games, it's an impressive tally.

Kate Kelly played at midfield in the League for Wexford, but through injury began Wexford's All-Ireland semi-final in at corner forward.

Moving out to right half for the second-half she was majestic. A total of 1-11 (1-6 from play), each score more impressive than the next, has to single her out as a marked woman for the final. It'll be interesting to see where she lines out on Sunday and expect a switch.

Up front Wexford have the speed to split the Cork defence on the wide Croke Park pitch.

They did this so impressively in the first round championship game. Wexford get goals against Cork and not many can boast that.

They switch the play both left and right in an attempt to nullify Cork's half back line.

Ursula Jacob, Una Leacy and Michelle Hearne at left corner forward, right corner forward and full forward respectively are the players to watch.

The Cork defence need to hold their positions.

Cork have named the same side to that which lined out in the semi-final-no surprises there.



Anna Geary is challenged by Wexford's Kate Kelly. Geary is a key cog in the Rebel defence.

Wexford's formidable challenge to test Cork

(from page 27) is the most decorated ladies dual player of all time and sitting solidly in the half-back line on Sunday, she will undoubtedly have a huge say in the final outcome.

This will be O'Connor's 13th All-Ireland final and so far she has recorded five camogie wins, four camogie losses and three wins with the bigger ball.

Angela Walsh from Killeagh follows suit, and like O'Connor reverses roles depending on the code.

For Walsh is known as 'The Rock' of the football side at full-back, but she will step up to the offensive plate on Sunday.

Former sportswoman of the year, Briege Corkery, is one of the country's best known dual stars.

She will remain in her usual defensive position to constrict Wexford's scoring chances.

Rockbán's Catriona Foley has even more reason to celebrate, as she is playing the best camogie of her life at present at full-back.

Former ladies' football All-Star Rena Buckley is one of the top defenders in the country in both codes and the Inniscarra native will have a big say come throw-in at 4pm.

They continue with Orla Cotter in at full forward, who despite finding herself in unfamiliar territory did well last time out.

Holding the ball inside and preventing long clearances is as good as a score. This Cotter did admirably against top Tipp full back Una O'Dwyer.

This game can go either way. Wexford's mental resolve will be key. For a young team, do they fully appreciate where they are? Do they realise that opportunities like this don't come around too often, particularly for Wexford?

Would they be willing to throw their bodies on the line if push comes to shove? They say you have to lose one to win one. While Wexford have lost their fair share, this particular side haven't.

If they take the lead, can they hold it? In the League Final Wexford led by six points ten minutes into the second half. They let it slip and fell behind by six after a blistering spell by Cork.

They bounced back and levelled the game in normal time only for Jennifer O'Leary to snatch the winner from a free.

This see-saw of events showed a lack of self-belief when Cork began their comeback.

However, it equally shows a team who can regain their composure in the thick of the action and refuse to wilt.

How will Wexford cope with the media attention in the run up to the game?

How will they react to the magnificent Croke Park stadium?

Cork are so familiar with the weekend schedule that the players will at this stage have their 'own spot' in the dressing room.

At the end of the day none of this should matter and if Wexford have their homework done the match is all that should occupy their minds right up to the minute the ball is thrown in until the final whistle.

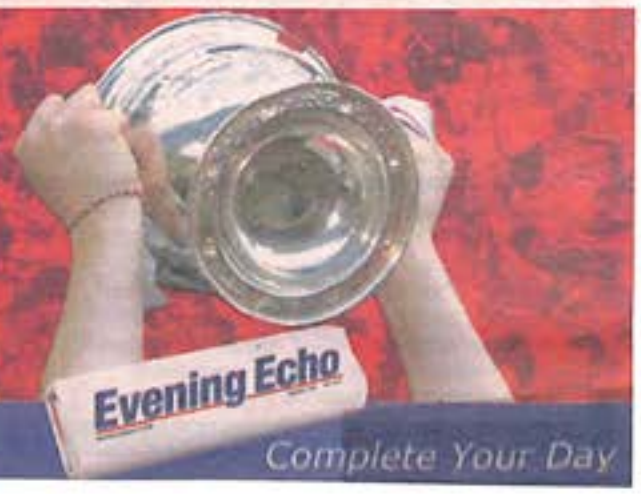
A hurt team is a dangerous team and Wexford proved this when they came South six days after losing the league final and trounced Cork.

Who will re-live that sequence of events the most over the next few days?

Whoever does will take the title.

SEE TOMORROW'S ECHO FOR OUR CAMOGIE SPECIAL

Best of luck to the Cork Senior Camogie Team in their quest for Three In A Row on Sunday



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SEPT 2007

Rebels out to avenge



Jim O'Sullivan

AWAY from the talk of defending their title and making it three wins out of three, you can be sure that the focus of the Cork senior camogie squad will be on the strength of the challenge they face from Wexford in tomorrow's Gala All-Ireland final in Croke Park (4pm).

After all the Model County girls hammered them in the opening game of this campaign, a defeat which the Rebel management have been keen to talk up in the countdown to this decider.

The Cork coach is former star Fiona O'Driscoll, who has personal experience of having ambitions of achieving the treble dashed on two occasions. She recalled how Kilkenny defeated them twice in the All-Ireland semi-final — in 1994 and 1999 — after Cork had won the previous two finals.

And, she remembers having 'a few collisions' with the Wexford manager Stella Sinnott when their paths crossed in the early nineties. Her career ended four years ago but after a year's break, she accepted an invitation from manager John Cronin to come on board.

She's not enthusiastic about the new round robin system on two fronts. Firstly, she feels that the programme is over-loaded and that the clubs suffer.

She admitted: "I'd nearly go back to a straight knock-out if I had my way. Maybe I'd have one 'back door.' There are too many games and it has a fierce knock-on effect on the clubs. You have different Cork teams out each weekend and the club games can't be played. I suppose when you have won two games you know you are in an All-Ireland semi-final and that takes the bite out of it. It's more like a league match than a championship match."

Between the National League, the Round Robin and the Munster championship, Cork have played 16 games. That included a replay with Tipp (in the provincial championship) which doubled up as a play-off for a place in the League final.

O'Driscoll added: "We beat Wexford by a point in the League final and a week later they came back and hammered us out in Ballincollig in the first round of the championship. It was the worst defeat a Cork team got in over 20 years and it was the first time during my involvement that we lost a championship match at home. It hurt!"



Fiona O'Driscoll: 'there are too many games and it has a knock-on effect on clubs.'

The squad includes a number of new additions from last year but it again features a strong representation of dual players, with Rena Buckley, Briege Corkery, Angela Walsh and Mary O'Connor continuing to hold down first-team places and Caitriona Foley and Regina Curtin also included.

O'Driscoll stresses the importance of the relationship that exists between the two managements, undoubtedly a key factor in the two teams each qualifying for their third consecutive final.

"Our main thing is to have the players in the right condition. It's a fantastic opportunity to play both and when the two teams are going well, girls are going to want to play. We try to facilitate that as much as possible," she explained.

"The way the competitions are structured, you have games every second weekend, so they're constantly chopping and changing. Some of them would hurl off a wall to keep their eye in. One or two of them would need more hurling to keep their touch right, but they know that themselves. It's up to them to do that extra bit on their own."

Back in another final, it's inevitable that the three-in-a-row is a hot topic with supporters.

"It's obvious that a lot of people are going to talk about it, but I'd like to take it one game at a time. At the end of the day we want to be champions of 2007 — and to do that we'll have to beat Wexford."

Experience will stand to Rebels

by Therese O'Callaghan

Senior camogie preview

MAKING match predictions is a risky business. It is impossible to forecast players' emotions on match day.

Predictions are based on past experiences, so trying to pick the winners between Cork and Wexford in tomorrow's Gala All-Ireland senior camogie final is nigh-on impossible.

What we do know is how these teams have prepared — and that is the only information to hand. But the burning question is how they will react tomorrow — from wake-up time until the 4pm throw-in — and how both squads will deal with a big-match occasion in Croke Park.

For that reason alone, Cork will start as favourites. The majority of the Rebels are well used to the Croke Park routine.

They have handled themselves well over the past few years, and the fact they are going for three titles on the trot speaks volumes. They are the tried and tested side. Their back line is their strength. They are resolute and give nothing away. Mary O'Connor at centre back appeared in her first senior All-Ireland final in 1996 and is as important a player now as she was back then.



The new O'Duffy Cup, a replica of the Ardagh Chalice, which will be presented to the winners of the All-Ireland senior camogie final. Picture: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

A lot of scores come through Jennifer O'Leary, an outstanding servant who rarely fails to deliver from wing forward.

Orla Cotter is another to watch. The young student is a permanent fixture at full forward and her duel with Catherine O'Loughlin is worth keeping an eye on.

This is going to be a huge day for Wexford, going for their first All Ireland since 1975. Their last showing in a final was 1994. How they cope with the hype will decide their destiny.

How quickly can they settle into the game? The Limerick hurlers, I'm sure, have replayed those opening 10 minutes over and over since Sunday. The Purple and Gold can't afford a start like that.

From what I have seen, Wexford are very focused and good hurlers. And hunger is surely their big plus. If they can mix these two, the long wait could be over. But they can only answer that question themselves. They certainly have the talent. Avis Nolan was there in 1994,

CORK v WEXFORD
(Croke Park, 4pm, RTÉ)

Aoife Murray	1	Mags D'Arcy
Joanne O'Callaghan	2	Noeleen Lambert
Caitriona Foley	3	C O'Loughlin
Amanda O'Regan,	4	Avis Nolan
Rena Buckley	5	Áine Codd
Mary O'Connor	6	Mary Leacy (capt)
Anna Geary	7	Deirdre Codd
Briege Corkery	8	Kate Kelly
G O'Connor (capt)	9	Caroline Murphy
Una O'Donoghue	10	Brona Furlong
Angela Walsh	11	Rose-Marie Breen
Jennifer O'Leary	12	Michelle O'Leary
Emer Dillon	13	Una Leacy
Orla Cotter	14	Michelle Hearne
Síle Burns	15	Ursula Jacob

Subs: E Clifford, R Holland, S Kaye, J Duffy, R Rooney, S O'Donovan, S Watson, F Farrell, M O'Neill, E Burke.

Subs: M Jacob, B Curran, A O'Connor, L Holahan, R Pocock, C O'Connor, L Codd, S Nolan, B Holahan, C Atkinson.

Mary Leacy is a very skilful halfback and Áine Codd another; Kate Kelly is their chief predator; expect Michelle Hearne, Una Leacy (sister to Mary) and Rose-Marie Breen to have their say too.

Derry have eyes on senior status ...but first

by Jim O'Sullivan

Junior camogie preview

TOMORROW'S meeting of Clare and Derry in the All-Ireland junior camogie final in Croke Park (noon) will be the first between the counties in the championship's 39-year history.

They each have three titles (Clare in 1974, 1981, '86; Derry in 1969, 1978, 2000), and were runners -up to Dublin in 2005 and 2006 respectively.

The Clare team is managed by Colm Hanley, who hurled with Wolfe Tones up to two years ago when injury forced him to concentrate on coaching, initially in hurling. But, not unexpectedly since his mother Mary has been a long-time member of the Central Council of the Association, he took an interest in camogie.

The junior championship, for the New Ireland Cup, comprised two groups, with the two top teams from each contesting the semi-finals. Clare beat Waterford by 11 points while Derry had a runaway win over Antrim by 5-19 to 2-6. Hanley points out that it's a very different Clare panel from two years ago, with seven of last year's minors included. But he can call on the experience of 2005 captain Deirdre Murphy from the Davitts club, plus the long-serving Catherine O'Loughlin (Kilnamona) and Deirdre Corcoran (Celbridge).

CLARE v DERRY
(Croke Park, noon)

Denise Lynch	1	Clare O'Kane
Jane O'Leary	2	C Pickering
Deirdre Corcoran	3	Helena Kelly
Amy Colleran	4	Ciara Cunnahan
Kathy Hally	5	Kate Laverty
Deirdre Murphy	6	C Doherty (capt)
Aimee McInerney	7	Jane Carey
Kate Lynch	8	G McGoldrick
Jane Scanlon	9	Brid Convery
Carina Roseingrave	10	Katie McAuley
C O'Loughlin	11	Aisling Diamond
Aoife Ryan	12	Edelle Henry
Claire Commane	13	Sinéad Henry
Sharon McMahon	14	Sinéad Cassidy
Sharon O'Loughlin	15	Paula McAtamney

Subs: K Lynch, K O'Brien, K McMahon, M O'Halloran, S Maloney, F Lalleny, T Keating, S Lalleny, A O'Dea, K Collins.

Subs: K Laverty, K McDonald, E Nolan, P Bell, M Nolan, P Murray, E O'Dea, M K McArdle, J McVeigh, S Murphy, D McGuigan.

"It's a nice balance between the older players and those coming through," he says.

Earlier in the year, Clare and Derry clashed in the league in Dublin. While Clare won by a point, their manager recalled that Derry were "slightly better" than them. "I saw them playing against Waterford and they absolutely destroyed them. They would be physically a lot stronger than us and, of course, they were in the final last year. So they have a lot of experience — we're up against it."

He welcomes the change of policy to return the junior final to Croke Park after it was moved last year to facilitate the playing of the All-Ireland U21 final as the curtain-raiser.

"Any time you get to an All-Ireland final you deserve to play there. The girls put an awful lot of work in and it will be a great occasion for both teams."

Derry are managed by husband and wife team Padraig and Susan Uí Mionáin and Padraig is equally enthusiastic about having the final back in headquarters.

"It was a great boost to open the gates of Croke Park to everybody. It's where we all want to be," he commented.

Having lost a number of players from last year, including three forwards "who couldn't commit themselves", he says they have made steady progress after a disappointing league campaign.

"We want to see Derry up in senior, and winning the junior is really the only gateway for teams like us," he said.

SEPT 2007

Wexford hope to end drought

The Model county are seeking their first All Ireland camogie title since 1975 as they face three-in-a-row chasing Cork

Cóilín Duffy

TODAY at Croke Park is the showpiece of the Camogie year as the All Ireland Senior Championship final takes centre stage with three-in-a-row chasers Cork facing Wexford, who haven't contested an All Ireland decider at this level since 1994. That summer Offaly stole the Liam McCarthy Cup from the fingertips of Limerick thanks to their five-minute scoring flourish while the Irish soccer team tasted victory over Italy in the Giants Stadium at the World Cup. However, there was something else festering in the minds of the camogie players of Wexford who qualified for the All Ireland Senior final, but little did then player and current manager Stellah Sinnot know that it would take a further 13 years to grace the final stage again.

Kilkenny beat Wexford that day to give them their 12th and last crown to date and it was hard to believe that neither team would take an All Ireland title in the interim as both Cork and Tipperary went on to dominate the competition. It is losses like that '94 decider which have spurred Sinnott on to reach the glory days again with an All Ireland title not gracing the banks of the Slaney since 1975, when they beat Cork by 4-3 to 1-2. Wexford overcame Galway in the All Ireland semi-final on 11 August at Nowlan Park and although initially ecstatic with the victory, Sinnott was keen to quickly get focused on the task ahead.

"Just for the initial few seconds after the full-time whistle it was a great feeling but at the same time it then came into my head very quickly that we have a lot of work to do now as a management team for the squad for the 9th of September," Sinnott said. "That struck very quickly after the initial reaction that it is great to be there. In the back of our minds is that we take every game as one game at a time and that this is an extra. It is up to us to have the girls prepared the way we feel that they should be."

A total of 2,000 supporters turned up for that early 1.30pm start and another strong Wexford contingent is expected at GAA headquarters this afternoon. "I would think that we will have a very good Wexford support at the All Ireland final. Wexford supporters in general are excellent at supporting teams so I have no doubt that we will have a very big crowd for the All Ireland and it would be a great boost for the girls as well to see the purple and gold flying as they come out onto the pitch," Sinnott said.



Model girls: Wexford players celebrate reaching their first All Ireland final since 1994 INPHO

Avis Nolan played on the full-back line in the comfortable semi-final win over Galway and although she is the only playing link with the '94 side, Stellah Sinnott says this isn't a Wexford side that is lacking big game experience. "The girls have the experience of being in All Ireland finals at underage level up to this so it's just really the Croke Park issue. They are a good group of focused and rounded girls so I think they won't be terribly fazed by the day," she added.

Meanwhile, in the junior showpiece, Derry are chasing a first All Ireland title since 2000 when they face Clare at midday. Both sides have three titles each but Derry captain Claire Doherty believes that her side have the hunger to take honours having scored a whopping 14-56 in their four games to date.

"We aren't taking anything for granted from Clare, we played them earlier this year in the league and we are expecting a very strong physical challenge from them," Doherty stated. "Like ourselves they have been knocking on the door for a while and I'm sure they are as hungry as we are."

Husband and wife duo Padraig and Susan Ó Mianain are joint Derry managers and Doherty feels they have a lot to offer to the Oak Leafers setup. "Not very many husband and wives could do what they do for the team and also have three children along the way. It's great and they have fitted in well. They live and die for camogie so I'm sure they will like a break after Sunday and a chance to get back to normality."

CORK A Murray; J O'Callaghan, C Foley, A O'Regan; R Buckley, M O'Connor, A Geary; B Corkery, G O'Connor; U O'Donoghue, A Walsh, J O'Leary; E Dillon, O Cotter, S Burns
WEXFORD M D'Arcy; N Lambert, C O'Loughlin, A Nolan; A Codd, M Leacy, D Codd; K Kelly, C Murphy; B Furlong, R Breen, M O'Leary; U Leacy, M Hearne, U Jacob
CLARE D Lynch; J O'Leary, D Corcoran, A Colleran; K Hally, D Murphy, A McInerney; K Lynch, J Scanlon; C Roseingrave, C O'Loughlin, A Ryan; C Commane, S McMahon, S O'Loughlin
DERRY C O'Kane; C Pickering, H Kelly, C Cusnahan; K Laverty, C Doherty, J Carey; G McGoldrick, B Convery; K McAuley, A Diamond, E Henry; S Henry, S Cassidy, P McNamney, A Laverty

ALL IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL
CORK v WEXFORD
Croke Park, 4.00
Referee J Morrissey
Live, RTE Two, 3.25

ALL IRELAND JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL
CLARE v DERRY
Croke Park, 12.00
Referee C Egan (Cork)

Model preparation offers chance to dethrone Cork

DAMIAN LAWLOR

THE last time Wexford reached the All-Ireland senior camogie final, Stellah Sinnott trooped off the field with her head bowed, but today her young team has a chance to make up for the disappointment of 1994.

Sinnott, who finished her inter-county career four years later in 1998, took charge of the current side last November and set about building on the development work that has taken place at grassroots level over the past four years.

The Buffers Alley woman has put a professional stamp on the set-up and detailed a fitness plan with trainer Eddie Flynn and athletics coach Jim Kilty over the course of the season. No stone has been left unturned as the Purple and Gold prepare for Croke Park; their manager has even done some psychological work with them to help ensure they won't be overawed by the occasion.

"You just never know," she says. "It's the first championship final for the girls, whereas Cork have been here for the past five years and are bidding for three titles in a row. They will be comfortable, I hope we will be too," she said.

At one stage Wexford looked well-beaten in the league final against Cork and trailed 3-6 to 0-9 with 10 minutes to go before coming back to level the game and then, agonisingly, watched Cork take the lead and pull through courtesy of a Jennifer O'Leary point. One mitigating factor in that topsy-turvy display is the fact that leading stars Kate Kelly, Caroline Murphy, Mary Leacy and Michelle Hearne are all dual players and actually played a ladies football final the night before the camogie decider.

"It's a serious problem that the hurlers and footballers have here in Wexford and it's one that we have too," says Sinnott. "But we have tried to take it easy on the girls who were playing both and ensure that they weren't overdoing the physical training all year. We communicated well with the ladies football management and it has worked. During the league final some of our girls tired, seized up a little at half-time and it took its toll."

It's a young team that Sinnott brings to Croke Park, with Mavis Nolan the only link to the 1994 side. The side has an exciting make-up and pedigree. Áine Codd, one of their top defenders, has been in great form all year. She is a cousin of Reading FC and Ireland striker Kevin Doyle and her mother Kitty won All-Irelands with Wexford in the past.

Kate Kelly is the star forward on the team. She scored 1-11 (1-5 from play) in the semi-final against Galway and is the go-to player they need on fire to win the final. Ursula Jacob, another star forward, is sister of senior hurling stars Rory and Michael. "They are a great bunch and they've worked hard," the manager enthuses. "But we need all of them on form to beat Cork and that's why we've prepared so intensely. It will be a great day out with a huge crowd but I'm more concerned about winning the title. The bar was raised by Tipperary in the past few years and we had two choices, either join them or be left behind."

They chose the former route and worked extremely hard to get here, building on the Féile successes of Oulart the Ballagh and the two senior titles that Colaiste Bríd delivered for the county. Sinnott admits the game has changed since her inter-county days with the advent of 15-a-side and bigger pitches the key factors. Still, coming from a GAA-obsessed family, there is nothing she doesn't know about the modern game. Her brother-in-law, Wexford hurling legend Liam Dunne, will be in the crowd today as she bids to put silverware in the Model County's cabinet again.

They may have been beaten by Cork in that league decider but they subsequently beat John Cronin's side in the first round of the championship which was a psychological help.

Today will tell whether they are ready to go head to head with the giants of the game and assume the mantle of champions. Limerick couldn't do it last weekend and while Stellah Sinnott shares all the passion of Richie Bennis for the game she loves, she will hope for better fortune.

But it's a tall order for them to come to town and defeat a star-studded Cork side, with the likes of Gemma O'Connor, Jennifer O'Leary and Briege Corkery. Cork also look to have that strength in depth to win a third title in a row. The sensible money is on the Rebels, but if Wexford don't win today, the breakthrough will be sooner rather than later.

Wexford v Cork
RTE2, 4.0

Boss John is the man with the plan

Mary Newman talks to Cork camogie manager John Cronin



TWO All-Ireland senior titles five All-Ireland minor titles, three senior county championships and a host of minor provincial titles to his credit, is John Cronin a little tired of it all?

No way. Now he stands just 60 minutes away from creating his own bit of history by becoming the only manger to lead the county to three in-a-row of minor and senior All-Ireland camogie titles.

Without doubt he has been one of the most successful coaches Cork camogie has produced.

Tomorrow he chases the elusive three in-a-row at senior level.

John is looking forward to the challenge ahead.

"Bring them on," were his words to me 10 minutes after the semi-final when I asked him about Cork's chances against Wexford.

John Cronin got involved in the inter-county camogie scene after his club Cloughduv won the county minor championship title in 1997.

Among the players on that Cloughduv side were Una O'Donoghue, Aoife Murray and Joanne O'Callaghan, who would go on to win further honours with Cork.

In John Cronin, Cork camogie was about to discover someone, who has become one of the county's most valuable assets.

A staunch GAA man he is the holder of county championship honours at minor, junior and intermediate grades with Cloughduv.

His enthusiasm for the game he has served loyally knows no bounds.

In 1998 Cloughduv nominated John for the position of minor selector.

While reluctant at first he soon got into the swing of things.

He joined up with the late Tadie Roche from Aghabullogue and his fellow club member Kathleen Healy in the bid to bring Cork its first minor All-Ireland crown since 1985.

"I went in thinking I was only going to be lending a hand and I ended up coaching the team," recalled John.

John Cronin and his fellow electors assembled a panel which retained the Munster title in a blistering final against Tipperary.

All-Ireland champions Galway stood between Cork and a place in the final on a day when the excellence of Joanne O'Callaghan, Aoife Murray, Gemma O'Connor, Jennifer O'Leary and Emer Dillon helped Cork defeat the champions by two points.

Derry had defeated Kilkenny to book their place in the final. The Cork girls showed too much skill and craft recording a comprehensive victory to bridge a 13-year gap.

John Cronin drove on and the following season victory was repeated as Cork defeated Galway in a final, where just one point separated the sides.

Cork set out to make it three in-a-row in the Millennium year, but got a rude awakening losing out to Tipperary in the Munster final, a defeat which still hurts.

"We should never have lost out to Tipperary, but we allowed them get ahead of us.

"We were chasing the game and at the finish we almost clawed it back, but it still hurts to this day to have lost out on a chance of three in a row."

While many would have walked away, John Cronin was re-elected to his position of selector and he set about the task of restoring pride in the Cork minor side with fellow selectors John Quinn and Ann Watson.

Sourcing new talent the journey resumed and this time the three in-a-row of All-Ireland minor titles was achieved.

A feat last achieved only once from 1983 to 1985.

Briege Corkery, Rena Buckley, Sile Burns, Marie O'Neil, Emer Watson, Anna Geary, Gemma O'Connor and Catriona Foley were amongst the players who played starring roles.

The following year there was disappointment for the minors as they crashed out to Clare in the opening round.

Later in the season John Cronin signalled his intentions to retire and walk away from the county scene.

John continued to be actively involved with Cloughduv and it came as no surprise to see him elected as a senior selector at convention in late November that year.

The role of manager was one he comfortably slotted in well to having a great knowledge of the players the majority of whom had come up through the ranks with him helped.

"They are a great bunch of girls and make our job an easy one.

"They are loyal and committed and work well as a group."

Fiona O'Driscoll is superb and has a great understanding with all the players.

"My job is easy with someone like that involved."

Away from the inter-county scene John Cronin continued to be the life and soul of the Cloughduv club.

He is trainer, selector and mentor to players from under age to adult and he has continued to help out even with his commitments to the inter-county teams.

John Cronin has a wonderful family network behind him.

Wife Norma, nee Creedon comes from a family steeped in tradition with the Macroom club.

His daughter Ciara is the holder of three county senior championship medals, while Aoife holds one.

Both are actively involved in the Cloughduv club.

Son-in-law John O'Callaghan is also hugely supportive of his father-in-law.

As Cork set out to create another record John Cronin is cautious about his charges chances on Sunday.

"Hopefully, we can do it, we know Wexford will be fired-up but we are equally as determined."

He holds a remarkable record of never having lost an All-Ireland final in any grade as manager.

Now a new challenge await as Wexford stand in his side's way.

Cork camogie is indeed fortunate that Cloughduv's finest is at the helm for what will be without doubt the counties biggest test.

Sept. 2007

TOMORROW, ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL, CORK V WEXFORD, CROKE PARK 4.00

Una ready



Sheila Burns at training with the Cork Senior Camogie players in Ballinlough as they prepare for the Gala All-Ireland final. Picture: Damien Quirke

Una is well aware of this.

"They have a very good half-back line. Áine Codd is one of their half-backs and is a huge player.

"They're very tall and physical girls and all are well able to hurl.

"If we can get on top here it'll play a big part in the game.

"Whoever is in the half-forward line will have a tough job to do."

One of Wexford's pluses is they can pick off scores from distance.

Una acknowledges Cork have to stop the supply going in and that begins with the forwards not affording Wexford any easy clearances.

Cork's defence and midfield more or less picks itself.

The players are now well used to each other's play and can read what their team mate will do in any situation.

This hasn't been the case up front where both positional and personnel changes have continued right throughout the league and championship.

With the inside six only settled in the past game or two, are they comfortable with each other and will they perform as a unit?

"I think this year there's a good compliment of players there. We concentrated on getting a quick supply into the full forward line.

"At the beginning of the season we weren't scoring many goals.

"We've tried to increase our goal scoring and since Sile's (Burns) come in and we've opened it up we've done this.

"Angela Walsh at centre forward has incredible speed and when she gets the ball in her hand she can split open the defence.

"She's been getting goals and so too is Jenny. We've great speed up front. We're all very comfortable with each other and our game plan."

Cork are favourites heading into the game. How does Una feel about that?

"Well, I think they've (Wexford) nothing to fear. They have taken the championship on this year.

"They've worked hard and have been building up for this since last January.

"They know us so well at this stage as we've been together a long time now.

"From our point of view, while we've played them a couple of times we wouldn't know them inside out the way we would the likes of Tipperary.

"There is a big factor of the unknown with Wexford since they've come up to this level.

"But saying that, we've been there. We've proven ourselves so we can go in fairly relaxed.

"The pressure I hope will be on them. They've come this far but they'll have nothing if they don't win on Sunday.

"I think our experience of going up to Croke Park and going through the run of the mill of the weekend will stand to us.

"It's Wexford's first time up there. The occasion might get to them a little bit but to be honest I think their feet are firmly on the ground.

"There won't be much between us at the final whistle. If the two teams show up on the day to their full potential I think it'll be a cracking game and it'll go down to the wire."

Preparations have gone well.

The players had a training / bonding weekend away last weekend as they wind-down for what is one of the biggest days in their careers.

play in two senior All-Ireland finals in the same year last season, winning Senior and senior B All-Ireland medals in the same year.

ELLEN CLIFFORD: ST FINBARR'S:

Occupation: Senior Technical Analyst for Group IT

The holder of All-Ireland Junior and senior medals as well as National league medals at senior and junior Ellen also holds senior county championship with St Finbarrs whom she captained to win the senior B title in 2001.

Is very involved with underage coaching in her club and is currently vice chairperson of the Cork Juvenile county camogie board.

SARA HAYES: COURCEY ROVERS

Occupation: Laboratory Analyst

Sara is the holder of All-Ireland senior and minor medals as well as Ashbourne Cup with UCC and senior B championship with her club. Played at under age level with Cork

SARAH O'DONOVAN: BALLYGARVAN

Occupation: Student

Holds two All-Ireland senior medal and also a Junior medal won in 2004. A student at UCC she also holds All-Ireland minor honours as well as provincial medals in the minor, junior and intermediate grades. Won a senior county championship medal in 2004 with Carrigdhoun, has also played international ladies soccer at under 19 level. Brother Chris played for Cork in last Sunday's All-Ireland minor final.

EMER O'FARRELL: SARSFIELDS

Occupation: Marketing

Emer is the holder of an All-Ireland junior medal won in 2004. She was a member of the senior panel last year, she also holds National junior and senior league and provincial honours. Was a member of the Cork Institute of Technology team that won the Purcell Cup in 2001. Holds Munster championship medals at senior junior and intermediate

JENNY DUFFY ST. FINBARRS

Occupation: Camogie Development Officer

Recently took up the post as Camogie Regional Development officer in Munster, a former student at Cork Institute of Technology. Jenny is the holder of an All-Ireland league medal with C IT as well as Senior and Junior All Ireland Championship medals and a senior championship with her club.

MARIE O'NEILL WATERGRASHILL

Occupation: Student

In her second season on the senior panel. The University of Limerick business studies student is the holder of All-Ireland senior, minor and intermediate medals, as well as a Junior B college's medal with Loreto Fermoy.

Is also a prominent ladies footballer with whom she has won underage All-Ireland and senior B national league medals.

ROSARIE HOLLAND: BARRYROE

Occupation: IT Developer

Returned to the panel this season following a season abroad. Rosarie is the holder of senior, minor and junior All Ireland medals, as well as Ashbourne cup medals with UCC. Also holds senior national league honours at club level, along with Senior B and underage championship honours.

REGINA CURTIN: MILFORD

Occupation: Student UCC

The holder of All-Ireland senior and intermediate camogie medals in camogie as well as All-Ireland ladies football honours. Made a successful recovery from injury last season to rejoin the squad she also holds national league honours in both codes, also a member of the senior B team.

EIMEAR O'SULLIVAN: BALLINHASSIG

Occupation: Student CIT

A sister of former inter county all Ireland medallist Linda O Sullivan Eimear holds senior All Ireland Senior B honours as well as national league and provincial medals, also a member of the senior B team that play Wexford on Sept 15th

EMER WHITE: BARRYROE

Occupation: Student just completed Leaving Cert

First season on the senior panel is the holder of national league and provincial medal's also a member of the senior B team that will also meet Wexford in the All Ireland semi final on September 15th

Foley is ready to lead from the back

By Alison Donnelly

CORK full-back Catriona Foley is ready for any challenge Wexford will throw at her this weekend.

Settling into relatively new surroundings in the full-back line, the Rockbán and Muskerry defender has made the full-back jersey her own this year and has been the stalwart of Cork's excellent defence this season.

Though she lines out at centre-back for her club, her assured performances for both club and county have made her an excellent defender.

"I play centre-back usually. I'd be more used to that and full-back is a position that requires far more patience. The ball doesn't come in that often but when it does you have to be on your toes and do the right thing. If not and the player gets past you she has a fantastic chance of a goal when it's just a one-on-one with the goalkeeper."

It's a position she's grown to like.

"It can be a hard one to get into because there's often not a lot of action back there and you have to build a concentration level that lets you focus when the ball is in."

Her settling in has been helped by the excellence of the defenders around her and they were delighted to keep Tipperary goalless in the All-Ireland semi-finals.

"Last year the backline worked on building trust and getting to know each other and we've continued that on this year. We kept Tipp goalless and obviously that's the plan again on Sunday, to keep Wexford from hitting the back of the net."

With a host of top full-backs having worn the jersey ahead of her, Foley is looking to add to her game. "Rosarie Holland was there before me and I got a chance at full-back when she went travelling for a while. Before that Stephanie Dunlea played there. Rosarie is a very tight marker and Stephanie was very strong at coming out onto the ball and before them Denise Cronin was very tough and physical so I suppose you look at what they all do and try and work that into your own game and develop your own style."

Training this week has been, she says, a matter of winding down and getting focused for Wexford, who have beaten Cork twice this year already.

"We've played Wexford four times this year and have lost twice. I was injured for three of those games. We have a lot of respect for what they've done this year. We know that they are tough enough.

"We've been adapting our training in keeping with what we expect from them. We've used some tackle bags and just worked on being a bit more physical. You've got to be able to take knocks as you're moving and though we rely more on our skills mix we can be both."

The 20-year-old faces a hectic few weeks with her involvement in the Cork ladies football team that are chasing their third All-Ireland in-a-row as well.

Add to the mix her club commitments and there will barely be time for her to celebrate her 21st birthday at the end of the month.

"It is hectic alright. I'm going into third year in UCC as well but it could potentially be a fantastic month."

Sept 2007

TOMORROW, ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL, CORK V WEXFORD, CROKE PARK 4.00

Rebels to hold onto national crown

Mary Newman previews tomorrow's All-Ireland camogie final between Cork and Wexford

THIS time two years ago Cork were on their way to Croke Park bidding to end Tipperary's quest for three in a row.

Now the boots are firmly on the other foot as they battle to hold their crown and make their own bid for three titles in a row.

It's a strange position for Cork. For years they battled to knock Tipperary off the throne.

Now sitting there for the past two seasons they face what will surely be their toughest hour as Wexford strive to bridge a 34 year gap since their last success.

Tipperary's domination from 1999 to 2001 was interrupted by Cork's win of 2002.

But Tipp were back in 2003 edging out champions Cork before going on to add 2004 to their impressive list of titles.

2005 and 2006 have belonged to Cork and now they stand just 60 minutes away from making their own bit of history.

Many fancied Wexford to make the big breakthrough last year, but they failed to make it to the semi final. This season this Wexford team have been more determined.

They let their intentions be known early as they blitzed all before them to make it to the National league final where they lost out by a point to Cork. Now the big question is about to be asked.

Do they have the nerve and determination to take that big jump and be crowned All Ireland champions?

It no surprise to see them finally arrive on the big stage. Féile na nGael and colleges titles have come to the county in recent times.

Oulart the Ballagh helped themselves to five Féile titles in-a-row and Coláiste Bríd Enniscorthy taking All-Ireland colleges titles at senior and junior level.

Players such as Ursula Jacob, Mary and Una Lacey, Bronagh Furlong and Deirdre Codd have come through the ranks.

This one will go down to the wire, make no mistake about it. Cork will have to battle harder than they have done in the past two years to make it three in a row.

Wexford are an impressive outfit. From manager Stella Sinnott to the last player on their panel they are confident. They have arrived on the scene and are no longer satisfied to be second best.

In Kate Kelly they have a match winner. In her normal role at midfield she is a class act but in their semi-final outing against Galway, injury forced her to line out at corner forward. There she proceeded to help herself to a tally of 1-11, 1-6 of which came from play.

Michelle Hearne, Rosemary Breen and Mary Lacey will prove a handful around the goal, while their defence will be led by Mary Lacey, Áine Codd and Avis Nolan.

No doubt there will be nerves in both camps on the day. Croke Park does that to players and mentors alike.

The magic of the occasion, the crowd, the atmosphere all add to the attractions of the junior camogie final and the men's U21 hurling final as curtain raisers.

Cork know the drill and have been there so many times before, but still the occasion and the pressure gets to players. Wexford will feel the strain.

They are the first team from the county to reach an All-Ireland final since 1990.

The pressure of bringing the title home for the first time since 1975 will have a huge effect on them.

They will need to stay focused and calm and this is where Cork should be able to capitalise.

By now it should come naturally to the majority of the Cork panel.

The familiar Saturday train journey, the friendly atmosphere they have managed to develop over the years at the teams base in the Moran Red Cow Hotel.

The little ritual each player and mentor has come to go through as normal on this weekend, that is by now so familiar to Cork.

The opening quarter will be crucial and if Cork can pick off a few early scores and settle into the game they can put Wexford into a chasing role.

If Wexford settle early it will give them a huge boost of confidence and this is where the Cork defence come into it.

All throughout the campaign they have been the driving force of this side.

Mary views changes in camogie

By LINDA MELLERICK

BEHIND every good team is an even better management. When one takes a look at Cork's back room team ahead of this Sunday's All-Ireland Camogie final it's little wonder the side are heading for their third title in a row.

Former Cork player and qualified coaching specialist Fiona O'Driscoll coaches the side.

John Cronin, successful Cork minor coach for many years, manages the team for the third year and former Sarsfields and Cork player Lillian Zinkant and Mary Moran **(pictured)** complete the selection committee.



Mary took on the role as selector this year after her club St Finbarr's became Cork County Senior champions in 2006. As a player Mary won Cork and Dublin Senior championship medals with Old Aloysians and Celtic respectively. She chaired the Cork Camogie Board from 1968 to 1977 and coached Cork teams to win All-Ireland minor, junior and senior titles.

She served Munster Council as Treasurer, Chairperson and President. She was secretary of Munster and All-Ireland Colleges Councils for 32 years and was President of the All-Ireland Colleges Council. Mary also filled the roles of National Coach, National PRO, Cork President and inter-county referee.

Mary was elected President of the Camogie Association in 1979. She is currently a trustee of the Camogie Association. As if all of the above didn't keep her busy enough Mary has written a number of books; The History of Munster Colleges Camogie, The history of All-Ireland Colleges Camogie, Cork's Camogie Story and Munster's Camogie Story.

Her record is phenomenal. Mary has seen so many changes in camogie over the years.

"There have been huge differences. The Munster and All-Ireland Colleges competitions were only getting off the ground. The Provincial and All-Ireland Minor championships had not started.

"There was no National League either. Players came into the Cork senior panel with much less camogie behind them than today's players.

"Now players have five years of colleges camogie and most go through four years of Ashbourne/Purcell cup competitions at third level.

"There are also inter-county minor, junior and senior B competitions there to prepare a player for senior level. The National League is there to provide experience before competing in the senior championship."

Outside of the structure camogie now has in place the style and skill level has changed dramatically in the past 35 years.

"The game was 12-aside and was played more on the ground then. The girls of the seventies were much better strikers of the ground ball than today's players.

"There have been players of great natural ability. Players like Liz Garvan, Pat Moloney and Marie Costine would get their place on the present team but many others would not come near."

How has training differed?

"Today's players train much harder. They start in late January and work three times a week until the All-Ireland. In my time the Cork senior championship was played in April and May. When it was finished the county panel got down to training.

"The girls had a more active lifestyle back then-they walked or cycled everywhere. Now all the girls arrive to training in cars. Going to the gym, watching the diet, ice baths etc were unheard of.

"Players today have reached a high standard of skill. Every senior inter-county player is a fine exponent of camogie. The matches are played on first class surfaces, after-match meals are provided and medical care is available to treat injuries."

Keane has a hand in all the



LINDA MELLERICK

MASSEUSE to the Cork senior camogie team for the past three years, Rose Keane (Mackey) is one of the backroom team often mentioned in captain's speeches after games.

Why? Because while they might not be to the forefront on the big days the work they do behind the scenes is immeasurable.

Heavily steeped in camogie herself for many years Rose was selector to the Cork senior Camogie team from 1992 to 1999.

Twice during that period Cork aimed for three in-a-row of All-Ireland titles, but lost each time in 1994 and 1999, and Rose is hoping it's a case of third time lucky.

Having worked for 16 or 17 years in shipping, Rose gave up her job to become a full-time mum to her two children, Orla and Cathal.

She then decided to do something she always wanted to and commenced studying Therapeutic Massage, Aromatherapy and sports injuries.

Rose is very good at what she does and being so heavily involved in sport word spread quickly.

Three years ago Fiona O'Driscoll asked Rose if she would be interested in becoming the Cork team's masseuse.

In Rose's own words 'I was delighted, thrilled to be asked'.

Rose is more than a masseuse to the Cork player's.

She's their friend and confidante. The table in the area off the dressing room is where players talk openly; so much so that it has been christened 'The diary room'.

Rose is 'loving every minute' of her role as she explains.

"From the days that I was involved in teams as a selector you don't have the same relationship with the players as you do in the position I'm in now.

"The first year when I started I went in a bit apprehensive and nervous and would have gone in with the same attitude that I did as a selector, but you get to know the players on a different wavelength.

"The players come in there in the evening and you have to take your hat off to them.

Sept. 2007

TOMORROW, ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL, CORK V WEXFORD, CROKE PARK 4.00

Old hand

Veteran is used to the big day



LINDA MELLERICK

CORK forward Una O'Donoghue has been a regular on the senior team since her introduction to the panel in the late 90s.

At just 26 she would be one of the longest serving members of the current panel. In 1992, at 21, Una captained Cork to All-Ireland success.

It's an honour she still believes she was very lucky to have and Una is happy to still be a part of the side today.

"I think I was very lucky at the time as Cork were going through a bad patch from 1999 to 2001 and again we lost in 2003 and 2004, so I was lucky enough to be captain when we did win in 2002."

While always a forward Una has been shifted in and out of various positions up front.

Currently she is placed at right-half-forward and as a runner it's a position she enjoys the most.

"Yeah, I found playing inside a bit restrictive. I prefer to be out on the wing and take the defence on if I can, but you know yourself you'll take any position if you're given it on the first 15."

Cork's forward division have a tough task ahead of them on Sunday.

Wexford's defence are tall, strong and fast. Any delay in the supply going in will tip the balance in their favour.



Cork player, Una O'Donoghue, with teammates Emer Farrell (left) and Sarah Hayes take time out for a photo after a team training session in Ballinlough. Picture: Damien Quirke

GEMMA O'CONNOR: ST FINBARRS
Occupation: Member of Defence Forces

Gemma O Connor captains the side following on her club St Finbarrs victory in the Cork county championship final in 2006; she is the first player from her club to lead a Cork Senior team.

Gemma was named on the All Star Camogie team in 2004, 2005 and 2006 and she is the holder of all Ireland minor and senior championship honours and was recipient of the Irish Examiner young player of the year in 2002.

Her Uncle Bill Geaney captained Cork to All Ireland minor hurling championship title in 1974, while her brother Glenn was a member of the Cork minor panel who contest the minor final last Sunday.

Gemma represented Cork in Feile Na Gael skills in 1998 and she is also the holder of senior and junior national league medals as well as provincial honours. She won her first senior county championship medal last year. A member of the defence forces with whom she has served overseas, Gemma was named as Camogie player of the year in 2005.

JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN: CLOUGHDUV
Occupation: Just completed her Masters in UCC/Sports Coach

Captained the side to the All-Ireland title last year.

Joanne is in her seventh season on the senior team, she has minor, intermediate and senior All Ireland Championship medals to her credit as well as Ashbourne Cup and Gael Linn honours, holds three Cork senior county championship medals with her club Cloughduv, also an accomplished hockey player who has represented Munster.

Joanne has spent the last twelve months coaching in primary schools through the county and hopes to take up full-time employment after the All Ireland final

AOIFE MURRAY: CLOUGHDUV
Occupation: Quantity Surveyor

Aoife has Junior, Intermediate, Minor and Senior medals as well as Munster championship to her credit.

Holds three Cork county senior championship medals with Cloughduv whom she captained in 2005 to their third title

Underage championship honours have also come her way. She is sister of former Cork inter county senior hurler Kevin Murray who won an All-Ireland medal with Cork in 1999.

MARY O'CONNOR: KILLEAGH
Occupation: National Camogie Development Officer

Mary works with the camogie association as development organiser. She was previously a Gaelic Games under age coach with the East Cork GAA board. Also a well known footballer and played a big part in helping ladies win the All Irelands title last year.

Holds Senior All Ireland medals and national league as well as county provincial and All Ireland club medals with the Granagh-Ballingarry club, where she played for many years during her years working and studying in Limerick. Was selected as the overall winner of the S6/103fm Rochestown Park Hotel awards following her performance in the All Ireland and National league final last year

RENA BUCKLEY: INNISCARRA
Occupation: Student in UCD

Studying physiotherapy in Dublin, Rena is also a member of the Cork ladies football team and won All Ireland senior, national league and provincial medals in the sport.

Won her second senior All-Ireland medal last year when Cork defeated Tipperary. The holder of All-Ireland minor medals as well as intermediate and Junior Munster championship medals. In her fourth year on the senior team, was selected on the Colleges centenary All-Star team and is also a dual All Star.

Was named as The Corkman/ Springfort Hall sports person of the year in 2006

BRIEGE CORKERY: CLOUGHDUV
Occupation: Stonemason

Briege is the holder of three Cork county senior championship medals, as well as minor, intermediate and senior All-Ireland and Munster honours.

Is also a prominent footballer and won an All-Ireland medal at senior level. She has numerous underage honours in both camogie and football.

Was named as national female sports person of the year in 2005, following superb performances both in camogie and football. Has also received a Jury's award and All-star honours

RACHEL MOLONEY: COURCEY ROVERS
Occupation: Nutritionist

Holds Ashbourne cup medals with UCC, as well as minor and senior all Ireland championship honours with Cork. Has won inter-provincial honours with Munster and is the holder of All-Ireland honours at senior, intermediate junior and minor levels as well as provincial honours

AMANDA O'REGAN: DOUGLAS:
Occupation: Teacher

A school teacher and former student at University of Limerick with whom she won three Ashbourne cup medals. She is the holder of All Ireland minor, junior and senior medals.

Also has to her credit provincial honours at junior and under18 level. She is also an accomplished basketball player and a member of the Irish squad.

Father Michael won All Ireland minor football medal while mother Christine is the holder of Junior All Ireland medals.

ANNA GEARY: MILFORD
Occupation: Business Studies Student in UL

Is the holder of three All-Ireland minor championship medals in a row, captaining the side in 2003.

Holds two senior All-Ireland medals and has amongst her collection ten All-Ireland colleges medals with St Mary's Charleville. Has won underage and senior B championship medals with Milford. Anna was the Centenary Camogie Ambassador for Cork Secondary Schools and was named as on the Colleges All-Star team of 2004 and on the Camogie All-stars in 2005 & 2006.

Player of the Match in last years All Ireland Final, Anna captained the Cork minor team in 2003 to All Ireland title

JENNIFER O'LEARY: BARRYROE
Occupation: PE Teacher

Captained University of Limerick to Ashbourne Cup in 2005, Jennifer was chosen on the All Star team of 2004, 2005 and 2006 and is the holder of All Ireland medals at senior, minor and intermediate level.

She has represented Munster at senior level and is the holder of Gael Linn honours, also has amongst her collection senior B championship, and All Ireland colleges medals.

EMER DILLON: BALLYGARVAN
Occupation: Pharmacist

Was selected as Player of the Match by the Sunday Game panel in the 2005 All Ireland senior final, Eimear is also a prominent hockey player and has represented both Munster and Ireland in hockey.

Emer won a senior county championship medal with Carrigdhoun and also holds junior and under age championship medals with Ballygarvan. Holds All Ireland senior, intermediate and minor medals as well as inter provincial honours and all Star awards

UNA O'DONOGHUE: CLOUGHDUV
Occupation: Food Analyst

Captained Cork to All Ireland glory in 2002 and also led her club to their first senior county championship title in 2001. Is the holder of Ashbourne Cup and league honours with UCC, as well as All Ireland senior and national league medals with Cork.

She has also won three senior county championship medals, as well as under age honours with Cloughduv.

ANGELA WALSH: KILLEAGH
Occupation: PE Teacher

Holds two All Ireland senior camogie and ladies football Angela is a P.E student and is the holder of county junior championship honours with Killeagh. Was a prominent member of the Cork ladies football and camogie team's that took national league titles last season.

ELAINE BURKE; VALLEY ROVERS
Occupation: Solicitor

Elaine captained the Cork team to the All-Ireland title in the 2005 season. She is the holder of Senior and Junior All Ireland medals, senior national league with Cork and Ashbourne cup and league medals with UCC. As well she has won Senior and junior county championship honours with Carrigdhoun and her club Valley Rovers. Elaine is also a keen golfer.

CATRIONA FOLEY: ROCKBAN
Occupation: Student in UCC

Was introduced in the senior final of 2003 when Cork lost out to Tipperary. Made a successful recovery from a knee operation which sidelined her for most of 2005.

She is the holder of All-Ireland senior and minor medals as well as provincial honours at minor, junior and intermediate. Holds Junior B county championship medal with her club, is also an accomplished footballer with her club and county. She was a member of the panel in last year's All-Ireland final win.

Father Dan Joe won all Ireland minor and under 21 honours.

EMER WATSON; MILFORD
Occupation: Student Mary Immaculate College

Holds All-Ireland colleges honours with St Mary's Charleville as well as All Ireland minor and intermediate medals. Has won championship medals with her club from under 16 to Senior B grade. Mother Ann is the holder of an All-Ireland medal with Limerick in Junior won in 1977.

SILE BURNS : ROCKBAN
Occupation: Physiotherapist

Daughter of former Cork senior hurler Denis Burns who won All-Ireland medals with Cork.

Sile is the holder of All-Ireland minor and intermediate medals as well as Sciath Na Scoil under age honours with Scoil Oilibheir Dublin Hill where mother Phil is vice principal.

ORLA COTTER: ST CATHERINE'S
Occupation: Just Completed Leaving Cert

In her second year on the senior panel, made her debut against Galway in the semi-final. A Leaving Cert student in Loreto College, Fermoy, Orla captained the Cork minor team last year. Holds honours with her club from under 14 to junior championship and won an All-Ireland under 16 medal in 2003 and won her first senior medal last season when introduced in the final against Tipp. She also holds provincial honours with Cork and has won All-Ireland junior colleges honours as well as senior and junior national league medals.Became the only player to

SEPT. 2007



Cork senior camogie players, Emer Watson, Elaine Burke, Regina Curtin, Marie O'Neill, and Eimear O'Sullivan after a training session at Ballinlough.

Picture: Damien Quirke

Stella hopes for change of fortune

By LINDA MELLERICK

STELLA SINNOTT **(pictured)** doesn't have happy memories of her three final appearances as a player at Croke Park.

As a Wexford senior, Stella lost to Kilkenny, Cork and Kilkenny in the 1990, 1992 and 1994 finals respectively.

"I remember when we reached the All-Ireland in 1994, a work colleague of mine said: "It's fantastic that you're in the final' and my response to him was: 'Not if you lose'.

"The loss is so heartbreaking that you wish you'd lost the semi-final or even the first round."



Stella is hoping to erase those memories when she returns as Wexford manager on Sunday.

Holder of three All-Ireland club medals with Buffers Alley in the 80s, Stella was a fast, whippet of a player.

She retired from inter-county camogie in 1997 and played on with her club for another five years.

She became a selector with Wexford in 2005 and when the opportunity arose to take over as manager this year she 'was coaxed into it.' The players are thrilled she made the decision.

Wexford go to Croke Park for the first time in 13 years and Stella is one of the main reasons why.

What Wexford lacked in the past was organisation, direction, self belief and success. Even before they take to the field tomorrow they've achieved all of the above in 2007.

Beaten by a last minute point by Cork in the National League final, they proceeded to take the scalp of the 'big guns' throughout the round-robin championship series.

Stella describes their year to date. "After last year, when we failed to quality for the All-Ireland semi-final, I knew a tough job lay ahead.

"We began training in November. We did the heavy side of the training and we said we'd see how we'd go in the league. Come April and May we concentrated on skill.

"We've had a few ups and downs along the way, namely losing the league final and our last championship game against Tipp, but in a sense that was a wake up call I'm glad we got."

Considering that this Wexford team is very young, will the occasion get to the players?

"That would be one of the fears alright and we have factored that into our preparation. We're doing a lot of work in that regard."

Where does she think Cork's strengths lie?

"Cork are far sharper now that they were when we defeated them back in May. They look a completely different outfit. I know Fiona O'Driscoll, she will leave no stone unturned.

"The team look very drilled. It's hard for Cork in a sense, going for three in-a-row.

"Trying to stay sharp is always an issue. They are very strong up the middle. "Breige Corkery is their dynamo at centre field.

"She will work all day long. Gemma O'Connor alongside her is excellent and I think that Amanda O'Regan is one of Cork's best players.

"She is just so commanding at corner back. Then you have Cork's forwards who are always strong."

If Wexford perform though, they will match Cork in key positions. They go into the game as underdogs, a tag all managers love to have.

"Yeah, we're underdogs alright. From the point of view that Cork are going for three in-a-row they would have to be favourites."

Stella would dearly love to walk out of Croke Park for once feeling exhilarated. "It would be nice to get a medal. I know the pain of losing an All-Ireland final. I'd prefer not to feel it on Sunday."

Aoife Murray, Mary O'Connor, Amanda O'Regan, Anna Geary, Rena Buckley, Joanne O'Callaghan and Catriona Foley are the unit who have held firm under pressure all season.

It's vital that they hold the Wexford attack at bay. I feel this is going to be the key area and could be where the game will be won and lost.

If the Cork defence can gain the upper hand from the throw-in the confidence will grow through the team.

Wexford hit Galway for a massive 2-18, but conceded 14 points.

I can't see them being allowed strike 18 points by this Cork defence. If they do Cork are in trouble.

The ease with which Galway scored 14 points may point to weaknesses in the Wexford defence.

Up front the Cork forwards have proved themselves. They will have to take on the Wexford defence from the start and get early scores on the board.

Cork have the names for the big occasion. Gemma O' Connor, Briege Corkery and Jennifer O' Leary are amongst the finest camogie players in the country.

Emer Dillon is playing well, while the hard working Angela Walsh and Una O Donoghue will test the Wexford defence to its limits at every opportunity.

On the sideline Cork will have their plans made in advance for every event. They will have studied Wexford and know what to expect.

Fiona, John and their fellow selectors Lillian and Mary have everything under control. They have put in a huge effort and have worked hard through the winter months.

With the provincial and national league titles safely tucked away their last task remains on Sunday.

It's the third time this season the sides have met. Wexford came out on top in the league clash on the opening day of the season.

While in the league final Cork lived dangerously and had to pull out all the stops to stay in contention before Jennifer O' Leary secured the title for Cork with an injury time pointed free.

In the first game in the round-robin series of the All-Ireland championship Wexford hammered Cork.

The success of 2005 and 2006 has been forgotten by Cork. It's a whole new ball game this weekend.

Wexford are young and lively and full of running.

Cork are the experienced campaigners with players such as Mary O' Connor who is bidding for her sixth senior medal.

They have youth such as youngster Orla Cotter, who is lining our in her first final, as is Sile Burns. The title is very much up for grabs.

Wexford are hungry for success, while Cork the wise old heads battle to stay top of the pile.

A prediction? Close to call, but I will stick with Cork, their experience should be enough to carry them through what is gearing up to be the best final in years.

Rebels' classy victories

"They've come straight from work or college to a training session, which is very intense.

"You get to know the players personally. There are nights I'd come home and I'd actually be thinking about the players, how they're getting on with different things."

The camaraderie within the camp is excellent and it has to be if Cork hope to make it three in-a-row tomorrow.

A broad smile crosses Rose's face as she talks about the girls.

"Ah, the crack is mighty. We have a great laugh in 'the diary room'.

"It's a place where the players unwind before they head out onto the pitch and the serious business begins.

"They train very hard."

On the other side of the coin you've the games; the reason everyone is there and Rose says that there certainly isn't any craic before them.

"The players are very focused. That's a different ball game. The players have tunnel vision and are in match mode."

Rose has great respect for the panel of players she looks after day in and day out during the season.

Trying to get deep into the heart of the camp I put it to Rose that surely it can't all be rosy in the garden all of the time.

There has to be some little bit of bitchiness now and again??

"Where you've women you're always going to get a bit of bitchiness", laughs Rose.

"Actually with men you get it too. But you know the bitchiness can be in the form of a banter too and light hearted.

"The players genuinely look out for each other and respect each other and with so many different clubs involved it's great.

"I suppose to epitomise it, if I thought that my own daughter was one of these girls in a few years, I'd be dead proud and I mean that sincerely.

"The girl's parents can be very proud of them."

Rose is as nervous ahead of tomorrow as any of the players.

This is a big day for her too. She has a lot of work to do ahead of the game making sure everything is in place and the players are feeling as good as they possibly can, as they run out on the tunnel onto the hallow ground of Croke Park.

Hopefully, she will have them in peak condition, free from worry and focussed on the task at hand of beating Wexford. Then the craic can start again.

The Cork All-Ireland winning camogie team of 1982



The Cork All-Ireland senior winning camogie team of 1982 who will be honoured in Croke Park tomorrow.

Class of '82 to be honoured

TOMORROW is the biggest day of the year for camogie in Ireland with Cork meeting Wexford in the All-Ireland final in Croke Park.

It will also be a marvellous occasion for the Cork team that won back-to-back senior titles in 1982 and 1983.

They will be re-united and honoured at the fabulous stadium they graced a quarter of a century ago.

Back then, under the guidance of trainer/coach Tom Nott, they started their 1982 campaign with a comprehensive win over Tipperary in the Munster final at St Finbarr's Grounds, where it finished 4-12 to 0-4 with the main scorers being Mary O'Leary with (1-5),Val Fitzpatrick (2-0) and Ger McCarthy (1-1).

Cork met great rivals Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final in Nowlan Park and the Leesiders built up a good half-time lead 3-5 to 0-6.

But an outstanding performance from the homeside's brilliant free taker Angela Downey saw her contribute 1-10 and in the end the sides finished level and so they faced a replay in Ballinlough.

This time it was The Cats, who got the great start and despite a goal from captain Pat Lenihan (Moloney), the homeside trailed 3-6 to 1-2 at the half-time whistle.

But Cork scored goals through Mary O'Leary, Marion Sweeney and Mary Geaney to force extra-time in an epic draw.

Roared on by brilliant home support and the introduction of teenager Sandy Fitzgibbon Cork got the upper hand.

Lenihan scored her second goal with the outstanding Mary O'Leary adding two points to send their side through to a final meeting with Dublin.

Cork were favourites after beating Kilkenny, but The Dubs, who were seeking a first title in 16 years led at the break by 2-5 to 1-3.

But again well led by skipper Pat Lenihan, who contributed 1-1 and the prolific Mary O'Leary with 1-6, they helped their side to the narrowest of victories, 2-7 to 2-6 it finished to give Cork the title.

The following season the holders easily defeated Wexford 1-14 to 0-4 in the All-Ireland semi-final and again they had a very tight encounter against a good Dublin side before two brilliant goals from Val Fitzpatrick and Claire Kelleher gave Cork the 1983 All-Ireland senior camogie title on a scoreline of Cork 2-5 Dublin 1-6.

The squad that won in 1982 ia as follows as in the official team photograph.

Liz Lynch (Douglas)
corner back

A very close marking defender who was always reliable and a fine squad member, who was a substitute in both final wins over Dublin.

Also regarded as the quiet member of the team.

Angela Higgins (Watergrasshill)
midfield

Another substitute for both deciders due to a bad run of injuries, she came on in the 1983 decider.

A quick player, who created many scores for others, she later in her career played as a forward and went on to be a selector for the Cork camogie team.

Angela is a PE teacher in Glanmire Community school.

Claire Cronin (Old Als)
wing centre-field

Had two brilliant seasons winning the 'Player of the Year' in both All-Ireland winning campaigns.Was a tremendous bundle of energy in midfield and was well able to take scores. She works in the CUH in the dental department and lives in Kilumney.

Val Fitzpatrick (Glen Rovers)
forward or midfield.

A very strong player and was great to take on defenders and feed the ball to her forwards. Scored a brilliant goal in the 1983 final sending a 25-yard shot to the net. Lives today in Boston where she played camogie until recently and is looking forward to meeting up this weekend with friends.

Ger McCarthy (Glen Rovers)
wing-forward

A brilliant squad member who played in '82 and was a substitute in'83. A very skilful player who still plays today with Sliabh Rua and played on the same team as her teenage daughter in this years Junior championship. Lives in Riverstick.

Eileen Dineen (Éire Óg)
full-back

Was a top class defender who had a great understanding with club mate and Cork goalkeeper Marion McCarthy and was outstanding in both wins against Dublin. Eileen is married and lives in Aherla.

Noelle O'Driscoll (Éire Óg)
full-forward

A substitute in both deciders when she was a student at UCC. Later won All Ireland medals with great rivals Kilkenny after moving to Callan where she teaches. Lives today in Kilkenny city.

Sandy Fitzgibbon (Glen Rovers)
midfield

One of the greatest sports women ever to come out of Cork. Was a teenager coming in as a substitute in '82 and played in '83. Went on to win six All Ireland medals with county, was voted player of the year in 1992 and 1995, as well as being selected at wing back on the 'Team of the Century in 2004. She had great energy and pace and would cover acres of space. Was also a basketball star, representing her country on many occasions and still plays locally today. Lives in Cork and works as a Product development Technician with Fournier Laboratories Ireland in Carrigtwohill.

Ann Delaney (Glen Rovers)
Corner back

A left hander who was a very good marker of opposition forwards and a great reader of the game. Married to Diarmuid O'Donovan, who has trained the Cork minor football team to Munster success, and mother of Donal Óg who captained Cork to U21 Munster football title in 2004. Ann teaches and is also assistant principal in St Aidan's School, she and the family live in Ballyvolane.

Claire Kelleher (Éire Óg)
Corner forward

Was the hero in 1983 scoring that famous winning goal, gathering the ball she raced past Dublin defenders before belting home a brilliant score. It was her first year involved and that score saw her collect her only senior All Ireland medal. Married Claire lives in Templemichael.

Mary O'Leary (Watergrasshill)
corner forward

The prolific scorer and the star who others relied on for vital match winning goals and points. A sister of Cork star hurling forward Seán,Mary scord 1-6 of Cork's 2-7 in the 1983 win over Dublin, she was also an outstanding footballer, winning All-Ireland club medals with Watergrasshill.

One of the most popular players in the team as a great character she lifed the spirits in the dressingroom and is one of the organisers of the teams weekend get together. Lives today in Midleton.

Marion McCarthy (Éire Óg)
goalkeeper

Won eight All Ireland medals and after starting her career in midfield,she turned out to be a most reliable goalkeeper and someone the team always depended on.

She coaches the game today at underage level in Ballinhassig where she lives.

Pat Lenihan (Killeagh)
wing-forward

The inspirational captain in 1982 when she scored two goals in the extra-time replay win over Kilkenny and with Mary O'Leary the only scorers in the final win over Dublin, when she scored 1-1. A player who was very fast off the mark and was a great motivator for those around her, she won seven All-Ireland medals before moving to work with husband Eammon in Bangladesh. She lives today in Military Hill and lectures on Applied social science at UCC.

Cathy Landers (Killeagh)
corner-back

Outstanding leader who lifted the O'Duffy Cup as the 1983 captain. Cathy was a big influence on that team as a very dependable defender and good forward marker, lives in Killeagh and married to Waterford man Seán Hannedy.

With Mary O'Leary the other organiser of this weekends re-union.

Marion Sweeney (Killeagh)
corner-forward

Scored a goal in the 1982 semi-final win over Kilkenny, a very pacey player with a tremendous work rate. Is like a number of the squad a fine golfer,plays off a five handicap in Youghal and Fota. Marion is joint owner of the Old Thatch public house in Killeagh where she lives.

Martha Kearney (Na Piarsaigh)
corner-back

A very good defender who had tremendous skill,very reliable in the full back line and a great reader of the game.

Living in Jersey for over ten years and will be unable to attend the re-union due to work commitments.

Miriam Higgins (Éire Óg)
defender

A tall resolute back who was a very strong marker and who gave all for the team. Another good golfer who plays in Bandon, where she lives and is married to Con Murphy. She later became a selector as Cork won All Ireland glory in 1992 and 1993.Miriam works in the tax office in Cork as an Inspector.

Mary Geaney (Éire Óg)
full-forward

After scoring a goal in the 1982 semi-final victory, she missed the final as she opted to play as the Irish international hockey goalkeeper in a World Cup qualifier in Durham. She returned to play in 1983 win, a great passer and scorer for the team. A shop owner in Castleisland from where she travelled for training and matches for club and county without receiving expenses.

Tom Nott (Na Piarsaigh)
trainer/coach

Did a great job as coach between 1978-1983 and returned to bring more All Ireland glory in 1995.A trainer with good ideas who worked on the skills of the game and believed in ground hurling. Living and married in Cork city Tom is full time games promotions officer with Munster Council and Cork county board.

His sister Mary Nott (Glen Rovers) was a selector as were Mary Malone (Éire Óg), Síle Spillane and Bridie Landers and the late Mary O'Callaghan RIP.

Netminder makes 2,000km training trips

ONE leading Cork camogie player, has been clocking up more than 2,000 kilometres a month to make it to training.

Goalkeeper Aoife Murray, a Dunmanway native, has been living in Dublin for 14 months working with Property Consultants Savills Hamilton Osborne King. She has clocked up thousands of kilometres as she's travelled back and forth to Cork every weekend for training with the team.

While she's found the journeys tiring, she's delighted to be at the final hurdle for another title.

"I've been driving down every weekend on Friday evenings but you get used to it. I knew when I moved up here I would be making that commitment so I've got to accept that."

Although she has been missing Cork's mid-week sessions she has kept herself busy training for football with St Bridget's in Dublin.

"The last while the other Cork keeper Ellen Clifford has been in Dublin two days a week so it's been brilliant to have her here so we can do a bit together."

Aoife, the youngest of 11 children, has been keeper since 1998.

"I think to be a good goalie you need to be relaxed and trust your backline. We have a good defence and I've Joanne O'Callaghan in front of me who I've been playing with since I was 10."

And what of Wexford — the team who block three in a row?

"I think we're 50/50 now and they've made great strides so it could be a great game."



Aoife Murray, Cork camogie goalkeeper, who lives and works in Dublin. Picture: Paul Sharp

Wexford boss looking for a Stellah showing

Cliona Foley

Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie final. Cork v Wexford, Tomorrow, 4.0, Croke Park, J Morrissey (Tipperary).

EVERYTHING depends on their mental strength and focus.

That's the verdict of Wexford manager Stellah Sinnott on the side she leads into the unknown tomorrow against defending two in-a-row champions Cork, in the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie final.

It is Wexford's first final since 1994, when Sinnott herself was playing and the only surviving player is corner-back Avis Nolan.

Optimistic

None of her players were even born the last time Wexford won this title 32 years ago, yet Sinnott has good reason to be optimistic.

Wexford beat Cork twice in three meetings this year, though Sinnott discounts their earlier round-robin championship victory (4-12 to 0-14) on the basis that Cork are now playing at a much faster pace.

Yet Wexford only lost their league final meeting by a point in the dying minutes and clearly have the capacity to put it up to the all-conquering Rebelettes who are bidding for three in-a-row in their seventh final in eight years.

"I reckon we are able to match Cork in every sector of the field, our skill level is definitely as high as theirs," Sinnott said.

"But psychologically this is a big test for us. Cork are so experienced, they've been here so often and there are bound to be nerves on our side, but the big thing for us is to channel those in the right direction."

Sinnott sought fitness advice from Derval O'Rourke's coach Jim Kilty and trainer Eddie Flynn (a former professional Riverdancer) is another cog in a new back-room team credited with making the breakthrough this season after several near-misses.

Two-time All-star Kate Kelly, an All-Ireland U-16 winner in 1995, is the star of the attack.

Whopping

She scored a whopping 1-11 (1-5 from play) in their semi-final defeat of Galway and the selection of 400m hurdler Bronagh Furlong, at half-forward, indicates she will also help out in midfield.

Other Wexford leaders are centre-back captain Mary Leacy, Aine Codd, former All-star Catherine O'Loughlin, Michelle O'Leary and Michelle Hearne and, like Cork, they also have a handful of players chasing a double in the All-Ireland Intermediate football



→ FAVE MEAL
Skewered prawns with sweet chilli sauce, followed by pan-fried sirloin steak with pepper sauce on the side, accompanied by potatoes, carrots, broccoli and mange tout. For dessert, I'd go for banoffi pie.

→ LOVES
Fruit, vegetables, chocolate

→ DISLIKES
Herbs, cloves, most Indian dishes

How does Aine's diet rate?

"Aine starts the day off with a healthy breakfast of Weetabix, milk and a glass of orange juice. For the second part of her breakfast she has brown bread and butter.

"This breakfast will provide her with plenty of carbohydrates and both the cereal and milk are fortified with vitamins and minerals.

"For lunch, Aine has a variety of salads which is a great way to help her reach her five-a-day quota, and the chicken will provide protein.

"She also has almonds with her lunch. These are a great source of the good polyunsaturated fats, and research is showing that eating a handful a day can help reduce cholesterol. Aine has a small chocolate bar after lunch which is fine.

"In the afternoon, she eats plenty of fruit and has a flapjack on her way to training. It is important to eat a healthy balanced diet to provide all the nutrients needed to take part in sport. Aine is doing a great job.

"Timing of meals around workouts is just as important as what you eat, if you want to keep your energy levels up.

"For the first two hours after exercise, muscles can refuel their glycogen stores twice as fast as normal, so it's important to eat carbohydrate-containing foods as soon as possible.

"Many different foods contain carbohydrates. The richest sources are bread, rice, pasta, cereals and potatoes. Aine's evening meal of pasta, chicken and tomato sauce is a good choice in this respect.

"Hydration is also very important to help you perform well and Aine drinks plenty of water throughout the day, as well as milk and tea."

Dr Patricia Heavey, consultant nutritionist, Wilson Hartnell Public Relations

Husband and wife leading kids to glory

GALA All-Ireland Junior Camogie Final: Clare v Derry, 12. noon, Croke Park, C Egan (Cork).

BOTH of this year's junior finalists have lost a decider to Dublin in the last two years, most recently Derry, who are, uniquely, managed by a husband and wife team, Padraig and Susan O'Mianain.

Clare O'Doherty, Claire O'Kane and particularly Katie McAuley are the Derry stars to watch while Clare, led by veteran stars Deirdre Murphy and Catherine O'Loughlin, feature eight minors and have the combination of youth and experience to nick it.

TOP SCORERS

		Goals	Pts from Frees	Pts from '45s	Pts from Play	Total Goals	Total Points	Overall Points
Claire Grogan	Tipperary	2	16	3	15	2	34	40
Kate Kelly	Wexford	1	20	4	13	1	37	40
Veronica Curtin	Galway	2	15	7	6	2	28	34
Jennifer O'Leary	Cork	2	12		10	2	22	28
Aisling Jordan	Dublin	3	9	2	7	3	18	27
Una Leacy	Wexford	4			11	4	11	23
Ursula Jacob	Wexford	2	1		16	2	17	23
Michelle Hearne	Wexford	5			1	5	1	16
Sarah Ryan	Dublin	5				5	0	15
Marie Dargan	Kilkenny	3			5	3	5	14

Sept. 2007

Gala All Ireland Senior & Junior Camogie Finals

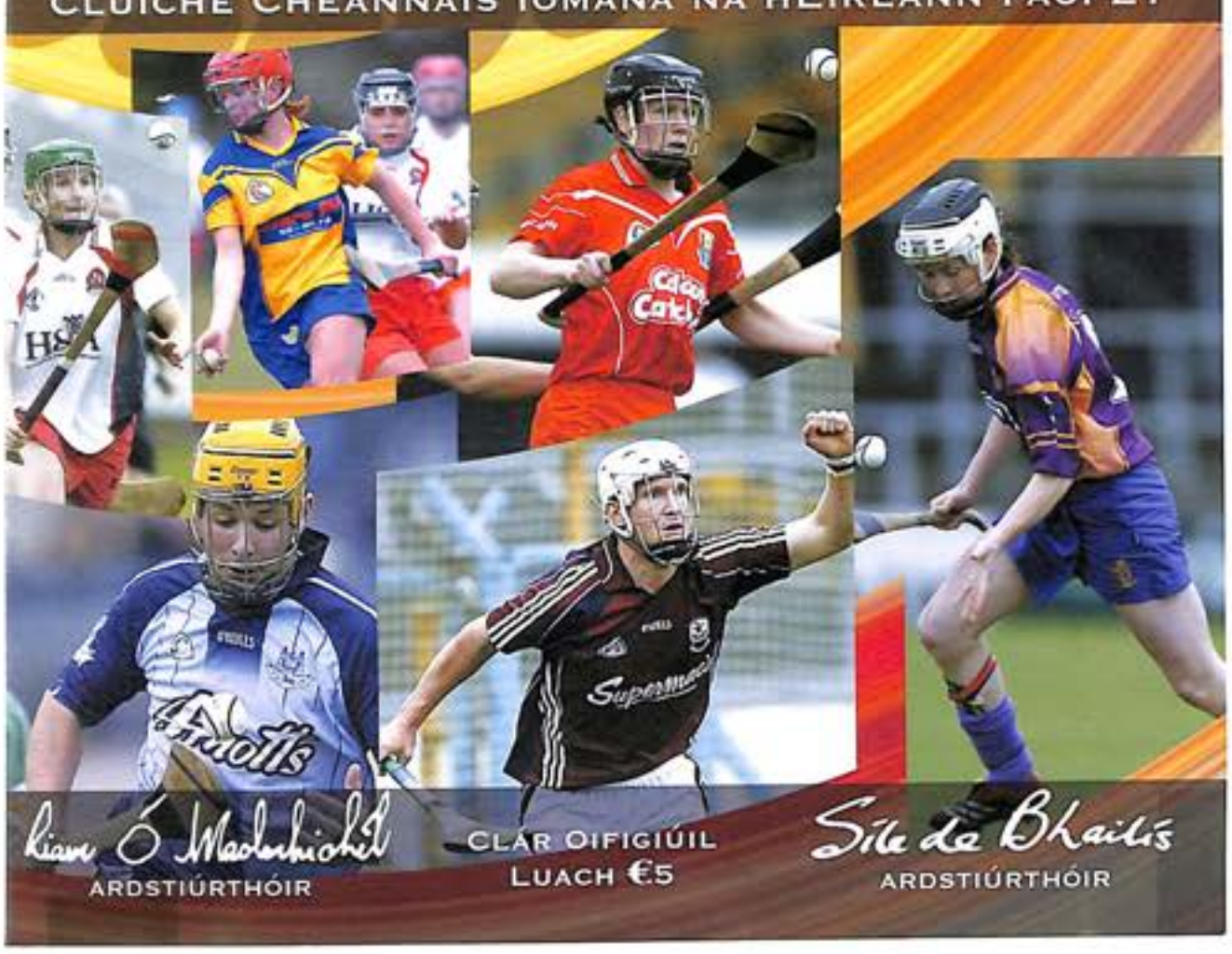
All Ireland Under 21 Hurling Final

Gala
Everything and More!

Páirc an Chrócaigh
9ú Meán Fómhair, 2007

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael
& Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

Cluichí Cheannais na hÉireann sa Chamógaíocht
Cluiche Cheannais Iomána na hÉireann Faoi 21



Liam Ó Maoluhichid
ARDSTIÚRTHÓIR

CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL
LUACH €5

Síle de Bhailís
ARDSTIÚRTHÓIR

ROLL OF HONOUR

Dublin	26
Cork	22
Kilkenny	12
Antrim	6
Tipperary	5
Wexford	3
Galway	1

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FINAL MEETINGS

1968	Wexford	4-02	Cork	2-05
1971	Cork	4-06	Wexford	1-02
1975	Wexford	4-03	Cork	1-02
1992	Cork	1-20	Wexford	2-06

PATHS TO THE FINALS

Gala All-Ireland Senior Championship Round 1

Dublin	6-07	1-07	Kilkenny
Cork	0-14	4-12	Wexford
Galway	1-10	3-12	Tipperary

Gala All-Ireland Senior Championship Round 2

Galway	1-12	1-04	Kilkenny
Wexford	2-10	0-08	Dublin
Tipperary	1-06	0-11	Cork

Gala All-Ireland Senior Championship Round 3

Galway	0-08	1-10	Cork
Dublin	1-07	0-15	Tipperary
Wexford	1-20	4-05	Kilkenny

Gala All-Ireland Senior Championship Round 4

Kilkenny	1-04	4-16	Cork
Tipperary	1-17	0-11	Wexford
Dublin	1-08	0-13	Galway

Gala All-Ireland Senior Championship Round 5

Kilkenny	2-14	0-16	Tipperary
Cork	3-11	1-03	Dublin
Wexford	3-13	0-11	Galway

Gala All-Ireland Senior Semi-finals

Cork	2-18	0-14	Tipperary
Wexford	2-11	0-09	Galway

THE O'DUFFY CUP

The O'Duffy Cup is named after one of the founders of the Association Seán O'Duffy from Cill a' Bhaile, Co. Mayo. When he held the position as Timire (national organiser) of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, he, with the support of the Ardcomhairle, established an All- Ireland camogie competition. His contribution to the establishment and growth of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael is immense, and it is fitting that the Senior Trophy bears his name. In 1932 he presented the first O'Duffy Cup, designed and made by Margaret Meredith. The new cup still bears his name and was commissioned recently.



Na Réiteoirí

Cluiche Ceannais Sinsear na hÉireann sa Chamógaíocht faoi urraíocht ag Gala

(4.00 pm) **CORCAIGH v LOCH GORMAN**

Réiteoir:	**JOHN MORRISSEY** *(Tiobraid Árann)*
Standby Referee:	**Frank McDonald** *(Ardmhacha)*
Line:	**Rita Coen** *(An Ghaillimh)*
Fourth Official:	**Una Kearney** *(Ardmhacha)*
Fifth Official:	**Rose Kelleher** *(Luimneach)*

A native of Clonmel John is chairman of the St. Mary's camogie club. He played hurling with St.Mary's up to minor level. John started his inter-county refereeing in career 1993.He has refereed at all levels and took charge of the All Ireland final in 1998 when Cork defeated Galway. This was the last twelve a side All Ireland.

A keen cyclist he is a member of the Clonmel Cycling Club.



Cluiche Ceannais Soisear na hÉireann sa Chamógaíocht faoi urraíocht ag Gala

(12 noon) **AN CLAR v DOIRE**



Réiteoir:	**CATHAL EGAN** *(Corcaigh)*
Standby Referee:	**Ciaran Quigley** *(Cill Dara)*
Line:	**Julie O'Neill** *(Ardmhacha)*
Fourth Official:	**Damian Noble** *(Áth Cliath)*
Fifth Official:	**Mike O'Kelly** *(Corcaigh)*

Cathal Egan is a member of the Glen Rovers Club. He became involved in camogie when his daughters started to play with the Glen. He took up refereeing in 2000 and became an inter-county referee in 2005. He refereed the All Ireland Senior Club Final and the All Ireland Junior Final in 2006. He has also refereed the Division 3 National League Final and the All Ireland Senior B Colleges Final. He is a keen sports fan and played hurling with the Glen. He plays golf and 5-a-side soccer.

THE NEW IRELAND CUP

The New Ireland Cup was presented by the New Ireland Assurance Company for the All-Ireland Junior Championship in 1968 to Ardrunai, Sighle Nic an Ultaigh.



SINSIR Wexford Profiles

MAGS DARCY
St. Martin's



Mags holds three Leinster senior Championship medals. Won Ashbourne Cup medal with UCD 2007 and was Leinster Poc Fada runnerup in 2007. Was a member of The Underdogs football squad 2006.

1

NOELEEN LAMBERT
St. Martin's



Noeleen won Leinster junior and senior Championships. Her brother Barry plays hurling for Wexford.

2

CATHERINE O'LOUGHLIN
Monageer/ Boolavogue



Catherine won an All-Ireland Junior Colleges medal with Coláiste Bríde Enniscorthy in 2000, Junior and senior Gael Linn Cup medals. Selected as an All Star 2005. Player of the Ashbourne Cup competition 2005.

3

AVIS NOLAN
Monageer/ Boolavogue



Avis won 3 Leinster senior Championship medals. The only current player who featured when Wexford contested the All Ireland in 1994.

4

ÁINE CODD
St. Martin's



Áine captained Wexford to All-Ireland U16 victory at1995 and was chosen Player of the Match. Holds 6 senior Leinster Championship medals and was chosen as an All Star in 2004. Her mother Kit (nee Kehoe) won All Ireland medals with Dublin and Wexford.

5

MARY LEACY *(Captain)*
Oulart/The Ballagh



Mary won two Féile na nGael and was captain in 1999, a Leinster U16, two Leinster junior, three Leinster Senior, two senior All Ireland Colleges with Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy, an Ashbourne Cup when she captained UCD and a Crokes Kilmacud Sevens All Ireland. She was selected on the All Star team in 2004 and represented Ireland in Shinty v Scotland in 2004 All Star 2004. All Star nominee 2005. Her mother Margaret (née O'Leary) won an All Ireland.
Mary is a member of the Wexford Ladies Football Intermediate team

6

DEIRDRE CODD
Duffry Rovers



Deirdre won an All-Ireland Senior medal with Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy. Holds one junior and three Championship medals. Represented Ireland in Shinty v Scotland in 2004.
She is first cousin to Louise

7

KATE KELLY
St. Ibar's



Kate won an All Ireland U16, five senior Leinster Championships, two Ashbourne Cup medals with WIT. Selected as an All Star in 2004 and 2006. A dual player she is on the Wexford intermediate that has qualified for the All Ireland final. Her mother, Peggy who won an All Ireland with Wexford.

8

CAROLINE MURPHY
Ferns St. Aidan's



Member of the Wexford Intermediate football squad, and captained the Leinster-winning Junior team in 2005. Holds one junior and two senior Leinster Championship medals. A dual player she is on the Wexford team that has qualified for the All Ireland final.

9

BRÓNA FURLONG
Duffry Rovers



Bróna holds U16 Leinster, three All Ireland senior Colleges with Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy. She represented Ireland in Shinty v Scotland in 2005. She is an international athlete and won the British AAA 400m (B) in Bedford in a personal best time of 61.03. She aims to make the Olympics in 2012.

10

ROSE-MARIE BREEN
Monageer/ Boolavogue



Rose-Marie won an U16 All Ireland, two junior and four senior Leinster Championships and a Gael Linn medal. Her mother Peggy won an All Ireland with Wexford.

11

MICHELLE O'LEARY
Rathnure



Michelle won an U16 All Ireland, an All Ireland senior club Championship, three Leinster senior club and six senior Leinster Championship medals.

12

UNA LEACY
Oulart/The Ballagh



Una won five All Ireland Féile na nGael medals, one junior and three senior All Ireland Colleges with Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy. She captained the junior team in 2004. She holds two Leinster junior and one senior Leinster Championship and won an Ashbourne Cup medal in 2007. She is sister to Mary who captains the side. Her mother Margaret (nee O Leary) won an All Ireland with Wexford and was selected on the team of the Century.

13

MICHELLE HEARNE
St. Ibar's



Michelle won an U16 All Ireland, two Leinster senior club Championships, six Leinster senior Championship medals. A dual player she is a member of the Wexford Intermediate team that has qualified for the All Ireland final.

14

URSULA JACOB
Oulart/The Ballagh



Ursula won two Féile na nGael, an U16 All Ireland, one junior and two senior Colleges All Irelands with Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy. She captained the senior team in 2004. She holds one Leinster senior Championship, an All Ireland Freshers with WIT and a Crokes All Ireland Sevens. She represented Ireland in Shinty v Scotland. Her sister Helena is on the panel, her father Mick was Wexford's first All Star and her brothers Rory and Michael play hurling for Wexford. Her mother Breege played for Wexford.

15

HELENA JACOB
Oulart/The Ballagh



Helena won a Leinster senior Championship, an Ashbourne Cup medal with WIT and a Crokes Kilmacud Sevens All Ireland. A sister to Una, hurlers Rory and Michael. Her parents Breege and Mick played for Wexford. Mick was the first Wexford hurler to win an All Ireland.

16

BRIDGET CURRAN
St. Ibar's



Bridget won one junior, three senior Leinster Championships, two Leinster Club Championships, one Gael Linn and is a member of the Wexford team that has qualified for the All Ireland final.

17

AOIFE O'CONNOR
Rathnure



Aoife holds an All-Ireland Senior Club Championship, three Leinster Senior Club Championship and three Leinster Senior Championship medals. Her father Teddy played for Wexford and her sisters Claire, Niamh and Ciara are on the panel.

18

LENNY HOLOHAN
Rathnure



Lenny won an All-Ireland Senior Club 1995, three Leinster Senior Club, six Leinster Senior Championship medals. Her twin sister Bernie is also on the panel.

19

KATRINA PARROCK
St. Martin's



Katrina is the youngest player on the panel she won a Leinster U14 and a Leinster senior Championship.
She is also a talented hockey, soccer and football player.

20

CLAIRE O'CONNOR
Rathnure



Claire won an U16 All Ireland, an All Ireland senior club, three Leinster senior club championships and four Leinster senior Championships.

21

LOUISE CODD
Duffry Rovers



Louise won an U16, a junior and three Senior Leinster Championships, an All Ireland senior Colleges with Coláiste Bríde and an Ashbourne Cup medal with UCD.
She is first cousin to Deirdre Codd.

22

SIONA NOLAN
Monageer/ Boolavogue



Siona won one Junior and three senior All Ireland Colleges with Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy and a Leinster Senior Championship medal.

23

BERNIE HOLOHAN
Rathnure



Bernie won three Leinster senior Club, one All Ireland senior Club and six Leinster senior Championships.

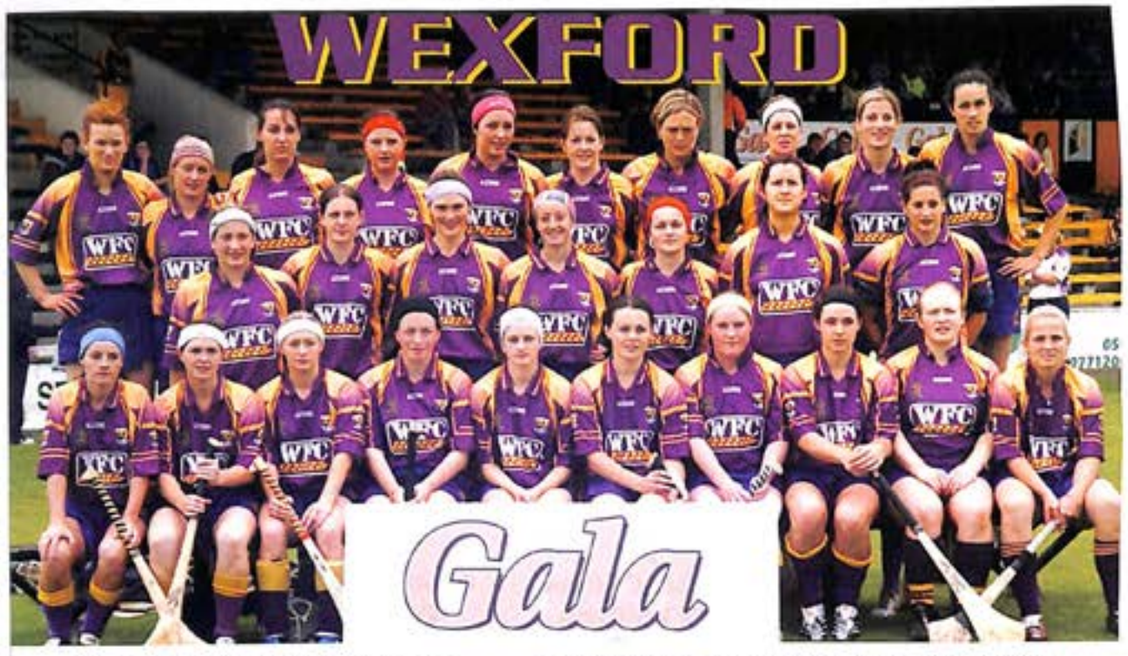
24

COLLEEN ATKINSON
Oulart/ The Ballagh



Colleen has two Leinster Junior championships; she captained the side in 2003 and has three Leinster senior Championship medals.

25



Bainisteoir: Stellah Sinnott

Club: Buffers Alley

Occupation: Clinical Nurse Specialist

Back Row L-R: L. Codd, B. Holohan, S. Nolan, K. Atkinson, U. Leacy, K. Kelly, M. Hearne, A. Nolan, B. Curran, B. Furlong.
Middle Row L-R: D. Codd, C. Murphy, A. Codd, R.M. Breen, N. Lambert, C. O'Loughlin, M. Darcy.
Front Row L-R: C. O'Connor, M. O'Leary, L. Holohan, U. Jacob, S. Redmond, M. Leacy, C. Atkinson, A. O'Connor, H. Jacob, C. Parrock.

Camogie Achievements:
This is Stellah's first year in charge of the team having previously served as selector for the team in 2005 and 2006. Stellah has appeared in three All-Ireland Finals for Wexford in 1990, '92 and '94. She has won three All-Ireland Senior Club titles playing with Buffers Alley.
Stellah has also captained Leinster in both Camogie and Hockey and won an All-Ireland Junior Hockey Cup medal with Enniscorthy. Last year Stellah also helped Enniscorthy to an All-Ireland Mixed Foursomes Golf Title.



ROGHNÓIRÍ

Manager	Assistant Manager	Selector	Trainer
Stellah Sinnott	Alan Aherne	Noel Ryan	Eddie Flynn Jim Kielty

Loch Garman

(Corcora agus Ór)

1
MAGS D'ARCY
M. Ní Dhorchaí
St Martin's

2
NOELEEN LAMBERT
N. Laimbéart
St. Martin's

3
CATHERINE O'LOUGHLIN
C. Nic Lochlainn
Monageer-Boolavogue

4
AVIS NOLAN
A. Ní Núalláin
Monageer-Boolavogue

5
ÁINE CODD
A. Nic Óda
St Martin's

6
MARY LEACY (Capt)
M. Ní Laitheasa
Oulart-The Ballagh

7
DEIRDRE CODD
D. Nic Óda
Duffry Rovers

8
KATE KELLY
C. Ní Cheallaigh
St Ibar's-Shelmalier

9
CAROLINE MURPHY
C. Ní Mhurchú
Ferns St Aidan's

10
BRÓNA FURLONG
B. Furlong
Duffry Rovers

11
ROSE-MARIE BREEN
R.M. Ní Bhraoin
Monageer-Boolavogue

12
MICHELLE O'LEARY
M. Ní Laoire
Rathnure

13
UNA LEACY
U. Ní Laitheasa
Oulart-The Ballagh

14
MICHELLE HEARNE
M. Ní hEathirn
St Ibar's-Shelmalier

15
URSULA JACOB
U. Iácób
Oulart-The Ballagh

LOCH GARMAN

16 **HELENA JACOB**
L. Iácób
Oulart-The Ballagh

17 **BRIDGET CURRAN**
B. Ní Chorráin
St Ibar's-Shelmalier

18 **AOIFE O'CONNOR**
A. Ní Chonchubhair
Rathnure

19 **LENNY HOLOHAN**
L. Ní Uallachain
Rathnure

20 **KATRINA PARROCK**
C. Nic Pharóg
St Martin's

21 **CLAIRE O'CONNOR**
C. Ní Chonchubhair
Rathnure

22 **LOUISE CODD**
L. Nic Óda
Duffry Rovers

23 **SÍONA NOLAN**
S. Ní Núalláin
Monageer-Boolavogue

24 **BERNIE HOLOHAN**
B. Ní Uallachain
Rathnure

25 **COLLEEN ATKINSON**
C. Nic Aidicin
Oulart-The Ballagh

SIN SIR Cork Profiles

AOIFE MURRAY
Clonghduv



She won one minor, one Junior, one intermediate and three senior All Ireland medals. She won an All Star in 2004. Her brother Kevin won an All Ireland with Cork hurlers in 1999. 1

JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN
Clonghduv



Captain of Cork last year, she holds two minor, one intermediate and three senior All Ireland titles and Gael Linn medals with Munster Maids in UCC she won two Ashbourne Cup medals. As accomplished hockey player she represented Munster. 2

GEMMA O'CONNOR *(Captain)*
St. Finbarrs



Gemma O'Connor captains the team. She is the first player from her club to lead a Cork Senior team. Gemma has three All Star Awards. She is the holder of two minor and three senior All Ireland titles and also holds National League medals. She was the recipient of the Irish Examiner Young Player of the Year 2002. Gemma represented Cork in Feile na nGael Girls in 1998.She was named Camogie Player of the Year in 2005.Her uncle, Bill Delaney, captained Cork to All Ireland minor hurling honours in1974 while her brother, Glenn, was a member of the Cork minor hurling panel in 2007. She is a member of the Defence Forces and has served in Liberia where President McAleese presented her with her All Star Award in 2005. 9

EMER DILLON
Ballygarvan



RTE Player of the Match 2005 for her display in the All Ireland Senior final. She also holds one minor, one intermediate and three senior All Ireland medals. She was selected as an All Star 2005.Emer is also a prominent hockey player with the Raheens club in Cork and represented both Munster 13

ROSARIE HOLLAND
Barryroe



Rosarie holds one minor, one junior and one senior All Ireland medal and won Ashbourne Cup medals with UCC. 17

SARAH O'DONOVAN
Ballygarvan



Sarah holds one minor, one junior and two All Ireland senior medals. She represented Ireland in soccer at U19. Her mother Kitty was a member of the Cork senior hockey team this year. 22

CATRIONA FOLEY
Rockban



Catriona is the holder of one minor and one senior All Ireland medal. She also has an All Ireland Football medal. Her father Dan-Joe won all Ireland minor U 21 honours. 3

MARY O'CONNOR
Killeagh



Mary holds one minor, one junior, two senior All Ireland medals as well as two All Ireland Club Championships (Fenagh Ballinamony). She won All Star Awards in 2005,2006 and elected as Camogie Player of the Year 2006, Daily Star Player of the Year 2006 as well Cork Gaelic Player of the Year 2006. A dual player she holds two senior Football All Ireland titles. 6

UNA O'DONOGHUE
Clonghduv



Una captained Cork to All Ireland glory in 2002. She holds two senior All Ireland Medals and won Ashbourne Cup with UCC. 10

ORLA COTTER
St. Catherine's



She won six minor and has the distinction of winning both senior and junior A All Ireland medal last year. She also captained the minor team in 2006. She was Munster Young Player of the Year 2005. 14

SARA HAYES
Courtney Rovers



Sara is the holder of one minor and one senior All Ireland medal. She holds Ashbourne Cup medals with UCC. 18

MARIE O'NEILL
Watergrasshill



All Ireland senior, minor and intermediate medals as well as a Junior A. At present Camogie Player with Lisavaird Ladies. A dual player she won silverware At Ireland Amateur Miss with Cork 23

AMANDA O'REGAN
Douglas



Amanda holds one minor, one Junior and two senior All Ireland medals. She won two Ashbourne Cup medals with UL. She is a member of the Irish Basketball Squad. Her mother Christine won a senior All Ireland with Cork and her father Michael won an U21 All Ireland with the Rebels. 4

ANNA GEARY
Milford



Anna holds three minor and two senior All Ireland medals. She captained Cork to minor honours in 2003. She won ten All-Ireland Colleges titles with St.Mary's, Charleville. Selected as an All Star in 2005 and 2006. Anna was the RTE Player of the Match in last year's Gaa Final. 7

ANGELA WALSH
Killeagh



Angela holds two All Ireland senior medals. A dual player she won two senior All Ireland Football medals. 11

SILE BURNS
Rockban



She won one minor and one intermediate All Ireland. Daughter of former Cork senior hurler Denis Burns who won All Ireland medals with Cork 15

JENNY DUFFY
St. Finbarrs



Jenny holds one junior and one senior All Ireland medal. 19

EMER O'FARRELL
Sarsfields



Emer holds two junior and one senior All Ireland. She was a member of the Cork Institute of Technology team that won the Fitzgibbon Cup in 2001. 24

RENA BUCKLEY
Inniscarra



Rena holds two minor, two senior All Ireland medals and an Ashbourne Cup medal won with UCD 2007. She won an All Star Award 2006. A dual player she holds two senior all Ireland titles and was selected as an Ladies Football All Star in 2006. 5

BREIGE CORKERY
Clonghduv



Breige Corkery holds two minor and two senior All Ireland medals. She was Irish Times Female Sports Star of the Year in 2005.In 2006 she was selected as as All Star. A dual player she has two senior All Ireland Ladies Football titles. 8

JENNIFER O'LEARY
Barryroe



Jennifer captained University of Limerick to Ashbourne Cup victory in 2005. She won a total of three Ashbourne medals. She holds one minor, one intermediate and three senior All Ireland medals. She was selected as an All Star in 2004, 05 and 06. 12

ELLEN CLIFFORD
St. Finbarrs



Ellen holds one senior and one junior All Ireland medal. 16

RACHEL MOLONEY
Courtney Rovers



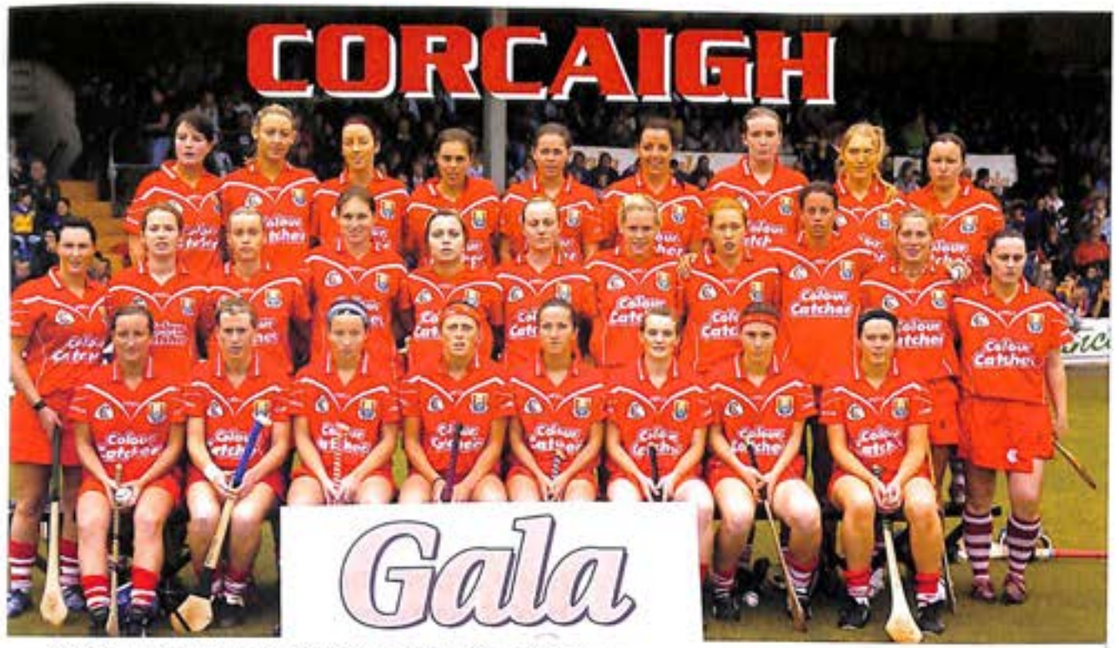
Rachel holds one minor, one intermediate and three senior All Ireland medals. She holds two Ashbourne Cup medals with UCD and was selected as an All Star in 2006. 20

ELAINE BURKE
Valley Rovers



Elaine captained the Cork team to All Ireland victory in 2005. She is the holder of one minor and three senior All Ireland medals and won two Ashbourne Cup medals with UCD. Elaine is a vets goalie. 25

CORCAIGH



Gala

Back Row L-R: E. Watson, E. Farrell, R. Holland, E. White, E. O'Sullivan, S. O'Donovan, M. O'Neill, R. Maloney, E. Clifford. Middle L-R: S. Hayes, E. Burke, J. Duffy, A. O'Regan, A. Geary, S. Nunns, A. Walsh, R. Buckley, O. Cotter, R. Curtin, A. Murray.
Front L-R: J. O'Callaghan, M. O'Connor, U. O'Donoghue, G. O'Connor (Capt), J. O'Leary, B. Corkery, C. Foley, E. Dillon.

Bainisteoir: John Cronin

Club: Cloughduv

Occupation: Farmer

Camogie Achievements:
Managed the Cork U16 team to All Ireland championship success in 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002 and 2003. Managed the Cloughduv camogie team to senior championship success in 2001 and 2002. This is John's third year with the Cork senior camogie team having brought them to senior All Ireland success in 2005 and 2006. John received the Manager of the Year Award in 2005.



ROGHNÓIRÍ

Manager	Selectors	Coach
John Cronin	Lillian Zincant Mary Moran	Fiona O'Driscoll

16 ELLEN CLIFFORD
E. Ní Chlúmháin
St Finbarrs

17 ROSARIE HOLLAND
R. Ní Aoláin
Barryroe

18 SARAH HAYES
S. Nic Aodha
Coursey Rovers

19 JENNY DUFFY
S. Ní Dhubhthaigh
St Finbarrs

20 RACHEL MOLONEY
R. Ní Mhaolomhnaigh
Coursey Rovers

21 EMER WATSON
E. Nic Uait
Milford

22 SARAH O'DONOVAN
S. Ní Dhonnabháin
Ballygarvan

23 MARIE O'NEILL
M. Ní Néill
Watergrasshill

24 EMER FARRELL
E. Ní Fhearail
Sarsfields

25 ELAINE BURKE
E. de Búrca
Valley Rovers

Corcaigh

(Dearg agus Bán)

1
AOIFE MURRAY
A. Ní Mhuirí
Cloughduv

2
JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN
S. Ní Cheallacháin
Cloughduv

3
CAITRIONA FOLEY
C. Ní Fhoghlú
Rochban

4
AMANDA O'REGAN
A. Ní Riagáin
Douglas

5
RENA BUCKLEY
R. Ní Bhuachalla
Inniscarra

6
MARY O'CONNOR
M. Ní Chonchubhair
Killeagh

7
ANNA GEARY
Á. Ní Ghadhra
Milford

8
BRIEGE CORKERY
B. Ní Chorcra
Cloughduv

9
GEMMA O'CONNOR (Capt)
G. Ní Chonchubhair
St Finbarrs

10
UNA O'DONOGHUE
Ú. Ní Dhonnchú
Cloughduv

11
ANGELA WALSH
A. Breatnach
Killeagh

12
JENNY O'LEARY
S. Ní Laoire
Barryroe

13
EMER DILLON
E. Dhiollún
Ballygarvan

14
ORLA COTTER
O. Nic Oitir
St Catherine's

15
SILE BURNS
S. Ní Bhroin
Rockban


Jennifer O'Leary

Leeside Camogie is Alive and Well

Little did the women who sowed the seed for the Fáinne an Lae club in the summer of 1905 in the Blarney Street area on the north side of Cork city envisage just what they were about to set in motion when they founded the first camogie club in the county.

Fast forward to 2007, Marion McCarthy chairs a very vibrant Camogie Board. Cork now boasts fifty-two clubs, a vibrant juvenile County Board catering for approximately over five thousand underage players, a College's County Board that ensures the games is thriving in almost every secondary school throughout the city and county and a vibrant Primary Schools structure. The many wonderful volunteers support the development of camogie in Cork.

A Cork senior county championship medal is a prized possession and each year there is a buzz of excitement generated by the championship.

The juvenile county board established five years ago is headed up by Chairperson Tracey Sheehan who is a former senior county board secretary. Last season they oversaw the playing of 580 games under their jurisdiction in competitions from 'A' grade down to the newly introduced 'D' competitions which proved hugely successful.

This season the *Evening Echo* have come on board to sponsor the adult championships in all grades and added to this the continued sponsorship of county senior team by Colour Catcher all helps towards the huge amount of funds needed to keep the game alive and well in Cork.

The dream has always been for Cork Camogie to have a home of it's own. Over the last three years work has been ongoing to bring the dream to reality and eighteen months ago the County Board in conjunction with the City Council turned the sod on its new development at Ballinure in the suburbs of Blackrock. All going well it will be ready for use early 2008, the dream is about to become a reality and it is another big step for Cork camogie as the game continues to grow.

Over the years new clubs have sprung up all over the county while in other areas clubs which were finding it difficult to survive but have been revitalised as new housing estates have sprung up. Douglas, Riverstick, Mallow Enniskeane, Rathcormac, Millstreet, Valley Rovers, St. Catherines, and Milford to mention but a few are up and coming clubs.

Now they also are climbing the victory rostrums and enjoying their hour of glory in competitions from U12 to senior level and putting their name up in lights to join older clubs such as Eire Óg, Killeagh, Sarsfields, Glen Rovers, St Finbarrs.

Current Cork players Mary O'Connor and Jenny Duffy have turned their hobbies into careers with Mary's recent appointment as National Director of Camogie Development and Jenny Regional Development Co-ordinator for South Leinster. As Camogie looks to the future and the game continues to grow in popularity Cork is fortunate to have former player and member of the Team of the Century Linda Mellerick actively involved in the continued promotion of our game. Both Linda and I as Cork PRO contribute to the *Evening Echo*.

Our local radio station 96/103FM gives huge coverage to our games and has given tremendous recognition to our players many of whom have been honoured with monthly sports awards. Red FM also help in publicising our games, as do many regional and local publications.

A far cry from the O'Neill Crowley grounds in Victoria Cross where Fáinne an Lae contested and won the first official camogie game played in Cork. We now look to the future with growing enthusiasm as we envisage lighting up the skies in the not too distant future in Cork Camogie's new home in Ballinure – a fitting tribute to those who have gone before us.

Mary Newman
Cork PRO
Cork Evening Camogie Correspondent

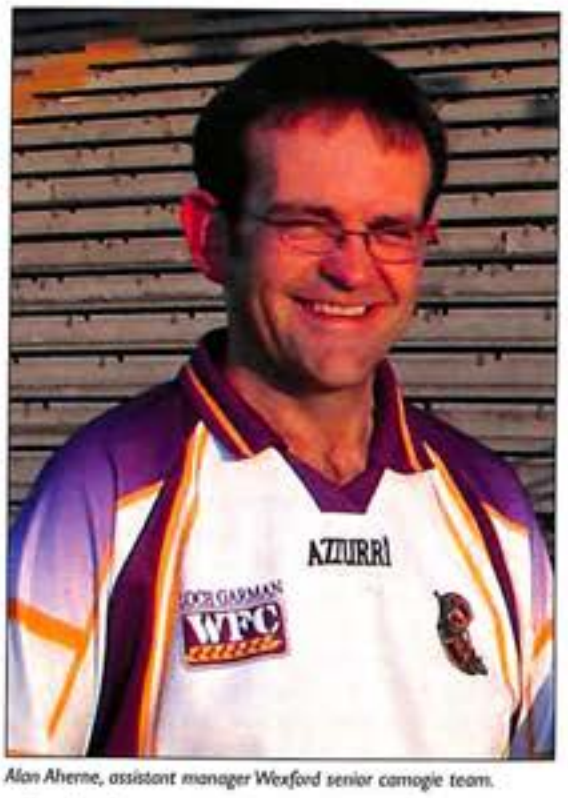
WEXFORD'S MEMORABLE JOURNEY

BY ALAN AHERNE

Sometimes the most memorable of journeys can start in the strangest of locations, and the Wexford Senior camogie team offers a prime example.

We were negotiating the winding country roads of south Limerick on August 5th last year when we got the news we were dreading. Kilkenny had beaten Galway in a crucial Gala championship match in Athenry, meaning that our own comprehensive win over the Shannonsiders in Bruff earlier in the day had been in vain. Our 2006 campaign ended there and then failing to secure a play-off for an All-Ireland semi-final place.

Team manager Willie Carley and selector Peggie Kelly stepped down after years of dedicated service before our arrival home. Stellah Sinnott and I were very eager to stay involved. We spent hours formulating a management plan to present to the County Board in October. We were appointed on November 8th.


Alan Aherne, assistant manager Wexford senior camogie team.

Ten days later we met the new panel for the first time, with over 40 eager players emerging from the winter darkness on a cold Saturday evening to undergo fitness tests in Good Counsel College (New Ross).

When we assembled to wrap up preparations for the big game last Friday, it was our 80th time together as a group with 62 training sessions, 13 competitive challenges behind us.

That journey from a school sports hall in November to a first Croke Park appearance for the county since 1994 has been full of happy moments, with a few hiccups thrown in to keep everyone grounded.

The need for continuity between A and B panels was a key component of our plan and while the achievement of the A team in qualifying for this final has filled us with joy, we are equally happy with the progress of their B colleagues who have a Gala All-Ireland semi-final against Cork to look forward to next Saturday.

Noel Ryan (selector) and Eddie Flynn (trainer) competed the backroom team. The peak physical condition of our players is a tribute to Eddie's outstanding work together with the advice of Jim Kilty. The medical team (Paul Harrington, Rory Carty, Bridget Moran) and the County Board officers have given us magnificent support from day one.

Beating Cork by a point in our opening National League was a huge psychological boost. Accounting for Dublin in the Leinster final at the same venue on April 1st provided a further fillip. It was the first piece of silverware for Wexford since 2004. One week later we beat Tipperary in a competitive outing for the first time in 16 years with an injury-time point. Our return to the National League final after a gap of three seasons ended in bitter disappointment though, going down by a point to Cork. Heavy demands were placed on five of our dual players who had lined out in a football decider on the previous evening.

While outsiders may have viewed a championship opener against the same opponents in Ballincollig just six days later as a daunting task, our ladies had a burning desire to turn the tables.

Their 4-12 to 0-14 success got the show back on the road. We lost only one game in the group stages of the championship to Tipperary when the team inexplicably folded in the last eight minutes.

We drew Galway in the Gala All Ireland semi-final. The strong challenge we expected came to pass, but we turned in a storming second-half to make it back to Croke Park for the first time in 13 years.

Cork are a tremendous team and have raised the bar in terms of performance and preparation in recent years. However, all of our plans since August, 2006, have been geared towards this big occasion, and we are privileged to be working with a special group who have given us absolute commitment in our pursuit of glory.

The final leg of our journey has arrived – and it's our fervent wish that it will lead us up the steps of the Hogan Stand at around 5.25 p.m. this evening.

***ALAN AHERNE** is assistant manager of the Wexford Senior camogie team and Sports Editor of the People Newspaper group which covers counties Wexford, Wicklow and Carlow.*

SEPT. 2007



SEPT. 2007

Camogie All-Ireland Senior Final

Leacy paves way for Model win

Wexford	2-7
Cork	1-8

PAT ROCHE
AT CROKE PARK

Brian Cody's controversial assertion that Henry Shefflin is the best hurler ever has evoked similar debate in the camogie arena. But following Wexford's memorable All-Ireland senior final success over Cork at Croke Park yesterday there would be scarcely a Model County supporter in the huge crowd that would not unhesitatingly put forward Wexford's team en bloc for the supreme honour in the women's game.

The courageous and superbly fit Wexford team were without the experience of Cork who were bidding for a three-in-a-row. But they played with admirable levels of skill and defiance throughout.

They based their ground-breaking triumph after a lapse of 32 years on a crucial two-goal start provided by Una Leacy.

Perhaps it was only fitting that the daughter of Margaret (nee O'Leary) who has been included in the camogie team of the century should make such an impact on the big day.

Una's sister Mary was another Wexford star, playing a key role in a tight defence that kept Cork's much-vaunted attack in check. Cork felt the challenge from formidable opposition from an early stage and they could manage only three points in the first half against 2-2 for the winners.

The Munster champions never really got to grips with their shooting in that opening half and they compiled a total of seven crucial wides against three for Wexford in the first period.

Fiona O'Driscoll the Cork coach afterwards said: "To Wexford's credit they played extremely well despite the fact that the occasion was new to them and most importantly they never panicked when we got our deficit down to a single point in the second half."

Kate Kelly put in an outstanding performance in the middle of the field. She injected pace similar to that of Bronagh Furlong to put enormous pressure on the Cork defenders.

Athlete Furlong who hopes to represent Ireland at Olympic Games level is in continuous training and her first reaction was: "Sure, they got us back to a point in the second half but we never dropped our heads".

Wexford manager Stella Sinnott, a member of the last Wexford team to reach the All-Ireland decider in 1994, said she was absolutely thrilled by a success that had eluded her on the playing field 13 years ago. Sinnott added:

"Hunger was the key factor in our victory. We knew we had the team to win should we perform and God, did we perform."

From goalkeeper Mag D'Arcy to left corner forward Ursula Jacob Wexford looked a potent side. Kelly in midfield repeatedly caused problems for the Cork cover and contributed three points, two from frees.

Rose Marie Breen led the Wexford attack with poise and imagination while Furlong, Michelle O'Leary, Una Leacy and Michelle Hearn sustained the pressure on the Cork defence.

Briege Corkery and Gemma O'Connor tried in vain to turn the tide for Cork and Emer Dillon and Gemma O'Connor were prominent during the Rebels' second half rally. But Leacy's two goals proved successive title.

WEXFORD: M D'Arcy, N Lambert, C O'Loughlin, A Nolan, A Codd, M Leacy, D Codd, **K Kelly (0-3, two frees)**, C Murphy, B Furlong, **RM Breen (0-1)**, M O'Leary, **U Leacy (2-0)**, M Hearn, **U Jacob (0-2)**. **Subs: C Parrock (0-1)** for M O'Leary; S O'Connor for Nolan.

CORK: A Murray, J O'Callaghan, C Foley, A O'Regan, R Buckley, M O'Connor, A Geary, **B Corkery (0-1)**, **G O'Connor (0-4, two frees)**, U O'Donoghue, **A Walsh (0-1)**, J O'Leary, **E Dillon (1-1)**, **O Cotter (0-1)**, S Burns. **Subs:** E Watson for O'Donoghue; S O'Donovan for Walsh.

Referee: **J Morrissey** (Tipperary).



Wexford players show their delight as they celebrate at the final whistle following their victory over Cork in yesterday's All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park. – (Photograph: Alan Betson).



Derry Captain Claire Doherty

All-Ireland Junior Championship Final

Derry Diamond strikes

Derry	3-12
Clare	2-14

Derry took their first All-Ireland Junior camogie championship title since 2000 thanks to a hard fought victory over Clare at Croke Park yesterday.

It was a late goal from Aisling Diamond which stole a one point victory for the Derry side.

The sides were level on seven occasions during this game including four times in the opening half, after which the sides were level at 0-7 apiece.

Gráinne McGoldrick was the Derry star in the opening half an hour as the midfielder struck a brace of excellent points.

Clare were strong in the second half but Derry did finally manage an equalising score thanks to an impressive point from substitute Katrina O'Kane to ensure parity again.

This game was not over by any means and as the sideline official indicated six minutes of injury time would be played, Clare once again broke in front thanks to a fifth point of the hour from Claire Commane.

The corner forward quickly extended this lead to two points but somehow with seven and a half minutes into injury-time Aisling Diamond struck the ball to the net after a half-save from Clare goalkeeper Denise Lynch and the title was Derry's.

DERRY: C O'Kane; C Pickering, H Kelly, C Cushnehan; K Laverty, C Doherty, J Carey; **G McGoldrick (0-3, 2f)**, B Convery; K McAuley, **A Diamond (1-3)**, E Henry; **S Cassidy (0-3)**, **P McAtamney (1-3, 3f)**, **A Laverty (1-0)**. **Subs:** M McGoldrick for Pickering (49).

CLARE: D Lynch; H McMahon, D Corcoran, A Colleran; K Hally, D Murphy, S Lafferty; K Lynch, J Scanlon; **C Roseingrave (0-2)**, C O'Loughlin, **A Ryan (0-2)**; **C Commane (1-6, 3f)**, **S McMahon (1-3)**, S O'Loughlin. **Subs: F Lafferty (0-1)** for Hally (22); K Hally for J Scanlon (34); S Moloney for S O'Loughlin (45); A O'Brien for C O'Loughlin (45); Catherine O'Loughlin for Ryan (57).

Referee: **Cathal Egan** (Cork).

WEXFORD END 32-YEAR LONG

Determined show sees Model army crush Cork's Treble dream



Pic: INPHO/James Crombie.

Wexford's (from left) Caroline Murphy, Noeleen Lambert and Catherine O'Loughlin combine to prevent Cork attacker Angela Walsh from making any headway during Sunday's Gala All-Ireland senior 'A' camogie championship final at Croke Park.

Wexford 2-7
Cork 1-8

Report by Noel Holohan

Wexford		Cork
Mags D'Arcy	1	Aoife Murray
Noeleen Lambert	2	Joanne O'Callaghan
Catherine O'Loughlin	3	Caitriona Foley
Avis Nolan	4	Amanda O'Regan
Aine Codd	5	Rena Buckley
Mary Leacy (capt.)	6	Mary O'Connor
Deirdre Codd	7	Anna Geary
Kate Kelly (0-3, 1 free)	8	Briege Corkery (0-1)
Caroline Murphy	9	Gemma O'Connor (0-3)
Brona Furlong	10	Una O'Donoghue
Rose-Marie Bruton (vice-capt.0-1)	11	Angela Walsh (0-1)
Michelle O'Leary	12	Jenny O'Leary (0-1, 1 free)
Una Leacy (2-0)	13	Emer Dillon (1-1)
Michelle Hearne	14	Orla Cotter (0-1)
Ursula Jacob (0-2)	15	Sile Burns

Subs: *Aoife O'Connor for Aine Codd; Katrina Parrock (0-1) for Michelle O'Leary; Claire O'Connor for Avis Nolan; also, Helena Jacob, Bridget Curran, Lenny Holohan, Louise Codd, Siona Nolan, Bernie Holohan, Colleen Atkinson.*

Subs: *Sarah O'Donovan for Angela Walsh; Emer Watson for Jenny O'Leary.*

Referee-John Morrissey (Tipperary).

AFTER 32 years in the camogie wilderness, Wexford stepped back into the limelight with a display of courage, heart, determination and huge skill to break the hearts of three-in-a-row chasing Cork in a scintillating Gala All-Ireland senior 'A' championship final at Croke Park on Sunday afternoon.

Two first-half goals by 'player of the match' Una Leacy proved vital in a game during which Wexford played like a team possessed, on a mission to bring the O'Duffy Cup back to Slaneyside for the first-time since 1975, and fourth time in all.

The pre-match discussions revolved around how Wexford would handle the occasion. The simple answer was that they were well prepared, well drilled, and supremely focussed thanks to the work of Stellah Sinnott (Buffers Alley) and her fellow selectors, Alan Aherne (St. Martin's), Noel Ryan (Bunclody) and Eddie Flynn (Rathnure). In fact, if anything Cork looked rusty and nervous. Maybe this was due to the massive effort produced by the Wexford players throughout the field, as not one Cork player got a clear shot at the ball. The intensity of the Wexford tackling was immense, especially by corner-backs Noeleen Lambert and Avis Nolan, who gave an exhibition of hooking and blocking. Deirdre Codd and team captain Mary Leacy cleaned up any loose ball, as they helped lay the platform for a magnificent Wexford triumph.

OPENING POINT

Cork grabbed the opening point inside the first minute, when Jenny O'Leary pointed a free after Angela Walsh was impeded.

Wexford then got the start they had hoped for. Deirdre Codd won primary possession in the half-back line, and the Duffry Rover cleared a long ball up-field which was won brilliantly on the left wing by Ursula Jacob. The latter split the Cork defence open with a zipping pass, and with Michelle Hearne challenging two Cork defenders, the ball broke inside to Jacob's Oulart-The Ballagh club-mate Una Leacy, who was all alone, and drove an unstoppable shot past Cork 'keeper Aoife Murray and to the Hill 16-end net (1-0 to 0-1).

Kate Kelly soon added a pointed free in the fifth-minute, after she herself was fouled, as Wexford began to demonstrate their tremendous belief.

Emer Dillon responded with a sixth-minute point to briefly stop the Wexford flow. But that was to be Cork's last score for 23 minutes, as Wexford players all over the field stood up, were brave, and hassled Cork, as the challengers forced the defending champions to shoot wide-after-wide. And as Cork frustrations grew, the huge Wexford support began to cheer every block and clearance to the echo.

BETTER

Better was to follow for the purple-and-gold on 15 minutes. Deirdre Codd excelled again as she won possession at wing-back, and her long delivery found Michelle Hearne, who broke the sliotar down and through to the in-rushing Una Leacy. She gathered, and while her first effort was blocked by defender Amanda O'Regan, she kept her composure brilliantly and hand-passed to the net from the right edge of the square, to send Wexford connections wild with excitement (2-1 to 0-2).

Wexford continued to dominate. But they were unable to put any more scoring chances away, before Kate Kelly registered her second personal point, when shooting over from play after Bron-



Pic: Martin Rowe/Adrian Mella Photo.

Wexford's newly-crowned Gala All-Ireland senior 'A' camogie champions, who dethroned Cork in last Sunday's final at Croke Park.

WAIT FOR CAMOGIE CROWN

agh Furlong, who ran herself into the ground, sent a line-ball to vice-captain Rose-Marie Breen who in turn set up Kelly.

Orla Cotter had the final say of the opening-half, when the Cork ace gathered a good clearance from team-mate Aoife Murray and fired over on 29 minutes, to cut Wexford's lead to five points at the interval (2-2 to 0-3).

Again the jury was out on the likely outcome: could Wexford survive the imminent Cork backlash during the second-half? Well, anyone that had watched this Wexford side all year knew they were indeed strong enough to stand up to whatever the holders could throw at them. The Wexford management also made a number of vital switches during the second-half, with Aine Codd, who battled bravely, being replaced by Aoife O'Connor, who hurled out of her skin.

Cork captain Gemma O'Connor hit a great long range point for the Rebelettes within a minute of the resumption to state her side's intent. But once again Wexford responded immediately, as Michelle O'Leary sent in a long ball which Kate Kelly grabbed and in turn passed to Ursula Jacob, who blasted over the 'bar (2-3 to 0-4).

CORK TIDE

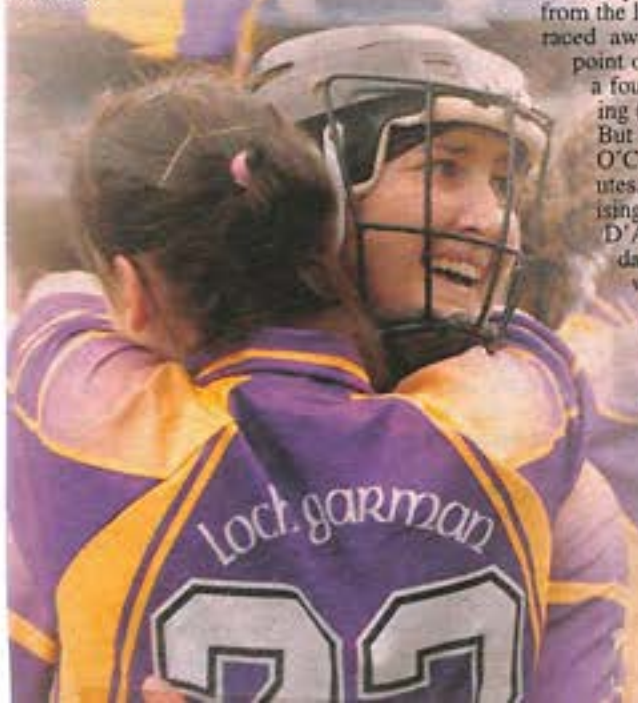
The Cork tide was beginning to gather momentum, and they crashed home a goal in the 37th-minute. Sile Burns sent in a high ball, and Emer Dillon flicked away the hurl of Wexford corner-back Avis Nolan, before gaining the loose ball and hammering home Cork's only goal of the game. It cut the gap to 2-3 to 1-4 and had Wexford very much on their toes.

Wexford displayed fine resilience, as Aoife O'Connor sent a great ball up-field, which centre-forward Rose-Marie Breen claimed before getting herself on the scoresheet with a great point from 45 yards on the Hogan Stand side (2-4 to 1-4).

The Cork girls battled on in their efforts to break-down the Wexford rearguard, and they hit two quick points to cut the gap to the minimum, as Angela Walsh found loads of space and ran on well to point, before Gemma O'Connor again pointed after latching onto a Briege Corkery clearance.

PRESSED HOME

Thus the gap was a single point (2-4 to 1-6), but Cork squandered a goaling chance, before Wexford pressed home their advantage when hitting three points without reply between the 53rd and 57th minutes.





Pic: Martin Rowe/Adrian Mella Photo.

Above, Wexford vice-captain Rose-Marie Breen on the charge against Cork's Briege Corkery and Rena Buckley during Sunday's decider, while, below left, Monageer-Boolavogue club-mates Siona Nolan (23) and Catherine O'Loughlin savour the victory.

Kate Kelly pointed off a poor clearance, before substitute Katrina Parrock and Michelle Hearne were involved in setting up Ursula Jacob for her second personal point, as she finished sweetly from the left on 54 minutes. Katrina Parrock then raced away to knock over Wexford's seventh point of the game, which crucially gave them a four point lead with four minutes remaining (2-7 to 1-6).

But Cork weren't finished, and Gemma O'Connor replied with a point on 58 minutes. Cork now went in search of an equalising goal. But Wexford netminder Mags D'Arcy, who had been given little to do all day thanks to her great defence (which was mastered by Catherine O'Loughlin) was equal to Cork's best goal chance, when she saved well from an Orla Cotter shot.

Una Leacy almost completed a hat-trick three minutes into added-time. But her vicious low shot cannoned back off the post, when maybe a point would have been sufficient.

But it proved irrelevant, as Briege Corkery's super long range point four minutes into injury-time merely narrowed Wexford's final margin of success to 2-7 to 1-8.

UNPARALLED

Scenes of unparalled emotion never before in this writer's eyes has a camogie final inspired such a pitch invasion. But, after 32 years in the also-rans category, the massive celebrations were well deserved, as thousands of Wexford fans gathered to watch Mary Leacy and her Model County army lift the O'Duffy Cup in the Hogan Stand. And even the strongest of people could not hold back their emotions, as Wexford became the queens of the camogie castle once more.



Pic: INPHO/James Crombie.

Wexford's ever lively attacker Kate Kelly makes life difficult for Cork defender Joanne O'Callaghan.

How the players rated

Liam DORAN

MAGS D'ARCY (GOALKEEPER)
Hard to believe D'Arcy is still only 19 years old, having been Wexford's first-choice 'keeper for the past few years. Never put a foot wrong on Sunday. Had no chance with Emer Dillon's goal, and made one fine block from Orla Cotter late on. **Rating:** 8.

NOELEEN LAMBERT (RIGHT CORNER-BACK)
Outstanding. Main rival to Una Leacy for the player of the match. She made countless clearances, interceptions and effective tackles throughout and held Sile Burns scoreless in a terrific display. **Rating:** 9.

CATHERINE O'LOUGHLIN (FULL-BACK)
The 2005 All Star gave a very sound performance in holding Orla Cotter, and later Una O'Donoghue, scoreless. Along with her fellow defenders, O'Loughlin stood up to the task when the pressure was on in the second-half. **Rating:** 7.5.

AVIS NOLAN (LEFT CORNER-BACK)
The only survivor from Wexford's last All-Ireland final appearance in 1994, Nolan was given a few tricky moments by Emer Dillon, and one uncharacteristic slip did lead to Cork's goal. However, it failed to take from a typically tenacious performance. **Rating:** 8.

ÁINE CODD (RIGHT HALF-BACK)
While the long-serving defender will be the first to admit that she was not at her best on Sunday, she worked very hard and effectively held the threat of three-times All Star Jennifer O'Leary, before being replaced by Aoife O'Connor early in the second-half. **Rating:** 7.

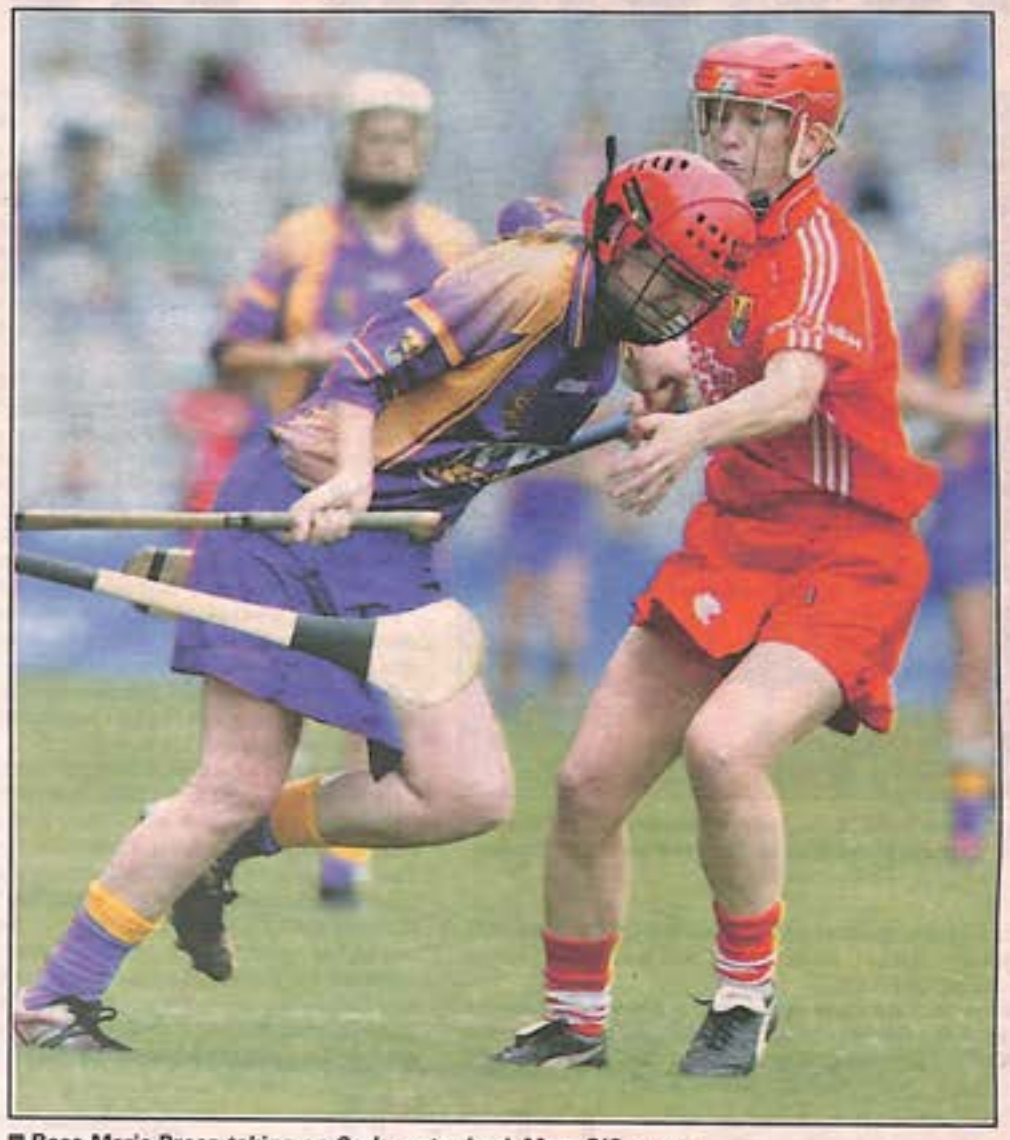
MARY LEACY (CENTRE-BACK)
The captain led by example, particularly in the second-half when she was absolutely immense in keeping Cork at bay, making a number of long, relieving clearances. Despite her young age, Leacy gave a rousing speech after accepting the O'Duffy Cup. **Rating:** 8.5.

DEIRDRE CODD (LEFT HALF-BACK)
An unsung heroine in the Wexford half-back line. Codd had a direct hand in both of Wexford's goals and easily curtailed the threat of Una O'Donoghue, and also did well on Orla Cotter in a first-class display of defending. **Rating:** 8.

BRÓNA FURLONG (MIDFIELD)
It's no great surprise that the Duffry Rovers flyer is also a talented athlete as she must have covered every inch of the Corke Park turf. Enjoyed a good battle with Cork star Briege Corkery, and was influential despite suffering a heavy knock late in the game. **Rating:** 8.

CAROLINE MURPHY (MIDFIELD)
Like her midfield colleague, Murphy was up against a strong opponent in Gemma O'Connor, but also delivered a high-octane display. Has a great engine and her workrate was a lesson to any aspiring young camogie player. **Rating:** 8.

UNA LEACY (RIGHT HALF-FORWARD)
Our player of the match spent much of the game alternating places with Kate Kelly, but scored two tremendous goals when positioned in the right corner which effectively won the game for Wexford. But for the shoulder of a Cork defender and the butt of the post, Leacy could have ended up with four goals. An All Star beckons. **Rating:** 9.



■ Rose-Marie Breen taking on Cork centre-back Mary O'Connor.

ROSE-MARIE BREEN (CENTRE-FORWARD)
Typically unselfish performance by the playmaker who sent plenty of first-time ball into the full-forward line. Never allowed the much-heralded Cork centre-back Mary O'Connor to dominate and scored one exceptional point in the second-half. **Rating:** 7.5.

MICHELLE O'LEARY (LEFT HALF-FORWARD)
Although she didn't get on the scoresheet, O'Leary never stopped working against a tough performer in Rena Buckley, before making way for Katrina Parrock in the 41st minute. **Rating:** 7.

KATE KELLY (RIGHT FULL-FORWARD)
A class act. Scored two superb points from play plus an early free to ensure she overtook Tipperary's Claire Grogan to become the championship's top scorer with 1-40. Despite being restricted by a back injury, Kelly was very influential throughout and is a shoe-in for a third All Star later in the year. **Rating:** 9.

MICHELLE HEARNE (FULL-FORWARD)
Failed to add to her five goals in the championship, after coming up against a strong opponent in Cork's Caitriona Foley. Nevertheless, Hearne was always a threat in around the Rebels' goalmouth and laid on two great passes for Ursula Jacob and Katrina Parrock to score crucial points in the latter stages. **Rating:** 7.

URSULA JACOB (LEFT FULL-FORWARD)
Brought her championship tally to an excellent 2-19, thanks to a brace of well-taken points. A real livewire who always looked dangerous when in possession and set up the opening goal for clubmate Una Leacy. **Rating:** 8.

SUBSTITUTES

Aoife O'Connor (for Áine Codd after 34 minutes): Used her experience to good effect when she slotted in effortlessly at right half-back. Strong in the tackle and made a number of excellent clearances, especially in the crucial late stages. **Rating:** 8.

Katrina Parrock (for Michelle O'Leary after 41 minutes): She belied her young age to score a brilliant 57th-minute point which put Wexford four ahead and on the road to victory. A big future ahead of her. **Rating:** 7.5.

Claire O'Connor (for Avis Nolan after 65 minutes): The Rathnure defender joined her sister, Aoife, on the pitch for the last 60 seconds or so. Not long enough to be rated.

CORK: Aoife Murray 6; Joanne O'Callaghan 6, Caitriona Foley 7, Amanda O'Regan 6; Rena Buckley 7, Mary O'Connor 6, Anna Geary 7; Briege Corkery 7.5, Gemma O'Connor 9; Una O'Donoghue 6, Angela Walsh 6, Jennifer O'Leary 6; Emer Dillon 7, Orla Cotter 7, Sile Burns 6. Subs. - Emer Watson and Sarah O'Donovan (not on long enough to be rated).

STORY OF THE SCORING

1 MIN: Jennifer O'Leary gives Cork the lead for the only time in the match after a chop by Mary Leacy on Una O'Donoghue (nil to 0-1).
4 MINS: A determined pull out of defence by Deirdre Codd is collected by Ursula Jacob on the left wing. Michelle Hearne and two Cork defenders challenge for her delivery, but it breaks inside to the unmarked Una Leacy who hammers the ball to the Leeside net from just inside the large square (1-0 to 0-1).
5 MINS: Kate Kelly taps over from 20 metres out after she is pushed by Gemma O'Connor (1-1 to 0-1).
6 MINS: Emer Dillon picks up a loose ball and fires over an easy point off her left side (1-1 to 0-2).
15 MINS: Deirdre Codd is again centrally involved in Wexford's second goal as she catches a Cork puck-out, with her long clearance breaking past Michelle Hearne and Cork's Caitríona Foley. The onrushing Una Leacy is initially hooked by Amanda O'Regan, but she recovers to handpass into the bottom right-hand corner of Aoife Murray's net (2-1 to 0-2).
26 MINS: Rose-Marie Breen adds to a Bróna Furlong line ball and Kate Kelly makes room for herself before firing over a 25-metre point off her right side (2-2 to 0-2).
29 MINS: The seventh and final score of the opening half is registered by Cork teenager Orla Cotter, who races away from Deirdre Codd before firing over (2-2 to 0-3).
HALF-TIME: WEXFORD 2-2, CORK 0-3.

16 SECS: Cork midfielder Gemma O'Connor brushes off a challenge from Áine Codd to score her first point from 60 metres out (2-2 to 0-4).
4 MINS: Michelle O'Leary sends the ball into Kate Kelly whose clever handpass finds Ursula Jacob, and the Oulart-The Ballagh attacker blasts narrowly over the crossbar (2-3 to 0-4).
7 MINS: Mistakes by Catherine O'Loughlin first, and then Avis Nolan, enable one of Cork's better forwards, Emer Dillon, to collect possession inside the Wexford defence, and duly rattle the net to bring her team right back into the match (2-3 to 1-4).
8 MINS: From the ensuing puck-out, recent substitute Aoife O'Connor handpasses to Rose-Marie Breen and the number eleven scores one of the best points of the match from the right wing (2-4 to 1-4).
10 MINS: Now on the right wing, Cork's Angela Walsh reduces the gap to two points with a neat score (2-4 to 1-5).
13 MINS: Briege Corkery sets up her midfield partner, Gemma O'Connor, for another fine long-range point as Cork continue to eat into Wexford's lead (2-4 to 1-6).
23 MINS: Kate Kelly gleefully accepts a wayward clearance from Joanne O'Callaghan and taps over her third and final point from just outside the 'D' (2-5 to 1-6).
24 MINS: Michelle Hearne handpasses over the heads of a pair of Cork defenders to Ursula Jacob who sends over a sweet point off her left side (2-6 to 1-6).
27 MINS: Hearne is again the provider, as she exchanges passes with promising teenager Katrina Parrock who shoots a hugely-important point from the left wing (2-7 to 1-6).
28 MINS: The influential Gemma O'Connor opts to take her point after a strong run through the centre of the Wexford defence (2-7 to 1-7).
34 MINS: Briege Corkery sets up a nervous final few seconds for Wexford when she points after a blistering run from midfield (2-7 to 1-8).
FULL-TIME: WEXFORD 2-7, CORK 1-8.

WEXFORD v. CORK - GALA ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL, CROKE PARK

Assistant manager **ALAN AHERNE** offers his thoughts on Sunday's success

Best day of all our lives

TWENTY-SEVEN extremely special people received the following text message between 10 and 10.30 p.m. on Saturday last:

'Sleep well, stay positive, and remember: tomorrow will be the best day of all our lives!'

Having sent that prediction to our superb Senior camogie squad, I can happily confirm that Sunday didn't disappoint in any way.

The clock reads 4.39 a.m. on Tuesday morning as I pen these thoughts on our success, and the minutes and hours since the final whistle have produced scenes that we will never, ever forget.

Standing on the steps of the Hogan Stand and looking out awe-struck at that sea of purple and gold is an image we will all hold for the rest of our lives. It was emotional, it was inspiring, it was simply too special to describe adequately in words.

The passion and wild delight so memorably portrayed by our marvellous captain Mary in her acceptance speech summed up perfectly what this victory meant to us all.

The first plans for the campaign were laid on August 10 of last year when Stellah Sinnott and I met five days after our 2006 championship exit to gather our thoughts and consider the best way forward.

It was November 18 when we assembled the new panel for the first time for fitness tests in Good Counsel College, and our 81st gathering as a group on Sunday last is an experience we will cherish for evermore.

This win is all about the players - 43 in total on the full panel who have given us incredible commitment which was so richly rewarded on the county's first trip to Croke Park for an All-Ireland camogie final in 13 years.

It's impossible to achieve success in any team sport without creating a strong bond between mentors and players, and we have one which will never be broken.

The closeness, respect and camaraderie within our group shone through on the field on Sunday, because the players performed as a team and displayed an incredible appetite for hard work.

To deny a classy Cork side their third All-Ireland title on the trot hasn't exceeded all our expectations - far from it, in fact, as we outlined from day one that our target was the O'Duffy Cup and nothing less.

However, when you win in a manner like Sunday, it makes the feeling all the more special. The hooking, harrying, hassling, support play and option-taking couldn't be bettered, and the rewards were reaped.

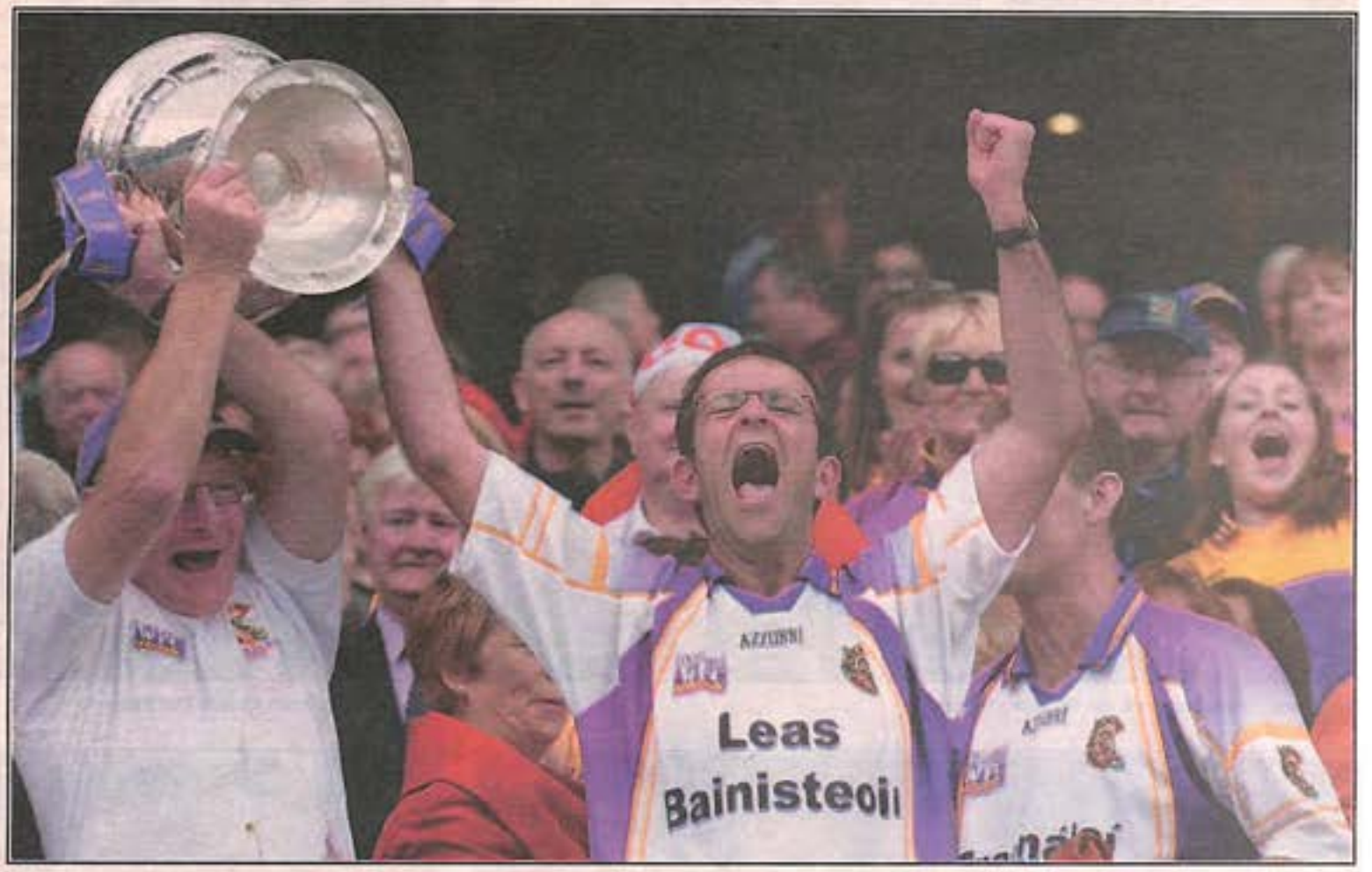
It's important to take everything in and savour it after such a superb achievement, and we have all been doing just that over the past 30-plus hours.

After a post-match reception in Croke Park where Mary received a replica of the beautiful new O'Duffy Cup, it was a tight schedule to make it back to Stillorgan Park Hotel to be seated and ready to roll for RTE by 9.15 p.m.

However, we managed it by the skin of our teeth after first being greeted by a mass of overjoyed supporters and family members in the foyer.

The formalities were followed by celebrations which seemed to last forever, with a highlight arriving when our tremendous trainer Eddie fulfilled a promise he had made to the squad. It went along the lines of 'you win the All-Ireland and I'll do my Riverdance thing' - you had to be there to really appreciate the moment!

The importance of being dignified ambassadors for our county isn't lost on the ladies, and the first duty on Monday was performed by Áine, Bróna, Mary, Una, Kate and our ever-helpful Co. Secretary Rachel Hogan when they appeared on 'Ireland AM' on TV3 at 9.20 a.m. - not bad going considering the hotel was still buzzing three hours earlier.



■ Selector Noel Ryan and assistant manager Alan Aherne lift the O'Duffy Cup as trainer Eddie Flynn waits his turn.

When the cup returned, twelve of us brought it to the National Children's Hospital in Crumlin where the players spent two and a half hours meeting those less fortunate and brightening their days. Seeing the joy on those little faces made us all even more appreciative of how lucky we are.

It was shortly after 3.30 p.m. when we departed for Wexford, not long after a team meeting where the players were encouraged to savour every moment of what they were about to witness.

Nothing, and I mean nothing, could have prepared us for how the people responded to our victory. As we left our great county on Sunday morning, Stellah had told the players to look behind at the place that means so much to us, and remember that the next time we returned would be with the O'Duffy Cup.

The evening sun was splitting the trees when we did just that, disembarking from the bus and walking triumphantly over the border.

We were all dumbfounded by the crowds in Gorey, but it prepared the players for five hours they will cherish. It seemed like the entire parish of Camolin was waiting at the entrance to the St. Patrick's pitch for their local heroine Caroline, and this great player and wonderful ambassador was mobbed once more when we hit Ferns.

Monageer-Boolavogue club members were out in force in Scarawalsh, and the trip down the hill in Enniscorthy won't be forgotten by any of us in a hurry.

There was no way we were passing through Oylegate without letting Gretta Heffernan lift that cup outside Mernagh's, and then it was on to Wexford.

We had been told well in advance what to expect, but even that didn't prepare us fully. Suffice to say that 'unbelievable' was the most over-used word on the bus, and we will forever be grateful to young and old alike for waiting patiently for our arrival.

The tiredness was starting to kick in when we moved on to the Ferrycarrig Hotel for a late meal kindly hosted by the County G.A.A. Board, but many got a second wind afterwards and the celebrations were still going strong when I reluctantly left in the middle of the night to pen these words.

We knew we were going to win when we met the players on Sunday morning and saw how relaxed and tuned in they were.

There was a perfect synchronicity about everything on the journey to the capital - even our ten-minute pitstop at Jack White's coincided with Stellah being interviewed live by Robbie Irwin on RTE Radio.

We want to sincerely thank Fr. Jim Butler for celebrating Mass for us in the Stillorgan Park Hotel at 11.30 a.m., and the by now familiar chicken and pasta followed before we travelled to Silverpark in Leopardstown for our warm-up.

The trip into Croker at 1.45 p.m. was an experience in itself with three Garda motorbikes weaving a way for us through the busy city traffic, although we had prepared the players for what to expect by doing a dummy run - performed by panel member Niamh O'Connor who is stationed in Bray - when we attended the Kerry v. Dublin football semi-final a fortnight earlier to familiarise ourselves with what our big day would entail.

I guess it would be stretching it slightly too far to say that Sunday was perfect in every way - Joe O'Brien would probably disagree for one as his coach was inches too high for us to drive under the Canal End and over to the Hogan Stand - the players literally took it in their stride though as they marched purposefully over to the dressing-rooms for their date with destiny.

The Clare Juniors had been the previous tenants and a small amount of their gear was left behind when we arrived. Everyone went out to have a look at the Under-21 game and to get a feel for the surroundings, and something important was missing when we returned - our sliothars.

However, it didn't take long to deduce that they had been mistakenly loaded on to the Clare bus by one of the dressing-room stewards, and they were quickly retrieved behind the Cusack Stand without upsetting our countdown!

Once showtime came the ladies were ready and willing to lay their bodies on the line for the county they love.

The O'Duffy Cup is back in Wexford after 32 years as a result - and it was brought home by the most amazing group of people I have ever been involved with. All of our dreams came true on Sunday, and our lives will never be the same again.

Thanks from the bottom of our hearts to everyone for their support and kindness - it will never be forgotten by the Wexford Senior camogie squad and mentors of 2007.

Sept 2007

Wexford girls claim first All-Ireland since 1975 at expense of Cork's three-in-a-row

Models dash the dream

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

WEXFORD.....2-7
CORK.....1-8

by Ciarán Fahey at Croke Park, Dublin

CORK'S three-a-row dream came crashing to a rude awakening on Sunday, when the girls from the Model County hurled with a passion and hunger which comes from a title famine of 32 years.

Displaying sheer guts and playing camogie with no little flair, Wexford simply out-fought the Cork girls to deny them scores at vital stages in the game, while the two early goals from Una Leacy meant Cork were always facing an uphill battle in their efforts get back on top.

In fairness to the defending champions, they never let their heads drop and they remained right in contention throughout, pulling the gap back to a point by the 42nd minute.

Wexford then struck three points on the trot however, to dash the Rebels' hopes and to bring the O'Duffy Cup Slaneyside where it was gratefully received by thousands of the county's long-suffering fans on Monday night.

Those scenes of celebration, and the sheer enthusiasm displayed by Wexford folk on an end to their All-Ireland famine, give an indication of what this triumph means to the county.

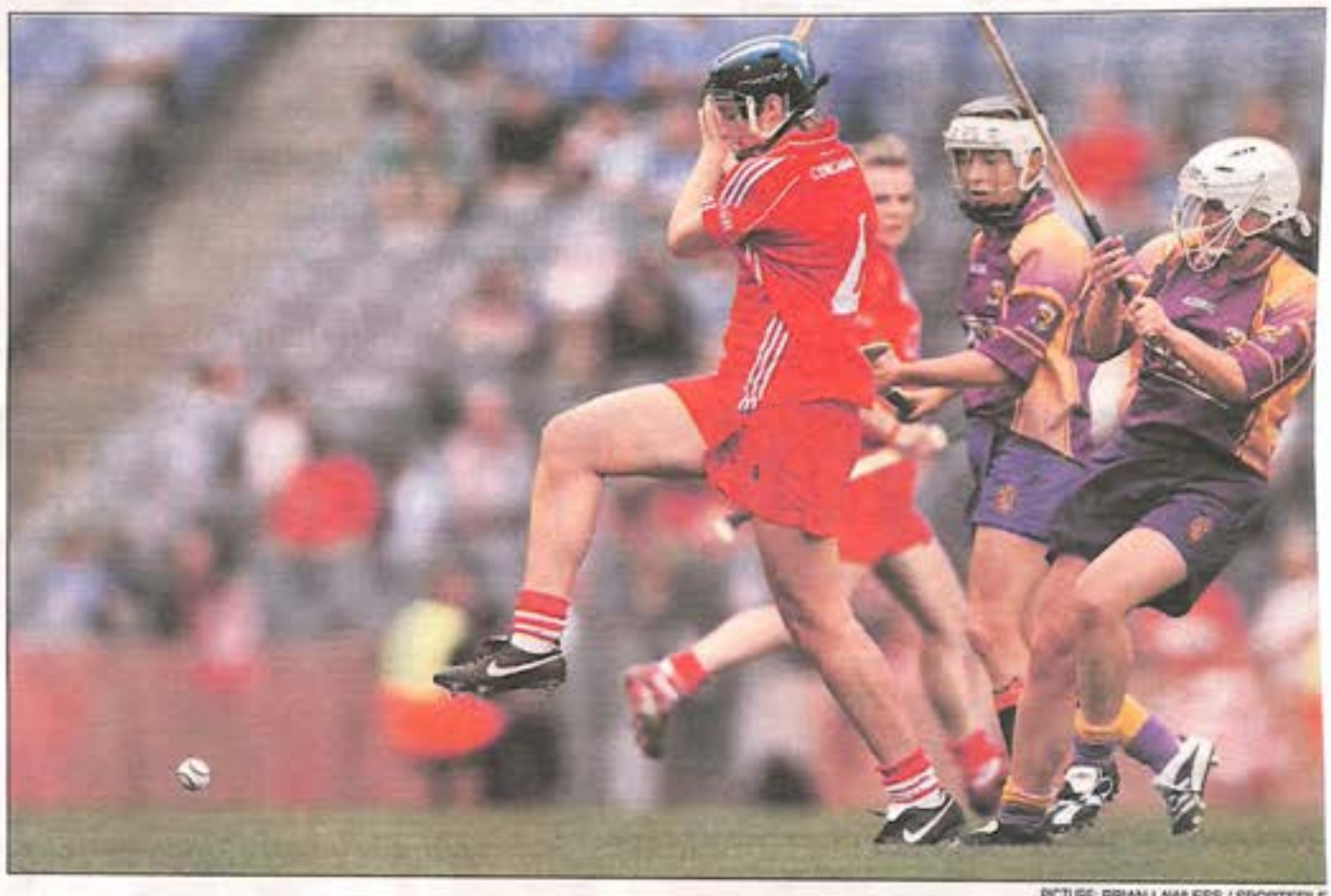
Nothing can soften the blow for the Cork girls whose proud achievements, seen in the cold light of day, are a remarkable example of hard work, dedication and perfection.

Indeed some members of the panel have already turned their attention to the Ladies Football Final against Mayo on Sunday week, when they too will be seeking the elusive three-in-a-row.

But back to last Sunday, and Cork actually got off to a bright start, with Jennifer O'Leary starting proceedings with a point in the first minute.

The rest of the plan didn't follow the script however, when Una Leacy picked up a ball which had slipped past Catriona Foley. She confidently scooped the ball while running with intent towards the Cork goal before she blasted the sliothar past the despairing dive of Aoife Murray to the net.

A couple more points were exchanged, with Cork guilty of a number of wides, before Leacy struck for another major after 15 minutes. The Oulart the Ballagh star's goal was almost a carbon copy of the first, with the high ball again escaping the attentions of the Cork defence and presenting itself for her to confidently strike past the unlucky Foley once again.



PICTURE: BRIAN LAWLESS / SPORTSFILE

Mary O'Connor, in action against Michelle O'Leary of Wexford in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final at Croke Park, Dublin.

Leacy, the daughter of Margaret (nee O'Leary) – named on the camogie team of the century, was held scoreless for the remainder of the game but the damage was done at that stage.

The Wexford defence managed to stifle out the Cork attacks, with Wexford captain Mary Leacy, Una's sister, another star on the day. The much-vaunted Cork attack managed a measly three points in the first half, while seven wides tell their own story.

Things did improve in the second half, as the Cork girls came out fighting. Captain Gemma O'Connor led by example with a point from midfield inside a minute, and one sensed that the champions' self-belief would turn the table.

Ursula Jacob responded with a vital score for Wexford however, to stop the Models' heads from dropping.

Although Emer Dillon grabbed a goal back for Cork when she pounced on a flick on into the area, Wexford responded with another point.

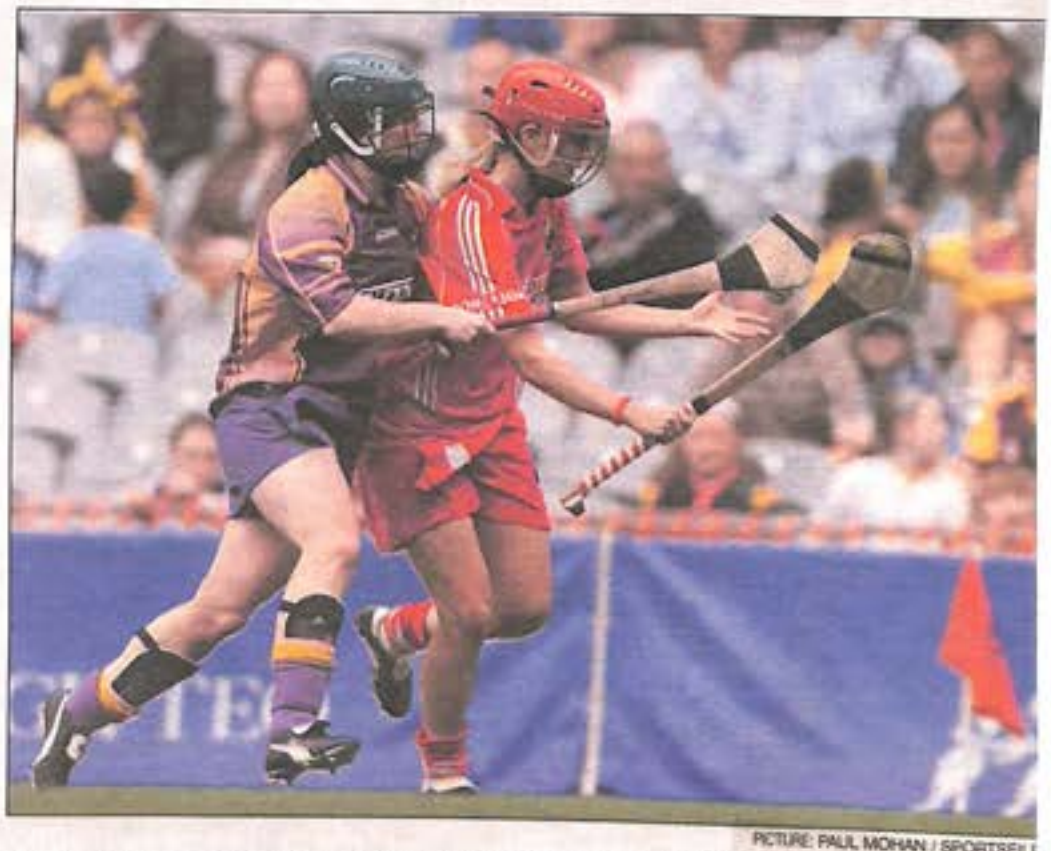
Angela Walsh and Gemma O'Connor brought the gap down to the minimum in the 42nd minute, but Wexford scored another four points to emerge worthy champions.

Cork's valiant efforts contributed to a pulsating end, but they were not enough - the damage had been done



PICTURE: BRIAN LAWLESS / SPORTSFILE

Wexford's Una Leacy in action against Amanda O'Regan on the way to scoring her side's second goal in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final at Croke Park.



PICTURE: PAUL MOHAN / SPORTSFILE

Síle Burns in action against Wexford's Noeleen Lambert in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final.

Cronin rues early goals but takes pride in his team's fighting spirit

MATCHREACTION

CORK coach John Cronin felt Wexford's greater hunger had a large part in the end of the three-in-a-row dream for his charges. The two goals scored by Una Leacy were crucial too, he felt.

"We got a bad start and appeared nervous. We didn't get into our game at all, and we struggled in too many positions in the first half. They got the two early goals and we were chasing from there," he explained.

Cronin however, complimented his team for refusing to lie down and accept defeat.

"Fair play to our girls they fought back and we brought it back down to a point. I felt if we got the equaliser we would have taken it because they might have begun to doubt themselves.

"But we didn't and they consolidated their lead with three points and again we found ourselves chasing the game, but we battled on and at the finish they just about hung on.

"We almost did get the goal. They were more physical, and they had the hunger. Unfortunately we didn't win but we will be around again."

The Cork boss admitted that talk of a three-in-a-row triumph might have had an effect on his team.

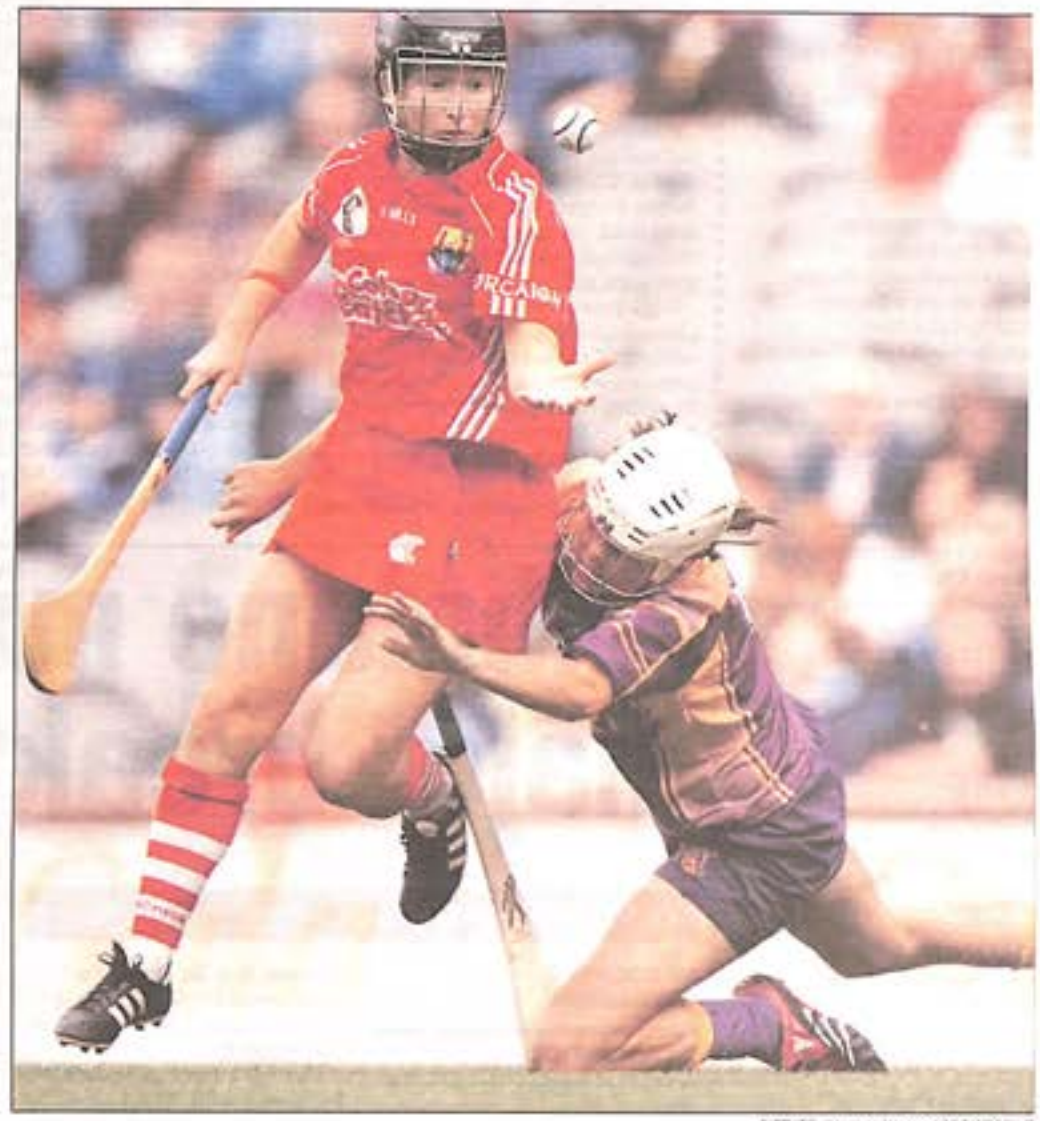
"We never once mentioned it but it was bound to be there in the back of all our minds.

"For some girls it was a tenth All-Ireland senior final and it's a long time for some of the girls but I have no doubt they will be around again.

"We are proud of each and every one of them."

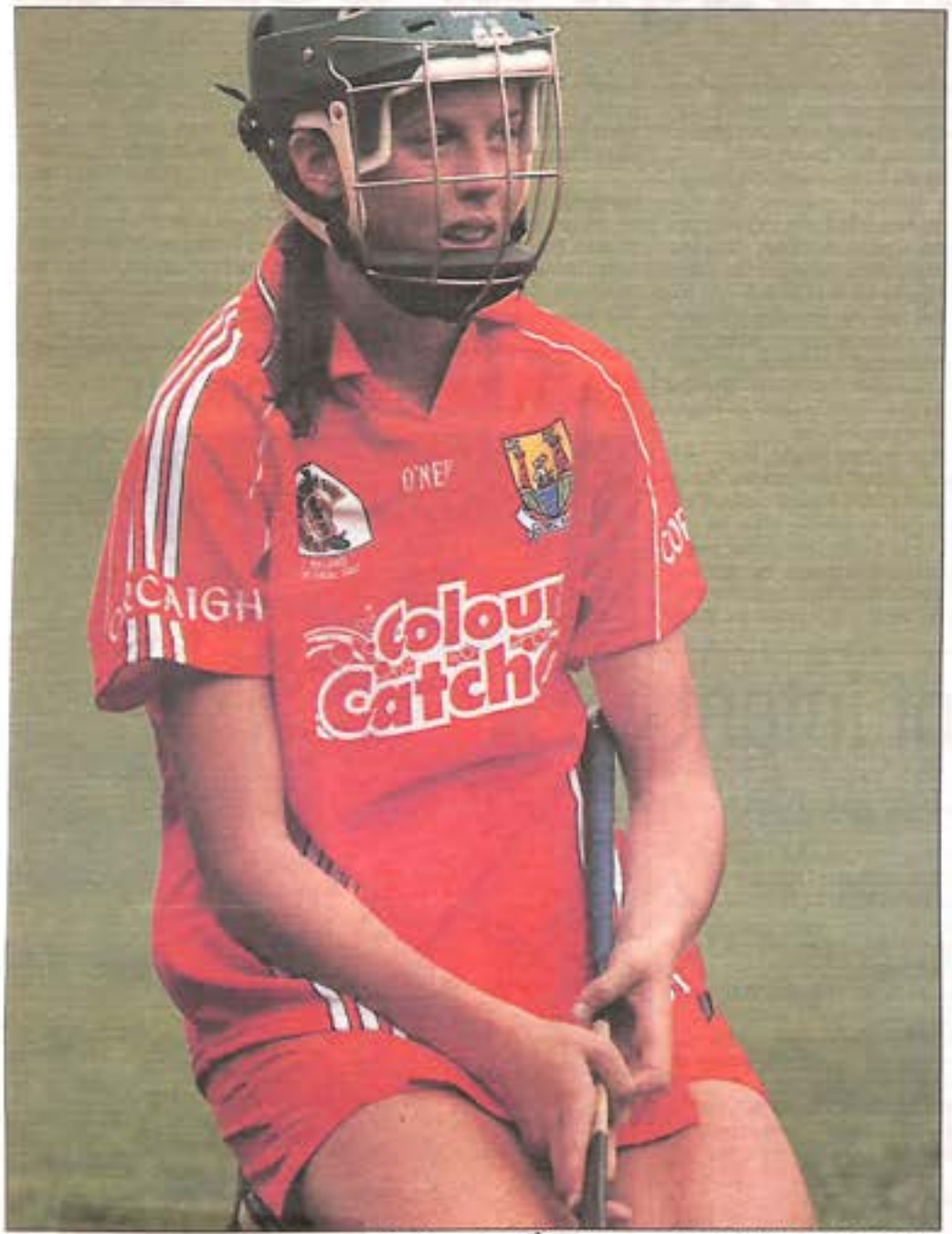
WEXFORD	CORK
M Darcy; N Lambert, C O'Loughlin, A Nolan; A Codd, M Leacy, D Codd; K Kelly (0-03, 1f), C Murphy; B Furlong, RM Breen (0-01), M O'Leary; U Leacy (2-00), M Hearne, U Jacob (0-02).	A Murray; J O'Callaghan, C Foley, A O'Regan; R Buckley, M O'Connor, A Geary; B Corkery (0-01), G O'Connor (0-03); U O'Donoghue, A Walsh (0-01), J O'Leary (0-01, 1f); E Dillon (1-01), O Cotter (0-01), S Burns.
SUBS: A O'Connor for A Codd (34); K Parrock (0-01) for O'Leary (41); C O'Connor for Nolan (65).	**SUBS:** E Watson for O'Donoghue (52); S O'Donovan for Walsh (56).

REFEREE: John Morrissey (Tipperary).



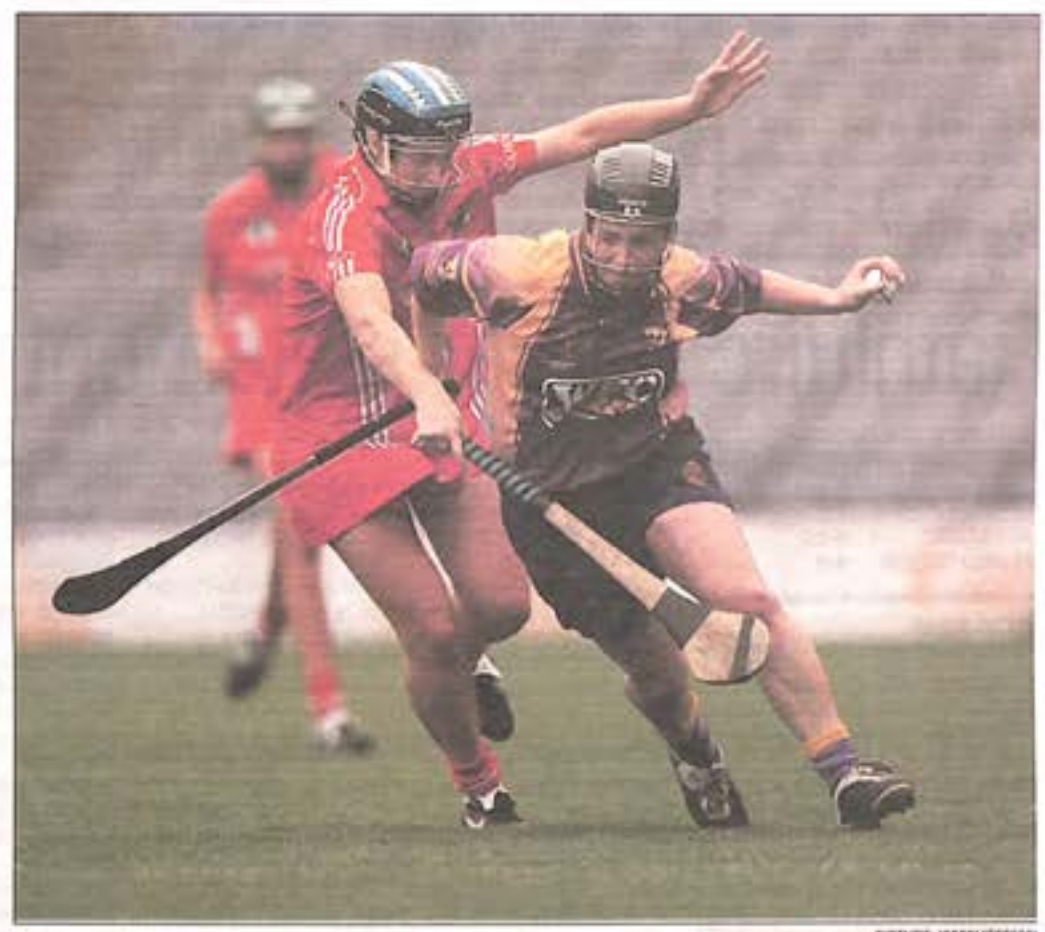
PICTURE: PAUL MOHAN / SPORTSFILE

Una O'Donoghue in action against Wexford's captain, Mary Leacy, in the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final at Croke Park, Dublin.



PICTURE: CAROLINE QUINN / SPORTSFILE

Ornor Dillon shows her disappointment after the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final.



PICTURE: XXXXX XXXXXXX

Ursula Jacob, Wexford, in action against Amanda O'Regan in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final.

SEPT. 2007

A dream come true, says happy Leacy



Darragh Ó Conchúir

WINNING Wexford captain Mary Leacy described it as a "dream come true" and sure no wonder, given that she and her younger sister Una have been reared on stories, photographs and newspaper clippings of All-Ireland glory.

Their mother Margaret (née O'Leary) was on the last team from the Model County to take the O'Duffy Cup in 1975 and won a host of club All-Irelands with Oulart-The Ballagh, her legacy being assured by selection on the Team of the Century in 2004.

It was fitting then that Mary would captain the side that ended an agonising 32-year famine for Wexford, and show her leadership skills with a powerful display from centre-back that marked her out as the player of the match in this observer's opinion.

It was appropriate too that Una would prove the ultimate difference between the sides, displaying the instinct of a goal-poacher supreme when rattling home two goals in the opening 15 minutes to send Wexford on their way.

"She's had a great year scoring goals and she finished those well today" Mary said.

"We knew getting a good start was crucial. We knew what to expect and we said we'd try to give it our all for the last 30 and not come off the pitch with any regrets."

For a while it looked like Cork's experience would see them through as they fought back courtesy of Emer Dillon's 38th minute goal and some excellent Gemma O'Connor points to get within the minimum with 17 minutes remaining.

Leacy was phenomenal during this period, however, standing tall in the face of what seemed an inexorable red tide. According to Wexford's tireless midfielder Bróna Furlong, the thought of losing never entered their heads however, even as Cork came at them in waves.

"They got their goal but we never let the heads drop. The thing that's different about the team this year is that we believe in ourselves and even though Cork got the goal, we knew we could do it. We had the confidence in ourselves."

Furlong played a key role herself, having been deputised to shadow Briege Corkery throughout. It proved an inspirational management decision and her influence was evident by the manner in which the normally free-moving Corkery struggled to impose herself. An athletics background undoubtedly helped and she was glad to be able to contribute to a team effort.

"I had to do a lot of running but camogie is a team sport and you have to do whatever it takes. Briege puts in savage work and is a very fit player, but I'm not too bad fitness-wise myself and I stuck with her. Somebody has to do the donkey-work and I was more than happy to do that.

"It's unbelievable. I just don't know what to do now," she laughed before paying tribute to manager Stella Sinnott, who knows the pain of losing an All-Ireland.

"Because she was there herself, it just means so much to her. Everyone in that team would die for Stella."



Wexford's Una Leacy gets her shot away under pressure from Cork's Amanda O'Regan at Croke Park yesterday. Picture: Inpho

Leacy concurred, adding that the management approach had been vital to this success.

"It was much more professional this year, they got everything right with the training and that helped put the belief in us. That was one of the main factors."

While lagging well behind her mother in terms of All-Ireland medals, the victorious captain does have a chance to add an intermediate football one on Sunday week but along with Caroline Murphy, Michelle Hearne, Kate Kelly and Bridget Curran she will get indulge in a bit of gentle partying first.

"Our football manager Brendan Dardis is very good to us so we'll celebrate for a few days and then think about that."

Heady days indeed.

Wexford reaction

Diamond sparkles as late goal earns title for Derry

Derry	**3-12**
Clare	**2-14**

by Cóilín Duffy

DERRY won their first All-Ireland junior camogie title since 2000 thanks to a late goal from centre half-forward Aisling Diamond in a hard-fought win over Clare at Croke Park yesterday.

Grainne McGoldrick was the Derry starlet in the opening half-hour as the midfielder struck a brace of excellent points, including a long-range free in the 21st minute from exactly the midfield mark.

Claire Commane certainly proved her worth in the Banner colours with two first-half points and the Corofin girl also picked up the player of the match award as she continued her good work in the second period.

Derry took the initiative 10 minutes after the restart when a long ball in the 39th minute found an unmarked Aileen Laverty and she had no problem in slotting home the game's first goal.

However, Clare were handed a lifeline with 11 minutes remaining when a clever through ball from Kate Lynch broke to corner forward Commane who slid the ball past Derry goalkeeper Claire O'Kane to level the contest for the sixth time at 1-11 apiece.

Within two minutes, the Banner girls rattled the Derry net for a second time, full-forward Sharon McMahon doing the honours.

A quick point from McMahon saw Clare go further in front, but then Grainne McGoldrick picked out full-forward Paula McAtamney, who slotted the ball to the Clare net.

Derry finally managed an equalising score thanks to an impressive point from substitute Katrina O'Kane, with two minutes of normal time remaining.

As the sideline official indicated six minutes of injury time would be played, Clare once again went ahead thanks to a fifth point from Commane. The corner forward quickly extended this lead to two points, but with seven and a half minutes of injury time played, Diamond struck the ball to the net after a partial block from Clare goalkeeper Denise Lynch.

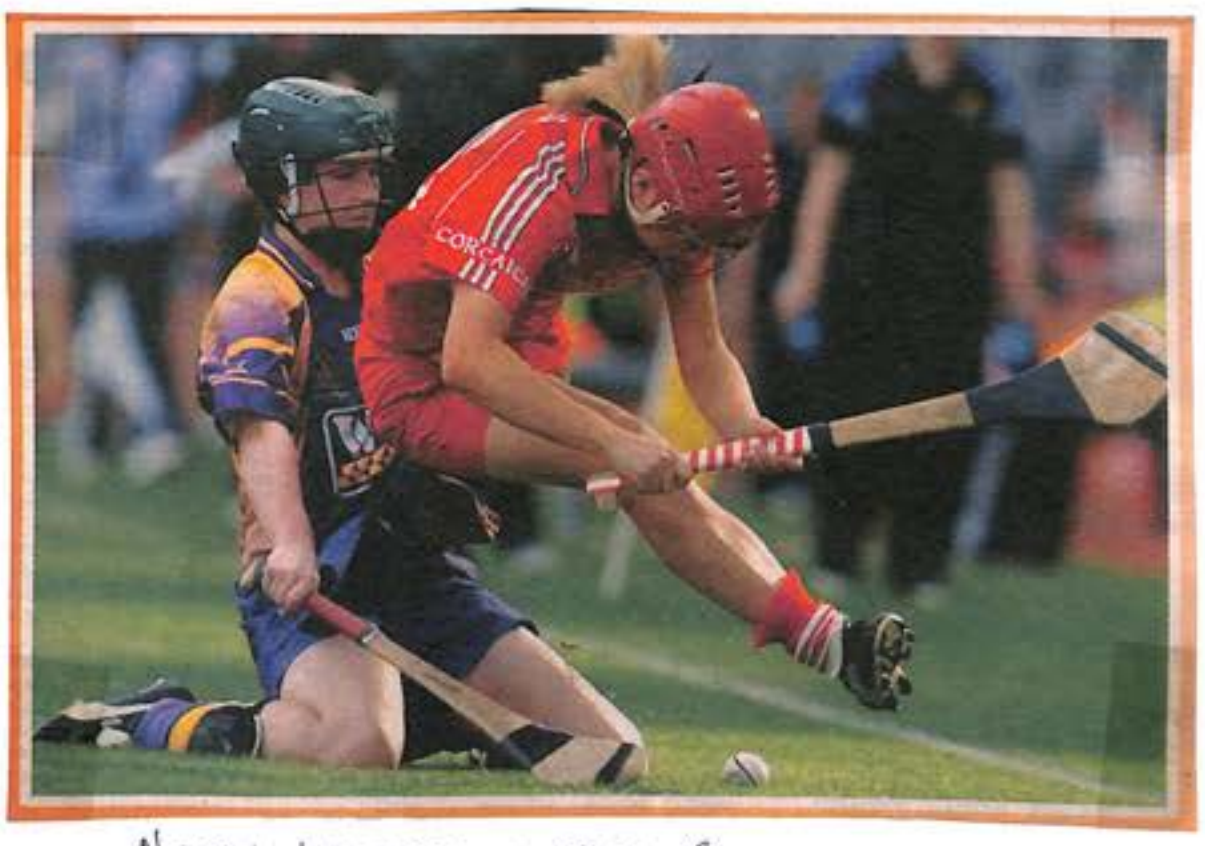
DERRY: C O'Kane; C Pickering, H Kelly, C Cushnehan; K Laverty, C Doherty, J Carey; G McGoldrick (0-3, 2f), B Convery; K McAuley, A Diamond (1-3), E Henry; S Cassidy (0-3), P McAtamney (1-3, 3f), A Laverty (1-0).

Sub: M McGoldrick for Pickering (49 mins).

CLARE: D Lynch; H McMahon, D Corcoran, A Colleran; K Hally, D Murphy, S Lafferty; K Lynch, J Scanlon; C Roseingrave (0-2), C O'Loughlin, A Ryan (0-2); C Commane (1-6, 3f), S McMahon (1-3), S O'Loughlin.

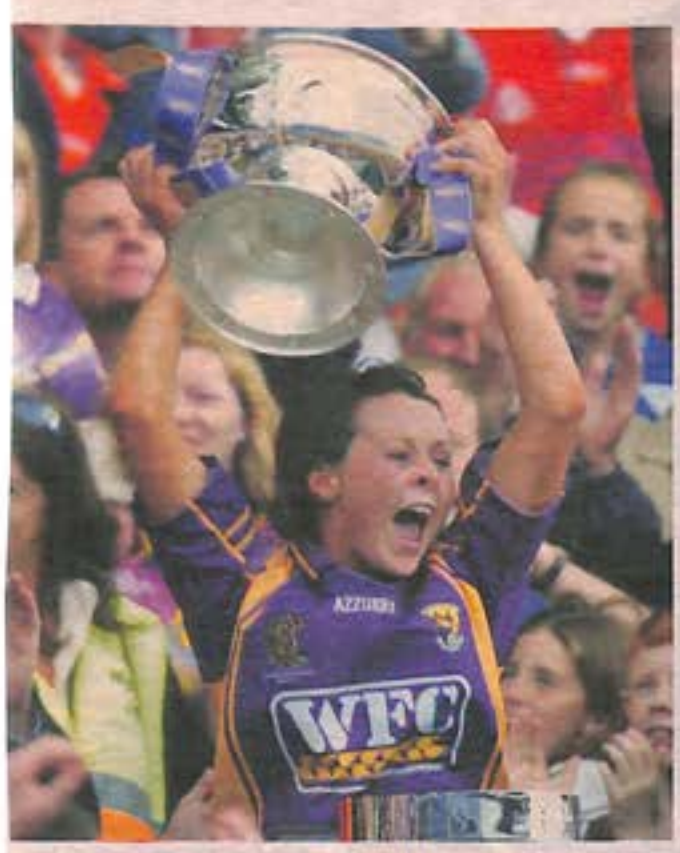
Subs: F Lafferty (0-1) for Hally (22 mins), K Hally for J Scanlon (34), S Moloney for S O'Loughlin (45), A O'Brien for C O'Loughlin (both 45), C O'Loughlin for Ryan (57).

Referee: Cathal Egan (Cork).



NOLEEN LAMBERT + SILE BURNS

Wexford's day of glory





Wexford captain Mary Leacy lifts the O'Duffy Cup after their victory over Cork, while (right) Caroline Murphy is sent sprawling after a clash with Gemma O'Connor. BRIAN LAWLESS AND PAUL MOHAN / SPORTSFILE

Nothing pretty as Leacy's early goals wreck Cork dreams



CLIONA FOLEY

Wexford	2-7
Cork	1-8

All-Ireland Camogie Final

CROKE Park stewards found themselves in the unusual position of pleading with players, not fans, to vacate the pitch yesterday after Wexford sabotaged Cork's three in-a-row hopes to win their fourth Gala All-Ireland senior camogie title.

After ending a 32-year drought and toppling the old order, the 'Girls of Wexford' simply didn't want to leave, and their equally joyous fans amongst the 33,154 crowd weren't going anywhere until their heroines left.

With so much tight marking and ground tussles, it wasn't the prettiest decider but, that mattered little to Wexford, who were back in their first final for 13 years.

Manufacturers may be producing pink camogie helmets nowadays, but there was nothing delicate or girly about this famous victory.

Tough, fit female hurlers were needed to harry and hassle a loaded Cork side appearing in their seventh final in eight years, and Stellah Sinnott's side managed to produce exactly that, led by Brona Furlong, Rose-Marie Breen, Noeleen Lambert and a particularly inspirational centre-back in their captain, Mary Leacy.

After a dream two-goal start, they led by five points at half-time, but memories of the League Final, when Cork made a 12-point turnaround to pip them, loomed large.

Just three minutes before they were due to go back out, their management left the players alone and Leacy's speech to her team, apparently, was a goose-bump raiser.

Her younger sister Una had already played a massive part with two goals.

Ursula Jacob handily set her up for the first after just three minutes, but she did all the work for the second, hand-passing to the net after 16 minutes to continue a marvellous family tradition, as their mum (Margaret O'Leary) is a three-time All-Ireland winner.

The big question was whether Wexford could keep up the phenomenal work-rate that had managed to contain the usually imperious Rebelettes to just three points (2-2 to 0-3) at the break.

Furlong, showing all her athletic prowess – she's a 400m hurler with London 2012 Olympic aspirations – roamed tirelessly in midfield to contain Briege Corkery and release Kate Kelly to wing-forward duty.

But Cork had already wasted lots of chances (seven wides), and the threat that Emer Dillon posed to Avis Nolan was proven seven minutes after the re-start, when she goaled.

With Cork captain Gemma O'Connor having an inspirational second-half (0-3 from play) they quickly cut the deficit to a mere point. Then came a potential turning point, when Una Leacy went goal-chasing again – instead of taking a steadying point – and Caitriona Foley got in a vital block.

Minutes later, the pendulum swung again when a long O'Connor free yielded a goal chance for Una O'Donoghue, but Nolan, heroically, scrambled it off the line.

As Cork coach Fiona O'Driscoll noted: "If we had drawn level or gone a point ahead they might have panicked a little, but we never got level and they didn't."

A rattled Cork never sparkled and, after weathering that tough third-quarter storm, Wexford got their second wind and sailed for home.

Kate Kelly, Ursula Jacob and teen super-sub Katrina Parrock scored without reply to go four clear yet Cork, particularly their corner-backs, still continued to battle on heroically. Orla Cotter, who was by then at centre-forward, forced a great save from Mags Darcy at the start of the four minutes of injury-time that, agonisingly, was extended by over two more in Wexford's painful countdown to victory.

For once, Cork met a hungrier side than themselves, and four of Wexford's starters will be back in a fortnight chasing a 'double' in the intermediate football final.

Player of the Match: Mary Leacy (Wexford).
Scorers: Wexford: U Leacy 2-0, K Kelly 0-3 (1f), U Jacob 0-2, R Breen and K Parrock 0-1 each. Cork: E Dillon 1-1, G O'Connor 0-3, B Corkery, A Walsh and O Cotter 0-1 each, J O'Leary 0-1 (f).
Teams and Ratings.
WEXFORD: M Darcy 8; N Lambert 9, C O'Loughlin 8, A Nolan 7; A Codd 6, M Leacy (Capt) 9, D Codd 7; B Furlong 8, C Murphy 7; K Kelly 6, RM Breen 9, M O'Leary 7, U Leacy 8, M Hearne 7, U Jacob 7. Subs – A O'Connor 7 for A Codd (35 mins), K Parrock 8 for O'Leary (42), C O'Connor for Nolan (66).
CORK: A Murray 7; J O'Callaghan 8, C Foley 8, A O'Regan 6; R Buckley 6, M O'Connor 6, A Geary 8; B Corkery 6, G O'Connor (Capt) 9, U O'Donoghue 6, A Walsh 6, J O'Leary 6, E Dillon 7, O Cotter 7, S Burns 6. Subs – E Watson 7 for O'Donoghue (52 mins), S O'Donovan for Walsh (70).
Referee: J Moroney (Tipperary).

Disappointment for seniors in All-Ireland final at Croke Park

HUGE disappointment as the senior team failed narrowly in their bid for thee in a row of Gala senior All Ireland titles on Sunday, as Wexford bridged a 32 year gap to take the spoils.

From the start it was Wexford who made all the early running, with two gaols inside the opening 15 minutes giving Cork a mountain to climb, but through the opening half they did have plenty of opportunities.

Cork turned over five points in arrears but got a great start to the second half when Gemma O'Connor fired over a quick point for the second half. Cork tore into Wexford and did get the deficit down to one point but Wexford were not to be denied and striking three points without reply extended their lead.

Again Cork battled back and had the lead down to just two points and were unlucky not to grab a late gaol when the Wexford keeper denied Orla Cotter with a splendid save.

The team and their mentors, while disappointed, can be proud of their achievements. For several of the players it was their tenth All Ireland final appearance and while they will be disappointed at losing they know just how much this title will mean to Wexford.

It's been 32 years since their last success and the scene at the end of Sundays game showed just how much it means to them.

Again complements to the Cork players and mentors who have given us wonderful years of enjoyment. No doubt they will be back stronger than ever, determined to dethrone the new champions.

Under age results

SOME under 16 championship results to hand Carrigaline defeated Eire og 3-5 to 0-14 Brian Dillon's had a victory over Watergrasshill 4-9 to 0-4 Ballincollig defeated Inniscarra 2-6 to 1-2.
In the Under 14 D league semi finals Bishopstown defeated Castleyons while Charleville defeated Barryroe.

Camogiechat

With Mary Newman

Senior B semi final

THE Senior B team go in chase of a semi final place on Saturday when they travel to Templemore to meet Wexford.

Cork have worked hard to reach the semi final and will battle to retain their title won in such tremendous fashion last year.

Aidan Crowley and his selectors Síle Golden Willie o Regan and Kay Dunne have assembled a good side and have come through their campaign with good displays, they lost out in the league final to Limerick and will be determined to reach the All Ireland final.

Eimear White Lynda O'Connell, Eimear O'Sullivan and Marie Corkery are amongst the players who will feature strongly against a Wexford side who will be aiming to make it a double.

Senior B championship

ONE game down for decision on Monday next with Ballinhassig and Carrigaline meeting on Monday night at 6pm in the last games in their section of the Evening Echo round robin series of championship.

Determined Slaneysiders end the wait

Wexford 2-7

Cork 1-8



Therese O' Callaghan

Croke Park

WELCOME to Wexford, the new home of the O'Duffy Cup.

Make no mistake, 5.16pm September 9th, 2007 was an emotional time in Croke Park.

The real day arrived, so too did the team. The Girls of Wexford walked the walk, and talked the talk, before jubilant and deserving captain Mary Leacy ambled off with the new trophy following a heartbreaking wait of 32 years.

Unlike many of their predecessors over previous Sundays, it was the underdogs who set the pace with a goal from the younger Leacy, Una, after four minutes and a second 11 minutes later.

From here to the finish, they never let up, never allowed Cork get into their rhythm, and throughout a hectic closing 10 minutes, we all wondered if they would come up short once again.

This was a truly remarkable game. After watching Derry snatch an enthralling victory in the junior final earlier in the day, we couldn't imagine it getting much better.

Croke Park, as we well know, is not a place for the faint hearted. A decent start had to be the order of the day and the Purple and Gold delivered emphatically. They stung Cork with their steely determination — and suddenly reality was beginning to dawn for the wannabe three-in-a-row seekers who owe nothing to the camogie world. They have been ever present since the turn of the millennium when they eventually dethroned mighty Tipperary off their throne. Yesterday was just one bridge too far, they were chasing a result inside five minutes and despite coming out a great deal stronger for the second half and bridging the gap to a mere one point by the 43rd minute, this was always going to be Wexford's day.

It was the Slaneysiders' fourth title, by comparison Cork were going for their 23rd. Consequently, there was a hunger the champions couldn't possible match. Centre back Mary Leacy announced her arrival with a player-of-the-match performance, particularly in the latter end of the second half following the substitution of her flanker Áine Codd. As expected the much admired Kate Kelly, selected at number eight, took up her starting position at corner forward with 400 metre hurdler Bróna Furlong enjoying the vast space around midfield. This was a crucial area for the Slaneysiders, and significantly one where they held their own.

Their defence though was inspirational. Their full back line headed up by 30-year old Avis Nolan — the only link with their last appearance in Croke Park in 1994 — did a superb marking job limiting a highly rated Rebel attack to just three points (two from play) in those opening 30 minutes. The only real worry at the break was Wexford's tally of seven wides in comparison to Cork' three.

Kelly was causing consternation too roaming from the corner to midfield while rifling over two well-executed points, in addition to Una Leacy's goals — the second was smartly hand passed beyond Aoife Murray who really had no chance of stopping either strike.

Skipper Gemma O'Connor thundered into the second half hitting a fine point from midfield but Ursula Jacob's reply made a clear statement. Then, Wexford were hit hard when Dillon goaled after a rare mistake by Nolan. Now, the character of the Purple and Gold was being seriously tested. The Leesiders narrowed the gap to one, they had steadied down their back line as well, and if this was to be Wexford's year they needed to stand up and be counted.

How they did. As Cork agonisingly looked at a goal chance dribble out wide, Wexford came roaring back with points from Kelly, Jacob and sub Katrina Parrock who celebrated her 17th birthday last Sunday (remember the name) to stretch the lead to four.

Never giving up the fight, Briege Corkery and an O'Connor point on the 64th minute brought it down to two. But, those of the 33,154 crowd present saw history in the making. Under manager Stellah Sinnott and her tireless backroom team, Wexford had done little wrong all year, and they did everything right yesterday.

The scenes were unbridled. From Mags D'Arcy to Jacob you could almost breathe their optimism. Parrock's introduction worked a treat, as did that of sisters Aoife and Claire O'Connor — daughters of Teddy the former Wexford hurler.



Wexford players celebrating at the final whistle after their victory over Cork in yesterday's All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park. Picture: Inpho

Scorers for Wexford: U Leacy 2-0, K Kelly 0-3 (0-1 free), U Jacob 0-2, R M Breen and K Parrock 0-1 each.

Scorers for Cork: E Dillon 1-1, G O'Connor 0-3, B Corkery, A Walsh, O Cotter and J O'Leary (free) 0-1 each.

WEXFORD: M D'Arcy; N Lambert, C O'Loughlin, A Nolan; A Codd, M Leacy (Capt), D Codd; K Kelly, C Murphy; B Furlong, R M Breen, M O'Leary; U Leacy, M Hearne, U Jacob.

Subs: A O'Connor for A Codd (34m), K Parrock for M O'Leary (42), C O'Connor for A Nolan (65).

CORK: A Murray; J O'Callaghan, C Foley, A O'Regan; R Buckley, M O'Connor, A Geary; B Corkery, G O'Connor (Capt); U O'Donoghue, A Walsh, J O'Leary; E Dillon, O Cotter, S Buens.

Subs: E Watson for U O'Donoghue (52), S O'Donovan for A Walsh (56).

Referee: J Morrissey (Tipperary).

Sept. 2007



Cork's Joanne O'Callaghan keeps possession from Kate Kelly of Wexford during their All-Ireland Senior Camogie final at Croke Park. Picture: INPHO

Cork team ratings

Ratings by Conor George

AOIFE MURRAY
Couldn't be faulted for either goal as she was left exposed by her backs with Una Leacy twice being given time and space to pick her spot. Aoife's restarts were excellent as she tried to find a Cork player every time and also was cool under the dropping ball, taking the time to find a player with a red shirt every time even when under enormous pressure.
7

JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN
On a day when Cork were caught napping in the first-half, Joanne and the rest of the full-back line were under enormous pressure from the very start and didn't settle as quickly as they would have liked. Did get some crucial blocks and hooks in during the game and performed better in the second-half, but her clearances were not the best.
6

CAITRIONA FOLEY
The speed of the Wexford full-forward line caused the full-back line problems from the start and this included Foley. She did execute a brave block in the second-half and came more into the game in the second-half when Cork improved overall.
6

AMANDA O'REGAN:
Really came into the game in the second-half and plucked some great balls from the sky. Also blocked an almost certain Wexford goal after 42 minutes when she bravely threw herself into the path of an Ursula Jacob drive. Did defend too far forward in the first-half, but had a much improved performance after the half time interval.
6

RENA BUCKLEY
Played a mountain of ball in the half back line and was one of better Cork defenders on show. She tried to win everything and threw herself into the heftier challenges with scant regard for her own well-being. Will be bitterly disappointed, but she worked her socks off and can hold her head high.
7

MARY O'CONNOR
Cork's talisman at centre-back Mary suffered as a result of Wexford pouring forward in droves at every opportunity and stopping Cork's centre-back from having her normal high impact performance. She was good at mopping up loose ball, but was off the pace overall as opposed to her usual high standards. Has to shake this off before Cork ladies footballers take on Mayo in a fortnight.
6

ANNA GEARY
Cork's stand out player in last year's final Anna didn't have the same impact his time round and suffered from the general malaise that permeated through the Cork defence. A player of rare skill and composure, she was caught out a couple of times by the pace of Wexford's attack although she did improve in the second-half.
6

BRIEGE CORKERY
Never hit the heights of previous finals, but she worked bloody hard for the duration. Scored Cork's last point of the afternoon and had one great run in the first-half when she picked the ball and carried it 30 yards before putting the sliothar into her hand. Kept plugging away and was her usual combative self all through. Was also good defensively when the need arose in the second-half.
8

GEMMA O'CONNOR
Cork's stand-out performer on a day when too many of the Cork players were off their game. Really took the game to Wexford in the second-half as she tried valiantly to force an upturn in her side's fortunes with an all-action display. In the second-half she seemed to be everywhere as she covered acres of Croke Park and certainly played a captain's role in Cork's comeback. Hit three lovely second-half points from distance as well.
9

UNA O'DONOGHUE
Couldn't get into the game and will be disappointed with that. She tried her heart out and competed for everything but it wasn't her afternoon and was replaced with ten minutes remaining. Suffered from the generally bad start by Cork that saw them chasing the game almost from the start.
6

ANGELA WALSH
Fared slightly better when she moved to right half-forward in the second-half, but she struggled in the first-half when Wexford centre-back and captain Mary Leacy dominated the game. Walsh stayed too far off Leacy in the first-half and this was highlighted by the amount of ball the Wexford player played.
6

JENNY O'LEARY
Was never allowed to get into the game and while she battled hard came off second best against a Wexford team that simply wouldn't let Cork gain any meaningful momentum. Hit one free – the game's opening score – but faded after this and struggled to make an impact.
6

EMER DILLON
Scored Cork's only goal and added a point into the mix as well. Emer looked dangerous whenever she was in possession but this was far too seldom as the Cork full-forward line spent a lot of the game starved of possession. Also suffered with Wexford's tactic of having a minimum of two players chase down any Cork player in possession. Was muscled out of it on occasion, but overall did well.
7

ORLA COTTER
One of Cork's better players she fought for every ball, especially when moved out to the half-forward line and she kept battling right until the very end. Was not afraid to get in among the Wexford players and try to upset them and knock them off her stride. Her rangy style of running and strength when in possession did cause Wexford problems. One of Cork's better performers.
8

SÍLE BURNS
Never got into the game. Admittedly suffered as a result of the lack of quality ball being sent into the forward line but was too easily knocked off balance when fighting for the little ball that made its way into the full-forward line. A quality player she will be disappointed with this outing in Croke Park.
6

● **Subs.** Emer Watson and Sarah O'Donovan not on long enough to be rated.

Camogie stars deserve day in the limelight

LAST Sunday in Croke Park could be described as "Integration Sunday".

It was great to see two All-Ireland camogie finals and the U-21 hurling decider at headquarters.

Playing the camogie and U-21 hurling finals on the same bill was something we decided for a two year trial period over two years ago. This year the experiment worked much better than last year. It was ideal that six different counties were involved as they all could concentrate on their own game. The weather was perfect and the day was very well organised by the Camogie Association.

When the debate about opening Croke Park was going on, we often made the point that we should open the stadium to our own as well as others. It is absolutely vital that the camogie and Ladies Football Finals should be played at headquarters.

Camogie, in particular, was coming under increased pressure as it invariably clashed with the U-21 hurling finals. It was not unusual to have one member of a family playing an All-Ireland camogie final while her brother was playing an U-21 decider at a different venue.

It was not fair to families and not fair to integration.

So we asked the current Leinster Council Chairman, Liam O'Neill to work with the Camogie Association and he came back to management with the current proposal.

It worked reasonably well in 2006 but it was much better this year.

I hope it now becomes a permanent fixture — it is the least camogie deserves.

Sunday produced splendid camogie fare. Derry's last minute goal broke the hearts of the Clare girls but will give the sport a great boost in Ulster.

The senior final was a thrilling game and Wexford showed great skill and courage in just staying ahead of a gallant Cork.

Following this great victory Wexford's manager Cathy Sinnot must be in line for Manager of the Year. No wonder Wexford legend Tony Doran was all smiles afterwards. It was one of Camogie's finest days. Take a bow everybody from Liz Howard and Síle Wallis (Ard-Stiurthoir) all the way down to the grassroots.

The dream

Wexford are deserving champions



Cork's Sile Burns with family members after their defeat by Wexford during the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park.

Picture: Dan Linehan



JOHN CRONIN: Cork camogie coach.

Cronin: No decisions on future just yet

ALWAYS a gentleman, Cork manager John Cronin's initial thoughts were for his players writes Mary Newman.

His first task was to stand at the passageway leading to the Cork dressingroom door and personally commiserate and thank each and every one of his fallen heroines.

After returning from the Wexford dressing room with Fiona O'Driscoll he reacted to defeat.

"We got a bad start and appeared nervous. We didn't get into our game at all and in the first-half struggled in to many position, they got the two early goals and were chasing from there.

"Fair play to our girls they fought back and we brought it down to a point.

" I felt if we got the equalised we would have taken it because they might have began to doubt themselves.

"We didn't and they consolidated their lead with three points and again we found ourselves chasing the game but we battled on and at the finish they just about hung on.

"To the finish we were there and could and almost did get the goal they were more physical and they had the hunger unfortunately we didn't win it but we will be around again

The fact that his side were going for the elusive three-in-a-row never featured in any of the team talks leading up to the final but John felt his side did feel the added pressure

"We never once mentioned it but it was bound to be there in the back of all our minds.

"For some girls it was a tenth All-Ireland senior final and it's a long time for some of these girls but I have no doubt but they will be around again we are proud of each and every one of them."

Pushed as to what the future now holds John was making no decisions.

"Well go home and think about it but we will make no rash decisions tonight."



LINDA MELLERICK

Cork	1-8
Wexford	2-7

THE DREAM is over.

The hoodoo of the three in a row strikes again as Cork failed in their bid for their third All-Ireland title in as many years at the hands of a confident, determined Wexford side in Croke Park yesterday afternoon.

It's hard to take but Cork can have no complaints. They succumbed to a better side on the day. The fear before the game, from Wexford's poin of view, was that they couldn't afford to give the All-Ireland champions a start. In fact the Slaneysiders rattled Cork in the opening 15 minutes.

Two goals in the third and 15th minutes from Una Leacy saw Cork behind by five points. Wexford were disciplined, their homework done.

An immediate switch, as expected, saw Kate Kelly move into right half-forward and Brona Furlong switching to midfield. On top of that Leacy regularly played as a fourth half-forward leaving a two man full-forward line inside of Michelle Hearne and Ursula Jacob.

Wexford knew they had the speed up front on one to one marking and wanted to break up Cork's sextet, the backbone of their past success.

At the other end Wexford's defence were superb and have taken over the mantle of the best defence in the country after yesterday's display. They were impressive all year but saved their finest hour for Croke Park. Cork never got going in the opening period; they weren't allowed. Wexford's hooking, blocking and work rate was first class.

Jennifer O'Leary got Cork off the mark inside the first minute. Two wides followed and it gave Wexford time to settle.

A long ball in from Michelle O'Leary went in over the heads of Catriona Foley and Hearne. It was Leacy who read it best, running in behind, gathering and confidently blasting past Aoife Murray in the Cork goal.

Kate Kelly pointed a free and Emer Dillon replied with a point but it was to be Cork's last score for the next 24 minutes. The scoring became stalemate. Cork had the bulk of the possession but were guilty of some poor shooting which resulted in a total of seven first-half wides.

Leacy's second goal was almost a mirror image of the first. In behind the long dropping ball, she once again read the situation and made no mistake.

Cork were in trouble at

Star player

There were many contenders. Una Leacy, Kate Kelly and Ursula Jacob from midfield and five of the Wexford defence come to mind. My selection goes to centre-back and captain Mary Leacy. She stood tall when Cork fought back. A sterling performance.

Top score

Una Leacy's two first-half goals inside 15 minutes showed experience beyond her years. In her first All-Ireland senior final against the kingpins of camogie she displayed incredible composure and confidence in taking both goals and set Wexford on their way.

Ref watch

Some obvious frees John Morrissey of Tipperary let go and on other occasions he blew for harmless incidents.

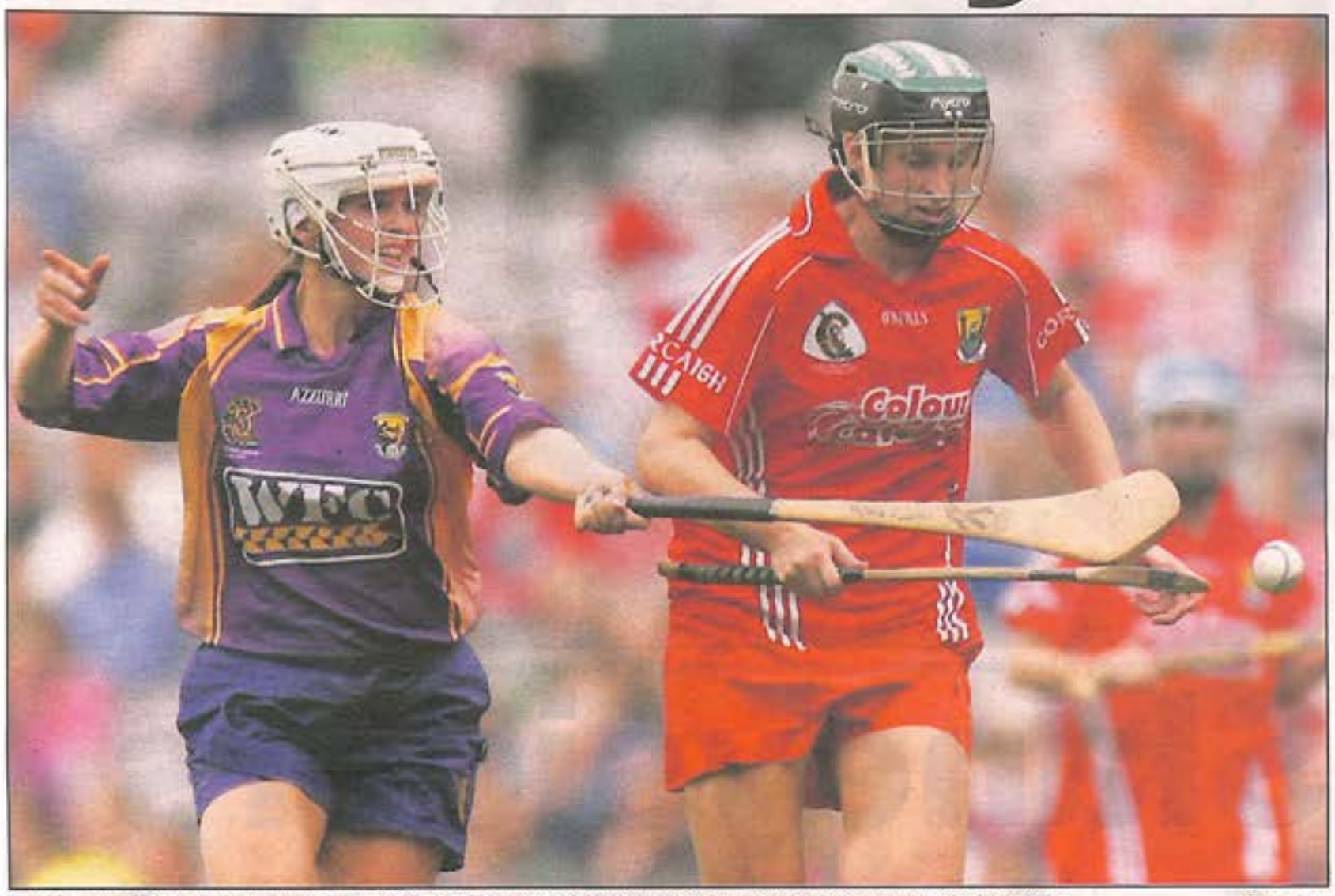
Overall though, I felt he let the game flow to the best of the rule book and his ability and did a good job.

Turning point

Despite Wexford's two first-half goals Cork still had plenty of time to recover.

The turning point came on 52 and 53 minutes. With Cork behind by a point a poor clearance saw Kate Kelly hit over. Jacob added another 40 seconds later and Cork needed a goal.

is destroyed



Cork's Amanda O'Regan gets away from Michelle O'Leary of Wexford during the All-Ireland senior camogie final yesterday. Picture: Inpho

THREE TALKING POINTS FROM THE BIG GAME

1 HUNGER

The Wexford team had a real hunger deeper down for this final.

They hooked, blocked, dived and hunted and wanted this so much that every 50/50 ball went their way on the day.

They created they own luck with their desire to win.

2 WEXFORD DEFENCE

What a performance. Cork won possession in the first-half though five points down. But they came up against a disciplined, hard-working back six. Cork hit seven wides in the first half.. Physically stronger, Wexford used their strength and cut Cork off from every angle.

3 THREE IN A ROW

While Cork did not dwell on the three in a row saga, it was proved again yesterday that it's almost impossible. A couple of weeks rest will sort them out physically but mental approach and hunger are the keys. It's getting difficult to sustain when other counties bite at your heels.

corner-back. They made the switch immediately and it worked well. Amanda O'Regan handled Ursula Jacob better and Joanne O'Callaghan held Leacy scoreless for the remainder of the game. As it transpired though, the damage was done.

Wexford's defence was now playing a major role. Noeleen Lambert, Catherine O'Loughlin, Avis Nolan, Mary Leacy and Deirdre Codd cut off every Cork attack.

Cork just couldn't put a move together. They were hooked and blocked at almost every turn as a hungry Wexford side dug deep to hold onto their lead. Kate Kelly stretched it to six points. Cork switched Orla Cotter out to right half-forward and Una O'Donoghue moved in full.

Cotter gathered and struck Cork's third point a minute to the break to cut the deficit to five.

Five points down isn't a mountain to climb in hurling and it's certainly not a mountain to climb for the All-Ireland champions. Cork proved this as we knew they would and stepped up a gear in the second half.

Gemma O'Connor played a captain's role with three magnificent points. The first, 30 seconds in, from midfield signalled Cork's intent.

Ursula Jacob responded two minutes later and that was an important score for Wexford. When Emer Dillon managed to flick the stick of Avis Nolan and rocket a goal past Mags D'Arcy after seven minutes the general feeling was that Cork were on their way back and it was now only a matter of time.

But Wexford have grown in stature throughout 2007. Where before heads would have dropped Kate Kelly answered the call and replied with a great point. It took the sting out of Cork's goal for Wexford.

Still the ball was in Cork's court.

Two points from Angela Walsh and O'Connor brought Cork within a point with 18 minutes of normal time left to play.

But Cork never managed to level the game. If they had one felt that they would have pushed on. With 52 minutes played and the game hanging in the balance the next score was vital. On at least three occasions Cork had possession in defence.

Each time the ball was struck blindly and each time it fell into the path of a Wexford player. It fell to Kate Kelly and now Cork had to score two points to draw level.

Sixty seconds later Ursula Jacob added a second point from a difficult angle out on the wing and now Cork had to score a goal. It was beginning to look grim.

Substitute Katrina Parrock hit what looked to be the insurance point on 57 minutes. O'Connor did the right thing a minute later and took her point.

On the stroke of full-time Orla Cotter, who did well after moving out, weaved her way through on goal. Her great shot was brilliantly saved by D'Arcy and full-back Catherine O'Loughlin doubled on the breaking ball to avert the danger.

Corkery brought it down to two three minutes into injury time. With many stoppages during the game, four minutes were added on. With further stoppages it ended with over six.

But Wexford hung on to take their first title in 32 years. It was heartbreaking for Cork particularly as they had to endure some of the greatest celebratory scenes displayed in Croke Park on All-Ireland camogie day in many a year.

This Cork team can hold their head high. Six All-Ireland appearances in six years! They took three.

It's been a long hard road and at some point you just have to reach a *cul de sac*.

Scorers for Wexford: U Leacy 2-0, K Kelly 0-3, U Jacob 0-2, R M Breen, Katrina Parrock 0-1 each.

Cork: E Dillon 1-1, G O'Connor 0-3, J O'Leary (f), O Cotter, A Walsh, B Corkery 0-1 each.

WEXFORD: M D'Arcy, N Lambert, C O'Loughlin, A Nolan; A Codd, M Leacy (Capt), D Codd; K Kelly, C Murphy; B Furlong, R M Breen, M O'Leary; U Leacy, M Hearne, U Jacob.

Subs: A O'Connor for A Codd (34), K Parrock for M O'Leary (41), C O'Connor for A Nolan (65).

CORK: A Murray; J O'Callaghan, C Foley, A O'Regan; R Buckley, M O'Connor, A Geary; B Corkery, G O'Connor; U O'Donoghue, A Walsh, J O'Leary; E Dillon, O Cotter, A Burns.

Subs: E Watson for U O'Donoghue (51), S O'Donovan for A Walsh (55).

Referee: J Morrissey-Tipperary.



ANNA GEARY: Left shattered after the final whistle.

Rebels can't reach the top Gears

CORK defender Anna Geary battled to hold her composure, but eventually with tears streaming down her face she acknowledged it just wasn't to be writes Mary Newman.

The Cork wing-back was one of the three-in-a-row chasing team's better performers on a day where they never got going.

Geary felt that Wexford's two-goal dream start left Cork chasing the game from the off and compared it to Kilkenny's against Limerick in the hurling decider last weekend.

"They got the dream start just like Kilkenny got last weekend against Limerick and it was ideal for them.

"Wexford got the two early goals and it settled them quickly.

"It was they who were playing with the composure we should have had."

Geary admits they were hopeful they overturn the five-point deficit at the break.

"We simply could not find our feet but we were five points down at half-time and we came back just like we did two years ago against Tipperary, but we just could not get level with them today.

"They played like we should have played and it was they who were dictating terms.

"They got the scores and we didn't... it was there for the taking even in the injury time and on another day we might have got the goal.

"On another day we might not have found ourselves in that position."

Geary said Cork have to learn from the bitter experience of losing the three-in-a-row and come back stronger.

"Today it was their day and we just have to remember this feeling and if and when we every get the chance to go for three in-a-row again it won't end up like this. We are absolutely gutted, but fair play to Wexford, they are worthy champions."

SEPT 2007



The successful Cork Johnson & Perrott 1982/83 Jubilee team at the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie final at Croke Park. Picture: SPORTSFILE



LINDA MELLERICK

Tired Cork must make hard calls

IT'S funny how after losing one game by two points you are suddenly 'finished'.

Comments like that were plentiful after Cork's defeat in the All-Ireland final last Sunday.

How can a great team can become a 'bad' team overnight?

Giving people the benefit of the doubt I assume that they are looking at the bigger picture of how long this team have been on the road.

Age doesn't come into it, its hurling mileage on the clock.

Cork did nothing wrong coming into this final.

Since Fiona O'Driscoll took over as coach three years ago the side have been disciplined, committed and focused.

There were talks afterwards that Wexford were fitter than Cork. I don't agree. Wexford weren't fitter than Cork. They were fresher.

A young team, a vibrant team, an energetic team was always going to put it up to a side on the road now for a number of years.

Mentally and physically Wexford were fresher and they had nothing to lose. The one problem Cork have had is the past few years is lack of serious competition. I said in the past that Cork, though playing poorly, were still winning games.

While Wexford were coming good Cork more often than not were on the other side of the group.

Now that we have strong opposition again (and one can only assume Wexford will build from this), the real test begins.

While ladies football and the Cork Camogie management team work well together with regards to fixtures, etc the dual player situation is helping no one.

You cannot play both codes at this level for a number of years.

You might get away with it when you're very young for a year, maybe even two, but three years on the road full on for complete seasons cannot be sustained.

I don't know how intense the ladies footballer's training sessions are but I do know the camogie side's intensity.

If players' bodies were able to take this type of training five to six nights a week then teams would train five and six nights a week.

They can't and they don't.

The whole reason for a break in between sessions is recovery.

You need to recover so that you can go back two or three days later and give it 100% again.

Players are going to have to choose their first love if they want to do both themselves and their team justice.

The dual players are not the reason Cork lost on Sunday but they looked tired.

The first nine names listed on the Cork team sheet last Sunday were the same as those listed twelve months ago.

Up front there were changes. Rachel Moloney and Elaine Burke lost out in the 2007 campaign to Orla Cotter and newcomer Sile Burns.

Cork's forward line has always been an area of concern and continued to be during 2007.

We haven't had a 'dynamic' goalscorer in a long time.

Every great team always had a 'star' forward or two, players who could turn a game in seconds.

Jennifer O'Leary comes close at times but she plays too far out to do any real damage against a good defence.

It's great to run rings around player's two levels below you but when you're playing the best it's a different ball game and you won't get the space.

Emer Dillon is also a player who can set the world alight but all year I felt she was played out of position.

She missed a lot of the league due to the fact that she was studying for her final pharmaceutical exams and that may have hindered her in staking a claim around the half-forward line.

Speed might catch her at times but her striking and awareness of the players around her is superb.

Inside in the corner she was starved a lot throughout the championship.

The Cork management knew they had to revitalise this area of their team and spent the year mixing and matching trying to find the winning formula.

Sile Burns came into the side for the championship and certainly added a bit of sparkle.

Orla Cotter was only positioned in at full for the semi-final and acquitted herself well but is not a natural inside forward.

Throughout the year despite a huge amount of possession Cork didn't really excite, apart from their game against Kilkenny where they scored 4-16.

Denise Twomey of St Catherine's looked to be a really exciting prospect.

With a style similar to Tipperary's Emer McDonald she may have been just what this Cork side needed.

But a string of unfortunate injuries put paid to any hope she had of playing any significant role in this year's league and championship.

How can you win an All-Ireland title scoring just two points from play in the opening half?

Even in the second-half where Cork outscored Wexford by 1-5 to 0-5 four of those points came from captain Gemma O'Connor (3) and Breige Corkery, both playing at midfield.

Cork lost this game in more areas than up front on Sunday.

They just didn't perform and the players know this.

They don't need any of us to point this out to them, but if Cork hope to be back at the top next year; we need options up front, something we don't have at present.

After a championship loss, particularly a final, immediate questions lean towards retirements.

Cork are too young to consider this but as is the norm with graduates and people in their mid-20s these days, they opt to travel for a year.

Rumour has it that two or three of the Cork panel may not be around next year.

But it's only a rumour and no player or manager has as of yet made any formal announcement.

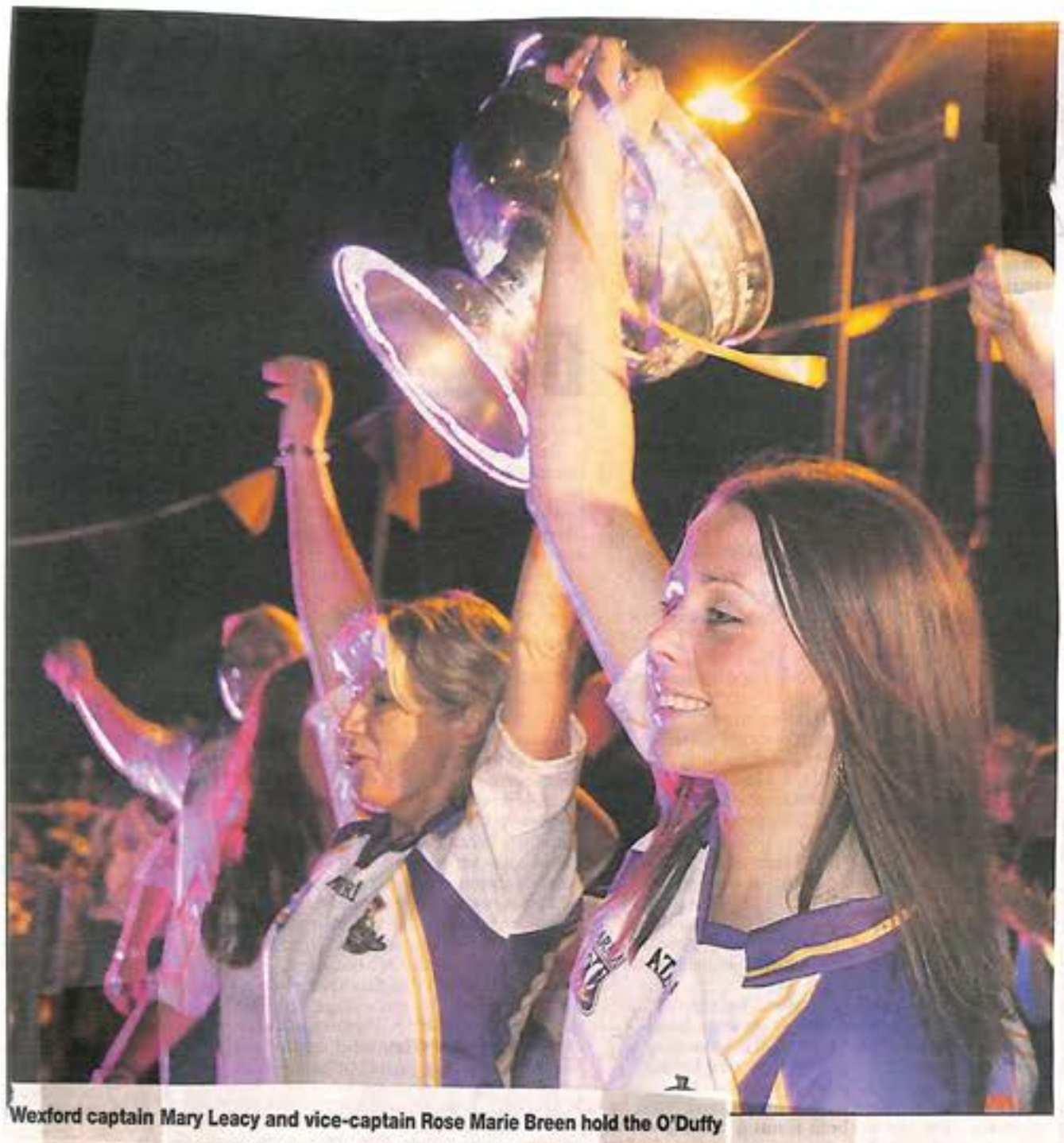
That's for another day.

For now the entire squad will do their best just to get through the next couple of days and accept the 'hard lucks' from Cork's many well-wishers.

It's very hard to take losing an All-Ireland final but it has to happen some time.

You can't win forever. But you can bounce back!

And I expect them to.



Wexford captain Mary Leacy and vice-captain Rose Marie Breen hold the O'Duffy cup aloft after the All-Ireland camogie champions returned to a rousing reception last night. Picture: PJ Brown

'We were always chasing the game

by Daragh Ó Conchúir,
Croke Park

EVEN with the bitterness of defeat burning into his soul, Cork manager John Cronin had time to think of what this All-Ireland success meant for Wexford.

"I suppose they're going mad down there, are they?" he smiled.

It was a mournful smile though as the pursuit of a three-in-a-row dream had come up short. Despite the upset, Cronin has backed many of his side to come back and win another All-Ireland, maintaining that they possess enough strength of character to put this defeat behind them.

"This team has been around for a long time" he said. "Some of those players in there, it was their 10th final. They have given great service to camogie in Cork, they've been tremendous players and I have no doubt they will be back again. It's tough to keep going but there's great resolve in this team and they will be around a bit yet."

Cork reaction

The Cloughduv farmer was less certain about his own future stating it wasn't a time for rash calls in a dressing room that was full of devastated players and members of management.

"We're very disappointed because we just didn't perform as we can do on the day. Having said that, I'd just like to congratulate Wexford on a great performance.

"Balls that usually go over the bar went wide so we were always chasing the game after they got the two goals. That's the way it happens sometimes."

Crucially it took a long while for the Cork midfield to get going but even when they did, the Rebels spurned numerous scoring opportunities, particularly as they got to within touching distance entering the final quarter.

"When we got on top we didn't put them away," Cronin lamented. "When we brought it down to a point, we couldn't get the equaliser and they came back and pushed ahead again."

Kielty plays huge part in Wexford triumph

by Jim O'Sullivan

TOP athletics coach Jim Kielty played a key role in helping Wexford capture the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie title against Cork in Croke Park.

Previously linked with Tipperary and Wexford hurlers and more recently the Mayo footballers, it was through an athletics connection that the man who helped mastermind Derval O'Rourke's world indoors title became involved with the Wexford ladies.

He explained: "I coach Brona Furlong in athletics and she asked me if I would be interested in giving them a dig-out as they had no trainer.

"I met them last November and our aim was to close the gap on Tipp and Cork and make it to the final if we got a lucky semi-final draw. After the League final the girls decided to change their mind. They wanted to go and win the All-Ireland."

In December he signed up with Mayo and brought in another trainer, Eddie Flynn to help with his Model County duties. For a while, the pair shared the training workload in Wexford but he handed over to Flynn when the driving back and forth to Mayo began to take a toll.

"Eddie took over my role and made a great job of it. I have only been with them once a month since March.

"For me it was a change from the football and the hurling and it happened at a time that I was with no county team. The girls were very committed. With A and B squads, there were about 40 at training every time I went down.

"About two months into the training I said, 'why are we playing so well in the League this year and not so well last year.' I learned it was due to way the management team were constantly praising them in everything they did, in every game they played. We lost only two games, to Tipperary in the championship — we got a hiding — and to Cork in the League final by a point. But, five of the girls were on the field the night before for Wexford footballers."

Reflecting on Sunday's triumph Kielty said: "The girls really believed they were going to win. I was amazed how calm they were and how determined they were in the hotel and on the bus to Croke Park."

Other than that, what impressed him most was the amount of 'blocking and hooking' they did over the hour, along with 'the commitment to the tackle.'

"It was unreal. Cork were more physical than us and we tried to move the ball quicker and stay out of their way. It had to put doubts in the minds of the Cork players when they were constantly being hooked and blocked. That was our game-plan.

"I thought when Cork came back to within a point it was going to take a huge character to lift it and credit to the girls they went down and got two points. It was really a victory for a group of girls who believed in themselves. At half time the message was 'we're not leaving this behind us, Wexford have waited 30 years and we have only 30 minutes to go.' They were all committed to give everything when they went out for the second half. And they did."



The key points

Talking point
WEXFORD'S first title in 32 years and the manner in which they held the Cork attack to 1-3 from play. This Cork team has rarely found itself in arrears, so realising they were five points down at the interval was something new to cope with. Should they have reshuffled the pack earlier?

Turning point
WEXFORD'S electric start. Their two-goal burst inside the opening 15 minutes from Una Leacy helped them to a 2-2 to 0-3 interval lead.

Tactics Board
THE naming of Brona Furlong at midfield, the switch of Kate Kelly to right corner forward and Leacy to right half forward worked a treat. Although they didn't always maintain those positions, the rotation of this trio in particular was significant.

They said
STELLAH Sinnott, Wexford manager: "We have waited for 32 years, we have O'Duffy now, and we are going to celebrate like mad down there. She will definitely know when she has arrived in Wexford."

Fiona O'Driscoll, Cork coach: "It was never about three in a row for us. We wanted to win the All Ireland final of 2007. Best of luck to Wexford, there was no denying the better team on the day."

Ref watch
NO complaints about John Morrissey. The Tipp native is refereeing inter-county games since 1993. Used the whistle intelligently and never interrupted a fine, free-flowing match.

Player of the Match
CAPTAIN Mary Leacy takes the honour. She played very well in the first half, but her second-half display was exemplary when Wexford's backs were to the wall.

Words: Therese O'Callaghan



The great outdoors is just the job for Corkery



ALISON DONNELLY

WHEN you talk to Briege Corkery you realise very quickly that her personality very much reflects how she plays her sport.

On both the football and camogie fields the Cork star is the one who excites the crowds and inspires her teammates with long mazy runs that usually result in a score.

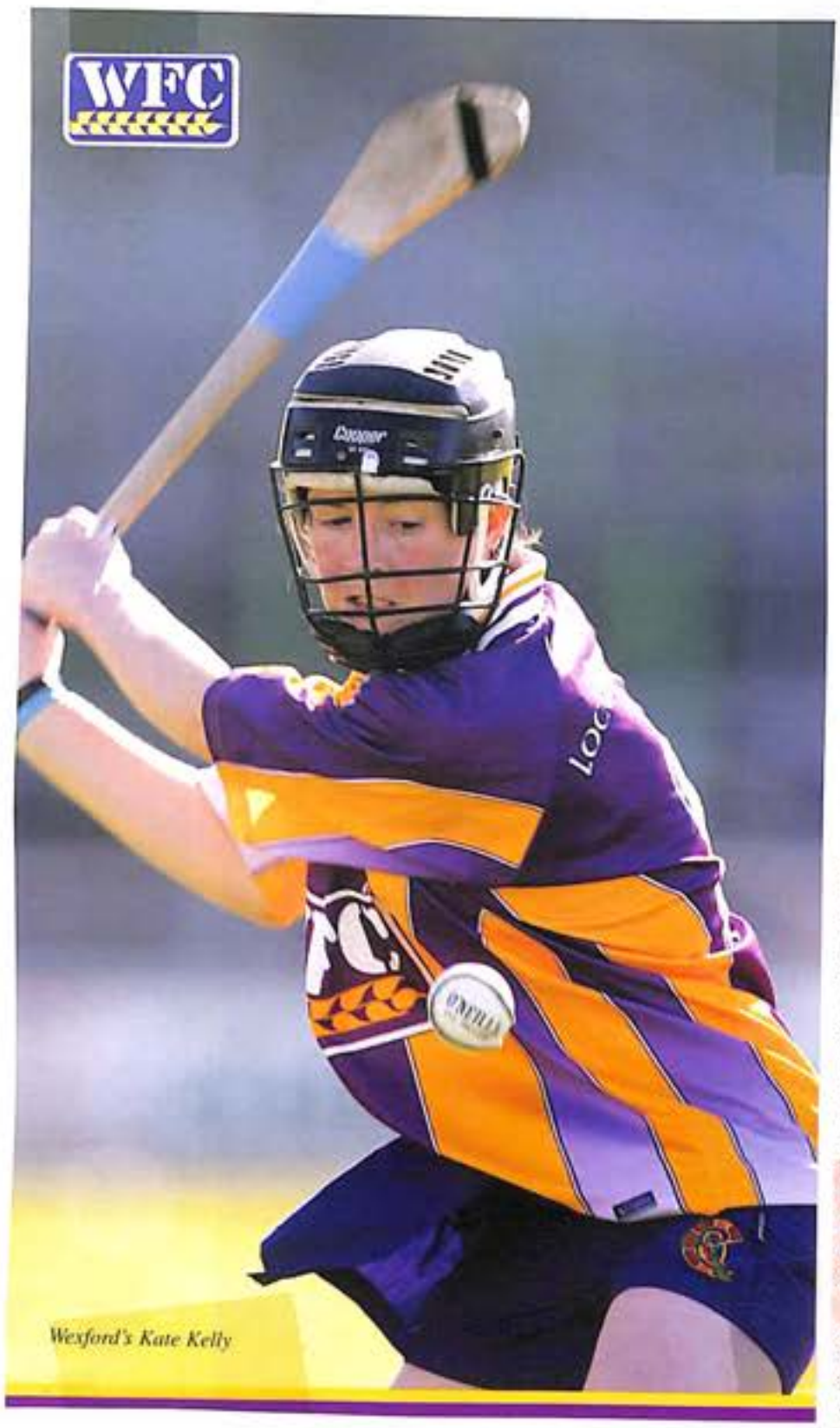
Her speed often ignites a surge in Cork's attacking play and the pace at which she roams around the park makes her difficult to mark and therefore a vital cog on any team she plays with.

Her life, you quickly find out, is panning out in a similar way with the affable 20-year-old choosing to do things her way and with some style. For nine months last year, Corkery worked in an auctioneering office but couldn't stand being inside all day.

The people were nice she stresses but being cooped up inside drove her crazy.

"I used to get my friends to ring up and make fake appointments just so I could get out of there sometimes. I know that's awful but office work really wasn't for me. If you gave me a million euro I wouldn't work indoors. I suppose it's reflected in how I play sport. I like to be moving quickly all the time."

Corkery asked a man she knew near her home just outside Mac-



Wexford's Kate Kelly

CRAOBHCHOMÓRTAS NA SÍSEAR 1968-2007

Gala
Everything and More!

Down and Cork contested the first All Ireland Junior Championship final in 1968. In its thirty-nine year history this is the first meeting of Clare and Derry in the All Ireland Final.

Roll of Honour	
Cork	7
Galway	7
Dublin	5
Derry	3
Down	3
Clare	3
Kildare	3
Limerick	2
Antrim	1
Armagh	1
Kilkenny	1
Louth	1
Tipperary	1

All Ireland Titles

Clare
1974: Clare 3-02 Dublin 3-00
1981: Clare 3-02 Antrim 0-07
1986: Clare 1-13 Kildare 3-04

Derry
1969: Derry 4-02 Cork 2-04
1978: Derry 3-04 Cork 1-04
2000: Derry 3-15 Crok 1-13



Clare's Amy Colleran makes a clearance against Waterford's Grainne Kenneally during their All-Ireland Junior Semi Final at Templemore.
(Photo: John Kelly)

Gala All Ireland Junior Camogie Championship – New Ireland Cup paths to the final:

	Derry	Clare
Round 1	Derry 2-17 Armagh 0-03	Clare 4-11 Down 0-06
Round 2	Derry 5-10 Offaly 3-03	Clare 3-15 Antrim 0-09
Round 3	Derry 2-10 Waterford 2-10	Bye
Semi-final	Derry 5-19 Antrim 2-06	Clare 2-14 Waterford 1-06

CORK FOR THE TREBLE



Jacqui Hurley

My involvement with camogie started a young age. I remember my first training session in my local club in Ballinhassig Co. Cork – I was 10 years old and had just moved back from Australia and here were all these girls chasing each other around a pitch with sticks. I was afraid of my life! But that didn't last long, I learned to love the game, went on to play minor camogie with Cork and won a county championship with Ballinhassig, before deciding that me and camogie needed some time apart – too many injuries!! So it's only this year I've taken it up again. I found a great team in Portobello and haven't looked back since. I'd actually forgotten how much I love the game!

As for my involvement in RTÉ I was in my final year of college last year and there was an ad on tv looking for young people's presenters, so I decided I'd send in a tape. I hadn't heard anything and thought nothing would come of it, then I got a phone call from the producer of TTV asking if I would audition for the Sports contributor position on the show. I did, got the job, moved to Dublin, stalked the heads of sport until they gave me a job and here I am! To be honest it was really about being in the right place at the right time and really isn't that how most goals are got – on and off the pitch!

It's hard to call where the Silverware will go today. As a Cork woman I'm always going to say I'd love to see it going to the Leeside again, but Wexford have shown this year that they are serious contender's, both in the league and the championship. I think they were unlucky not to come away with the league title and will certainly be looking for revenge, so watch out Cork!

The Junior final is just as hard to call. Derry are in their 2nd successive final and also look to be going well at underage level. As do Clare, who also have a few handy minors in their squad. Like the senior game I don't think there will be more than a puck of a ball between these sides.



Cork's dual camogie and football star Briege Corkery at work as a stone mason with Jim Twomey Stone Masonry near Macroom

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

room if she could work in his stone masonry business and now she spends her days putting together stone walls and garden features.

"I work with Kieran Lehane as a stone mason and it's because I just prefer being outside and it's work near home. Sometimes people don't believe me at all, I have to really persuade them it's what I do. It's not a usual job for a girl I suppose but I love it and the free reign it gives you suits me a lot."

Corkery isn't a stranger to doing things her own way. Last year she courted controversy for wearing a hair band advertising an alcoholic drink in Cork's quarter-final win over Mayo and she doesn't think a whole lot of accolades like players of the match and All Stars.

"It's just hard to imagine how it can be very fair when they are choosing from so many players for the All Stars. Picking 15 means you're always leaving someone worthy out. Any awards I've gotten like that I say thanks, but really I put them straight into the cupboard and never see them again. Norita Kelly is a superb player for us and she hasn't got an All Star.."

With ten siblings, it's unlikely that Corkery would ever be allowed to get too far ahead of herself but when you glance at what she's achieved you'd make some concessions if she boasted a little.

In the past few weeks she's simply been too busy with county sessions five times a week between her two sports.

"It's a lot of training but when you're used to it it's very manageable. The clubs I play with, Cloughduv and St Val's, are pretty good about me missing sessions coming up to the big games and I get there whenever I can. I suppose because I'm still quite young it doesn't really affect me and I'd never really be tired at the end of a week. The dual players are lucky because the management on both teams we're playing with are communicating with each other well. Because they all know what's going on we don't have to worry about it."

On the football front she feels Cork are coming good.

"I think it's fair enough to say we didn't look great early on but I think once we got to the Munster final against Waterford things really started to click for us and since that day we've been getting better and better. Against Galway we'd a good first half but dropped off a little yet we've had some good games this year."

Corkery turned in a player-of-the-match performance against Laois in the semi-final and though she brushed off the accolade as she is wont to do, her play means she will have a big bearing on how her side do against Mayo this weekend.

With Cork winning by such an impressive margin it's hard to see how they were given a stiff enough test ahead of what's expected to be a bruising final.

"In that game I feel we got scores at the right time against them and we killed them off as quick as we could. We scored before and after half time and the goals definitely stopped them in their tracks. I still reckon they're a good team and they'll be back with more experience but for us we know when it's important to score.

Although she is still very young, she has been involved in enough Cork set-ups to know how good things are right now. She points to the professionalism of the training they're getting and says Eamon Ryan has made a huge difference.

"We always have a strong panel training and the competition for places makes a difference because that wasn't always there. Eamon Ryan is an outstanding trainer. His drills are really different and interesting and his manner keeps you interested. One minute he'll be giving a strong motivational speech and the next he's making a funny comment so it's a good style for us."

Style is a good word for this talented Cork team and Corkery fits right in with how they play they game.

"I'm definitely a running player in sport. I would admit I'm not the greatest marker but I do track back. The game I like is free flowing and I like working the one-twos off other players and taking chances.

"It suits me the way the football team attack now because there's lots of skill and movement. We've an excellent settled backline now and they've really made a mark. Angela Walsh and Rena Buckley and players like that are very solid and strong, and the defence are sticky so they don't give forwards a lot of room back there. Juliet (Murphy) and Norita Kelly play so well together in midfield that playing near them is brilliant."

She doesn't care too much about the Mayo team they're about to face because to her it's just another team and another day.

"I've played in Croke Park a good few times and I've won there and I've lost there. Winning there is special but losing there is horrible."

Talk of the three-in-a-row hasn't been banned in the football dressing room but she says the team aren't fixated on it.

"This is the strongest Cork team I've been involved in. We're not the most physical of teams but what we have in terms of skill makes up for that."

BRIEGE CORKERY FACTFILE

Age: 20
Cubs: Cloughduv (Camogie), St Val's (Football)
Briege is one of Corks leading dual inter-county stars with honours widely spread across both sports.
In camogie she is the holder of three Cork county camogie championship medals as well as minor Intermediate and senior All-Ireland and Munster honours. She has also won All-Ireland football medals at senior level in 2005 and 2006.
She has numerous underage honours in camogie and football.
Was named as female sports person of the year in 2005 following superb performances both in camogie and football and was the player of the match in this year's All Ireland football semi-final against Laois.

An Clár JUNIOR PROFILES JUNIOR

CAPTAIN

6 DEIRDRE MURPHY



Clooney

Deirdre hails from Clooney County Clare and has been a prominent member of the Clare intercounty team since 1997. She has won an intermediate All-Ireland and a Munster Intermediate championship along with 2 munster junior championships and a junior league in 2006. She plays club with Clooney/Quin. She holds 2 Ashbourne Shield medals with NUI Galway and 3 inter provincial medals with munster, 2 junior and 1 senior.

1 DENISE LYNCH



Kilmaley

2 HELEN McMAHON



Kilmaley

3 DEIRDRE CORCORAN



Cellbridge

4 AMY COLLERAN



Clooney

5 KATHY HALLY



Wolfe Tones

7 AIMEE McINERNEY



Newmarket-on-Fergus

8 KATE LYNCH



Kilkishen

9 JANE SCANLON



Clarecastle

10 CARINA ROSEINGRAVE



Kilnamona

11 CATHERINE O'LOUGHLIN



Kilnamona

12 AOIFE RYAN



St Vincent's

13 CLAIRE COMMANE



Corofin

14 SHARON McMAHON



Newmarket-on-Fergus

15 SHARON O'LOUGHLIN



Clarecastle

16 RACHEL LYNCH



Clooney

17 AINE O'BRIEN



Newmarket-on-Fergus

18 JANE O'LEARY



Newmarket-on-Fergus

19 MARIE O'HALLORAN



Kilnamona

20 STEPHANIE MOLONEY



Broadford

21 FIONA LAFFERTY



Kilnamona

22 EDEL KEATING



Corofin

23 SIOBHAN LAFFERTY



Kilnamona

24 AIVEEN O'SHEA



Sixmilebridge

25 AOIFE GRIFFEN



Clarecastle

An Clár

(Gorm agus Ór)

16 RACHEL LYNCH
R. Ni Loinsigh
Clooney

17 AINE O'BRIEN
Á. Ni Bhrian
Newmarket-on-Fergus

18 JANE O'LEARY
S. Ni Laoire
Newmarket-on-Fergus

19 MARIE O'HALLORAN
M. Ni Allúráin
Kilnamona

20 STEPHANIE MOLONEY
S. Ni Mhaolomhnaigh
Broadford

21 FIONA LAFFERTY
F. Nic Laifeartaigh
Kilnamona

22 EDEL KEATING
E. Cheitinn
Corofin

23 SIOBHAN LAFFERTY
S. Nic Laifeartaigh
Kilnamona

24 AIVEEN O'SHEA
A. Ni Shé
Sixmilebridge

25 AOIFE GRIFFEN
A. Ni Ghrifin
Clarecastle

1
DENISE LYNCH
D. Ní Loinsigh
Kilmaley

2
HELEN McMAHON
L. Nic Mathúna
Kilmaley

3
DEIRDRE CORCORAN
D. Nic Corcráin
Cellbridge

4
AMY COLLERAN
A. Ní Challaráin
Clooney

5
KATHY HALLY
C. Ní Ailche
Wolfe Tones

6
DEIRDRE MURPHY (Capt)
D. Ní Mhurchú
Clooney

7
AIMEE McINERNEY
A. Nic an Airchinnigh
Newmarket-on-Fergus

8
KATE LYNCH
C. Ní Loinsigh
Kilkishen

9
JANE SCANLON
S. Ní Scannláin
Clarecastle

10
CARINA ROSEINGRAVE
C. Roseingrave
Kilnamona

11
CATHERINE O'LOUGHLIN
C. Nic Lochlainn
Kilnamona

12
AOIFE RYAN
A. Ní Riain
St Vincent's

13
CLAIRE COMMANE
C. Nic Comáin
Corofin

14
SHARON McMAHON
S. Nic Mhathúna
Newmarket-on-Fergus

15
SHARON O'LOUGHLIN
S. Nic Lochlainn
Clarecastle

CLARE



Back Row L-R: *Rachel Lynch, Sharon McMahon, Aoife Ryan, Sharon O'Loughlin, Amy McInerney, Edel Keating, Aoife Griffen, Stephanie Maloney, Helen McMahon, Aiveen O'Shea, Jane Scanlon, Deirdre Corcoran, Aine O'Brien.*
Front Row L-R: *Fiona Lafferty, Carina Rosengrave, Clare Commane, Amy Colleran, Cathy Halley, Team Mascot Sinead Considine, Deirdre Murphy, Siobhan Lafferty, Catherine O'Loughlin, Marie O'Halleron, Jane O'Leary, Kate Lynch, Denise Lynch.*

Bainisteoir: Colm Hanley

Club: Wolfetones

Occupation: Student

Camogie Achievements:
This is Colm's first year with the Clare team. He has already guided them to success when they overcame Waterford in the Munster Intermediate Final. Colm has also had success as manager with St. Caimin's Secondary School who won the 2006 Munster Junior B Colleges title and the 2007 Munster Junior A Colleges title. Colm also plays and coaches hurling with his club Wolfetones.



ROGHNÓIRÍ

Manager
Colm Hanley

Selectors
John Nihill

Coach
Eoghan Hanley

Doire Junior PROFILES

CAPTAIN
6 CLAIRE DOHERTY



Slaughtneill

The popular Derry Captain is back in Croke Park, hoping to win her second All-Ireland Junior medal. Claire has always had a love for the game, since she started in her club Slaughtneill as a child. She was promoted to play senior for her club at fourteen. She represented her school St.Patrick's Magera and the University of Ulster.

She has represented her county at all levels and played for Ulster in the Gael Linn. She holds four junior and six senior Ulster championships, one National League, One Ulster Colleges medal with St.Patrick's, Maghera, a Purcell Cup with the University of Ulster Jordanstown, Ulster two U16 and two U18 Ulster Championships. She was named the Ulster Sportswriters' Camogie Player of the Year 2006.

Claire is an inspirational captain and hopes to lead her team to victory to day.

1 CLAIRE O'KANE

Castledawson

2 CATHERINE PICKERING

Castledawson

3 HELENA KELLY

Slaughtneill

4 CIARA CUSHNEHAN

Lavey

5 KATE LAVERTY

Greenlough

7 JANE CAREY

Eoghan Rua

8 GRÁINNE McGOLDRICK

Eoghan Rua

9 BRÍD CONVERY

Glen

10 KATIE McCAULEY

Castledawson

11 AISLING DIAMOND

Ballaghy

12 EDELLE HENRY

Lavey

13 SINEAD CASSIDY

Balleran

14 PAULA McATAMNEY

Swatragh

15 AILEEN LAVERTY

Greenlough

16 ROMA McDONALD

Eoghan Rua

17 EMMA McIVER

Glenullin

18 PAULA BELL

Ballinderry

19 MAEVE McGOLDRICK

Eoghan Rua

20 PATRICIA MURRAY

Ballinascreen

21 KATRINA O'KANE

Balleran

22 MARY K McNICHOLL

Glenullin

23 JULIE McVEAGH

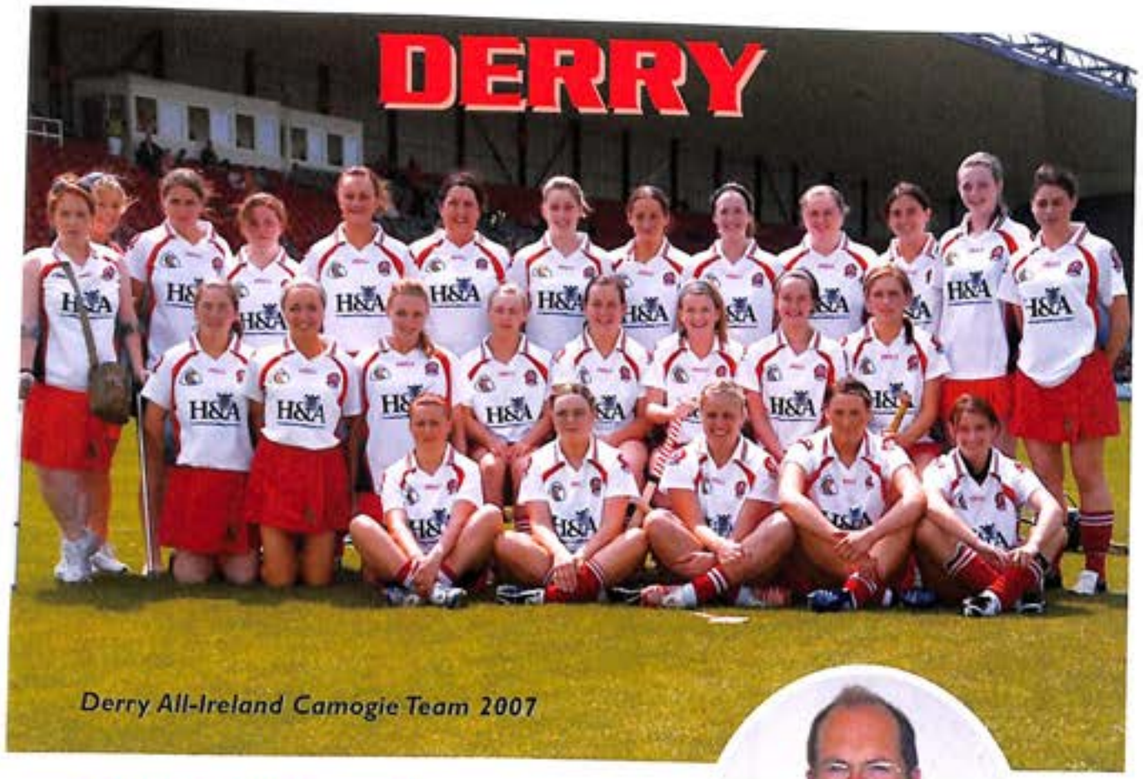
Ballinderry

24 SHAUNA MURPHY

Banagher

25 DEARBHLA McGUIGAN

Slaughtneill



Derry All-Ireland Camogie Team 2007



BAINISTEOIRÍ

Pádraig Ó Mianáin

Club: Eoghan Rua
Occupation: Academic Fellow of Lexicography, University of Ulster
Previous Achievements: Pádraig is a former Derry hurler. He previously managed the Derry Camogie team in 1992 and was manager of the Ulster camogie team in 2006.



Susan Bn. Uí Mhianáin

Club: Eoghan Rua
Occupation: Teacher
Camogie Achievements: Susan managed the Derry U16 camogie team in 1999 and the U18 team in 2001.

ROGHNÓIRÍ

Melinda Robinson
Maura McCloy

Doire

(Dearg agus Bán)

1
CLAIRE O'KANE
C. Nic Catháin
Castledawson

2
CATHERINE PICKERING
C. Pickering
Castledawson

3
HELENA KELLY
H. Ní Cheallaigh
Slaughtneill

4
CIARA CUSHNEHAN
C. Ní Chosnacháin
Lavey

5
KATE LAVERTY
C. Ní Laibheartaigh
Greenlough

6
CLAIRE DOHERTY (Capt)
C. Ní Dhochartaigh
Slaughtneill

7
JANE CAREY
S. Ní Chiara
Eoghan Rua

8
GRÁINNE McGOLDRICK
G. Nic Gualraic
Eoghan Rua

9
BRID CONVERY
B. Nic Ainmhire
Glen

10
KATIE McAULEY
C. Nic Amhalaí
Castledawson

11
AISLING DIAMOND
A. Ní Dhiomáin
Ballaghy

12
EDELLE HENRY
E. Nic Éinrí
Lavey

13
SINEAD CASSIDY
S. Ní Chasaide
Balleran

14
PAULA McATAMNEY
P. Nic an Tionpánaigh
Swatragh

15
AILEEN LAVERTY
A. Ní Laibheartaigh
Greenlough

DOIRE

16 **ROMA McDONALD**
R. Nic Dónaill
Eochan Rua

17 **EMMA McIVER**
E. Nic Íomhair
Glenullin

18 **PAULA BELL**
P. Nic Giolla Mhaoil
Ballinderry

19 **MAEVE McGOLDRICK**
M. Nic Gualraic
Eoghan Rua

20 **PATRICIA MURRAY**
P. Ní Mhuiri
Ballinascreen

21 **KATRINA O'KANE**
C. Nic Catháin
Balleran

22 **MARY K. McNICHOLL**
M.K. Nic Niocaill
Glenullin

23 **JULIE McVEAGH**
S. Nic an Bheatha
Ballinderry

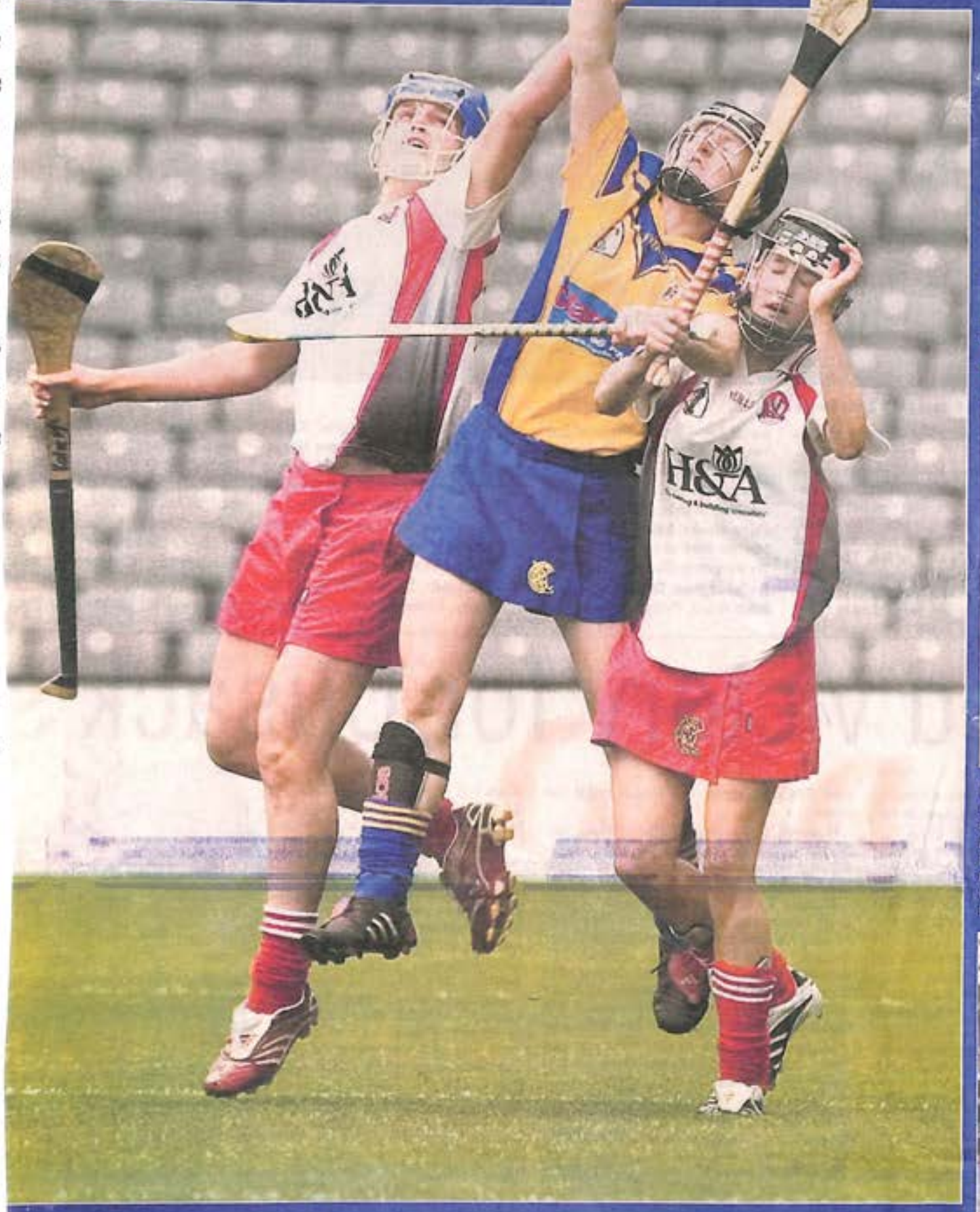
24 **SHAUNA MURPHY**
S. Ní Mhurchú
Banagher

25 **DEARBHLA McGUIGAN**
D. Nig Uiginn
Slaughtneill

SHATTER ED



DREAMS







(Clockwise from top left p2) ■ Disbelief and dissapointment on the face of Clare captain, Deirdre Murphy, and fellow players following their defeat by Derry. ■ Clare's Cathy Hally rises to win the ball. ■ Derry's Aileen Laverty tackles Helen Mc Mahon. ■ Clare's Sharon O'Loughlin is sandwiched between Jane Carey and Helena Kelly. ■ Kate Lynch is comforted by Orla Considine. ■ Claire Commane scores a goal. ■ Jane Carey has her puck blocked by Clare's Carina Roseingrave. ■ Cathy Hally collides with Derry's Kate Laverty. Photographs by John Kel



THE BREAKDOWN

REFEREE: Cathal Egan, Cork

Clare

TEAM: Denise Lynch (Kilmaley), Helen McMahon (Kilmaley), Deirdre Corcoran (Celbridge), Amy Colleran (Clooney), Cathy Halley (Wolfe Tones), Deirdre Murphy (Clooney – Capt), Siobhán Lafferty (Kilnamona); Kate Lynch (Kilkishen), Jane Scanlan (Clarecastle); Carina Roseingrave (Kilnamona), Catherine O' Loughlin (Kilnamona), Aoife Ryan (St Vincent's – Dublin), Claire Commane (Corofin), Sharon McMahon (Newmarket on Fergus), Sharon O' Loughlin (Clarecastle)

SUBS: Fiona Lafferty (Kilnamona) for Cathy Halley, Halley for Jane Scanlan, Stephanie Moloney (Broadford) for Sharon O' Loughlin, Aine O' Brien (Newmarket on Fergus) for Catherine O' Loughlin, Catherine O' Loughlin for Aoife Ryan

SCORERS: Claire Commane 1-6, (0-4f), Sharon McMahon 1-3, Aoife Ryan, Carina Roseingrave 0-2 each, Fiona Lafferty 0-1

FREES FOR: 5 **WIDES:** 1

V

Derry

TEAM: Claire O' Kane, Catherine Pickering, Helena Kelly, Ciara Cushnehan, Kate Laverty, Claire Doherty (Capt), Jane Carey; Gráinne McGoldrick, Brid Convery; Aisling Diamond, Katie McAuley, Edel Henry, Sinéad Cassidy, Paula McAtamney, Aileen Laverty

SUBS: Maeve McGoldrick for Catherine Pickering

SCORERS: Gráinne McGoldrick 1-3 f, Aisling Diamond 1-1, Paula McAtamney 0-3f, Sinéad Cassidy 0-3, Aileen Laverty 1-0, Katie McAuley 0-2

FREES FOR: 13 **WIDES:** 7

REACTION >> Deirdre Murphy, Clare captain

Tears tell the story of Murphy's despair

TJ Flynn

THE FINAL whistle comes in the ninth minute of injury time and Croke Park is an ocean of emotion. Clare bodies drop to the floor, shattered, exhausted. Derry are whooping and ecstatic.

In the tunnel beneath the Hogan Stand, just as Claire Doherty, the Derry captain climbs the steps to accept the trophy, a Derry man appears with two bottles of champagne. He's bouncing up and down. "I told ye I'd get some bubbly if we won," he says to Doherty as she ascends the stand.

Once the formalities have been done with on the field, Clare begin to file in one by one, nosing slowly for the comfort of the dressing room. Faces are winced. Eyes are watered and tears stream down the cheeks of the majority.

You scratch your head and wonder when the old stadium saw such a late goal to steal an All-Ireland final and the best reference point is Seamus Darby's effort for Offaly against Kerry back in 1982, almost 25 years to the day.

A quarter of an hour after that devestating Derry goal, Clare captain Deirdre Murphy walks towards the dressing room.

She's just played 38 minutes of immaculate camogie and has been Clare's rock for the entire second half.

She stops to take in some air and to run her thoughts over what has just happened but the sequence of things just don't make sense.

Clare lead by two seven minutes into injury time. It looks like she's going to bring All-Ireland silverware back home but 90 seconds later, everything has changed.

"It's so hard to explain," she says. "When the referee called for a throw-in and they didn't get clean possession from it, I thought we were in a great position. But when the ball came out, they got it and got that goal."

Her own goal nine minutes from the end had looked like the score that would catapult Clare to the win and their first All-Ireland junior title in 21 years.

At that stage, they led by three points and were in control all over the field. But Derry still had those couple of goals in reserve.

It's the second that will be re-run in Clare minds though and in the corridor of the Hogan Stand, those wounds were just being dealt with.

"Inside in the dressing room, we're still trying to come to terms with it. But the bottom line is, everybody on the panel worked unbelievably hard to get here and did everything that could have been asked of them today.

"We're proud of how we played, but the way it finished in the end is a huge disappointment for us. What can you say?"

Deirdre wanders off, back to the dressing room to the only people that can understand.

REACTION >> Managers Comments

An injury time nightmare

TJ Flynn

THERE were few complaints from Clare afterwards but understandably, team manager Colm Hanly was wondering how and why so much injury time was played.

"What in the name of God was all that injury time about? We were two points up and to have to go through that much injury time? I couldn't tell on the sideline what all the time was for. Not to be unsporting, but I just can't figure that out. But in fairness to Derry they kept going and going and got that bit of luck at the end."

It's been a long journey through the season for Clare and with the end in sight, the final roadblock was the one that caused the real pain.

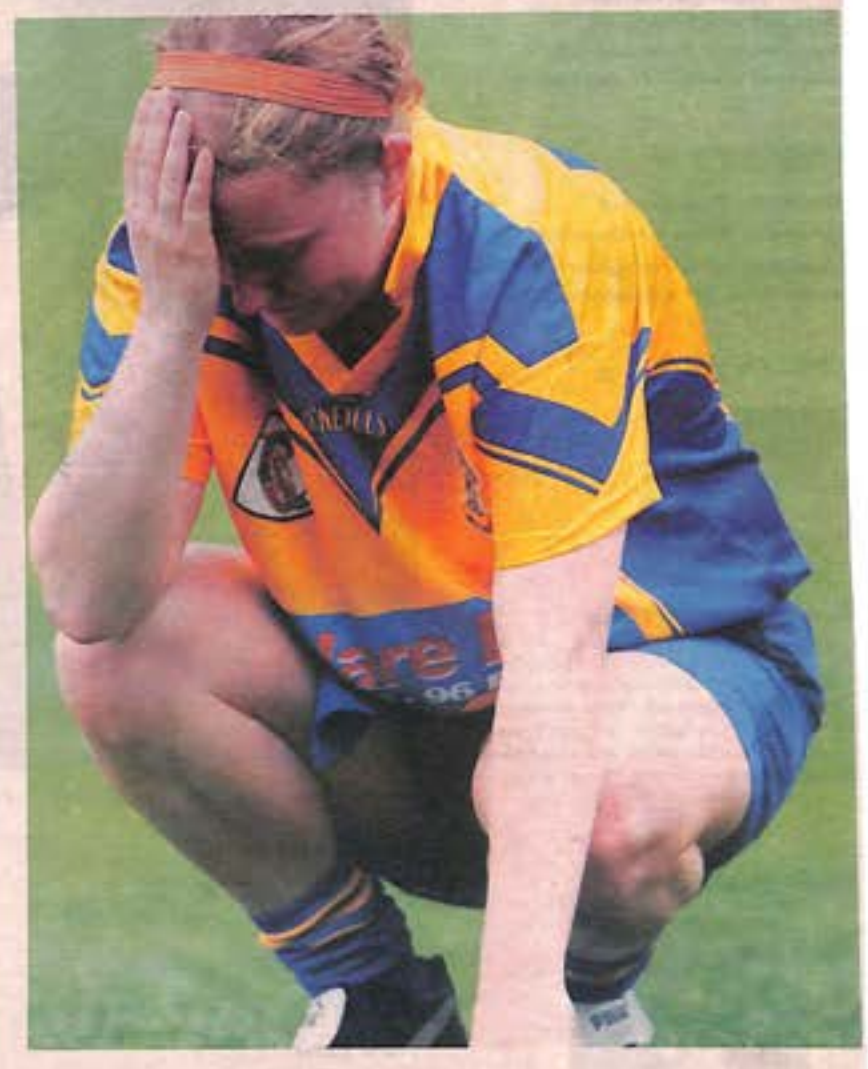
"That's the way it goes. That's sport, you can't legislate for that kind of thing. You work and you work as hard as you can and not to get the reward is painful but I'm sure we'll be back. It's literally as bad as you can get. These players have been phenomenal all year. They's been so comitted, so dilligent at every training session. There isn't an ounce of energy left from anyone, they left everything out there. It was just that bit of luck. We always just asked them for work rate and we got more work rate than anybody could have expected. I'm still trying to get my head around the end of the game, but I'm extremely proud. Fair enough we came up short but on the day we were the better team. They performed outstandingly well."

Derry's joint-manager Pádraig Ó Mianáin, who runs the team with his wife Susan, is gracious and forward-looking even though his side have just clinched victory from the shark's mouth.

"This is the third time we've played Clare recently and there's never been anything in it. These two teams have been very evenly matched and it was was a great game of camogie out there today. A great advert for the game. I feel that the likes of ourselves and Clare are closer to senior division that many of the teams in our own division and I don't know what Croke Park can do to accommodate us. If we could get into the top division and play the top teams that would improve us no end. We need to play better teams to progress and the display of camogie out there shows that there's good camogie in both teams. We're not too sure what the system is right now. Whether a team have to win twice to move up. Look at today. There's nothing between these teams so either of us could stay perpetually down in the juniors. So I'd make an appeal to change the structure because now we need to look at getting these two teams senior."

The Derryman also felt that late on, the game was slipping from his side.

"The way we addressed the game all year, we put ourselves in a position to compete but at that level, you just need a bit of luck. To be honest, when our full-forward caught the ball at the end, it was 50/50 if it was a penalty. I wouldn't have criticised if it hadn't have been given. I thought that was the chance gone. But to get it with the last puck of the ball was unbelieveable. We know what it feels like. We lost the final last year by two points."



Right:
Clare's Claire Commane is gutted after losing in the sixth minute of injury time. Pat Murphy/SPORTSFILE

PAST MASTER >> Moira McMahon

Pure bad luck ends Clare's All-Ireland dream

WHAT a cruel, cruel blow for all involved. Clare didn't deserve to lose on the day but the way it finished was simply devastating. You would feel so sorry for them because I thought they had done enough in the second half. It was a very, very tight game and there was nothing between the sides really so in the end, it was simply just pure bad luck.

This was the Clare's third final in five years and everyone was thinking that surely this time the luck would have been on the Clare side. So it was very disappointing for the players, not alone for the players who are new to the panel but especially those that have been there for the three finals and the parts they have played all along.



I was a bit worried at half-time beacause I didn't think they had played particularly well in the first half whether it was the surroundings or nerves. However out of the six backs, I felt Deirdre Corcoran at full-back was keeping them in it in that first half.

Up front, both Sharon McMahon and Claire Commane had got some great early scores in the full-forward line but they didn't seem to get much ball after those early scores and added to this, Clare seemed to be getting beaten around the middle of the field. Derry's midfield was very strong with Grainne McGolderick and Brid Convey completely dominating.

Clare did bring on Fiona Lafferty at midfield with about ten minutes to the break and she seemed to steady things and did exceptionally well. To be honest, I can't understand why she wasn't started. I have played both with her at county level and against her at club level and she is an outstanding talent. Obviously the management had their reasons for not starting her but for a player of her calibre, it seemed a strange decision.

However Clare really picked it up in the second half. Even when Derry got that early goal, Clare never gave up and I thought Deirdre Murphy was outstanding. When she started to hurl, it seemed to lift all the others.

The fact that the referee decided to play six minutes of injury time seemed ridiculous as there didn't seem to be that much stoppages. But six minutes is a long time to play and it could have gone either way. Nevertheless I wouldn't blame lack of experience. The younger players had done particularly well. It's a big thing going out in Croke Park, especially for the first time but I thought they did exceptional and I honestly think it was just pure bad luck with that Derry goal in the end.

I know there is huge disappointment there now after losing an All-Ireland final especially in Croke Park and particularly after such a long year. But they have such a young promising panel that the future is certainly bright. I know there are players there who have played in all three losing finals but even they are still very young players. I mean Deirdre Murphy is only 25 or 26. And for the younger players who are new to the panel, playing in Croke Park on Sunday would have been a huge thing but it will also have been a massive learning curve for them.

So I know it was extremely disappointing and it is of no consolation to the players right now but what doesn't kill you can only make you stronger and I'm sure they'll come back next year with extra determination to finally achieve that elusive final victory.

SEPT 2007

CAMOGIE >> All Ireland Gala Junior Final

Banner left broken hearted

Derry 3-12 - Clare 2-14

at Croke Park

TJ Flynn

HEARTBREAK. Defeats generally taste sour, but this one felt really like a fist in the gut. After a barnstorming second-half, Clare led by two points with the game on its last legs. Six minutes had been signalled for injury time and that in itself left most scratching their heads, wondering how this figure was reached. Three minutes would have been appropriate. Four at a stretch.

But six minutes it was and after an hour's hurling, Clare and Derry were locked at 2-12 each. Clare dug in and eked that two point lead through the hard work and hurling of Claire Commane.

It looked good for Clare. The past two times these teams have met, only a puck of the ball separated them and a close encounter like this was always the smart money. But Clare had the momentum and the seconds were ticking down.

Over the past season, as Derry's joint-manager Pádraig Ó Mianáin pointed out on Sunday, the Ulster side have been involved in more close battles than Clare. Perhaps that was one of the reasons they managed a late, late goal to snatch victory from the palms of Clare.

It came in the seventh minute of injury time, just on the cliff-face of the game's end. Right before, Paula McAtamney pulled a Derry free from the sky and headed for goal. Under a barrage of Clare pressure, she went to the ground and if the referee had blown for a penalty, nobody could have complained. As it was, the play ran on, the ball popped out to the 21 yard line and a throw-in was the decision.

Clare didn't manage to clear and Aisling Diamond was all on her own just outside the corner of the penalty area. She pulled on the ground and shot whizzed for goal. Denise Lynch managed to get a hand on the ball and for a second, as gravity took over, it looked like it wouldn't cross the line. But the shot had too much pace and Derry had the game.

Clare were left with no time to reply and dreams shattered. Most fell to their knees on the turf of Croke Park, wondering how this game could have spooled out with such cruelty at the end.

But this was a whirlwind of a game and for that, Clare can take heart. They played slick, brave camogie and when Derry looked to have finally broken their resolve, Clare came back with a bagful of scores.

Just over ten minutes left and Derry led by three. But in a blinding three minute spell, Clare had cut through the Ulster side with 2-1.

The first Clare goal came from Claire Commane who beat Claire O'Kane and Ciara Cushnehan to a long ball by Kate Lynch. She guided the ball to the Derry net and the game was swinging Clare's way. Two minutes later, with nine left, a long free from Deirdre Murphy, who was the fulcrum for Clare in the second-half, evaded everybody. Sharon McMahon tried to pull on it in mid air, but Murphy's free found a home in the Derry net.

When McMahon pointed 60 seconds later, Clare had turned that three point Derry lead into a four point lead of their own.

But Derry kept battling and almost immediately, they had a second goal of their own. It was a carbon copy of Murphy's goal. A high ball from long range by Gráinne McGoldrick went over the top of the Clare defence and they were back to within a point. A forensic examination of the game will say that this was a bodyblow for Clare on a par with Diamond's late winner. It was preventable and shouldn't have happened.

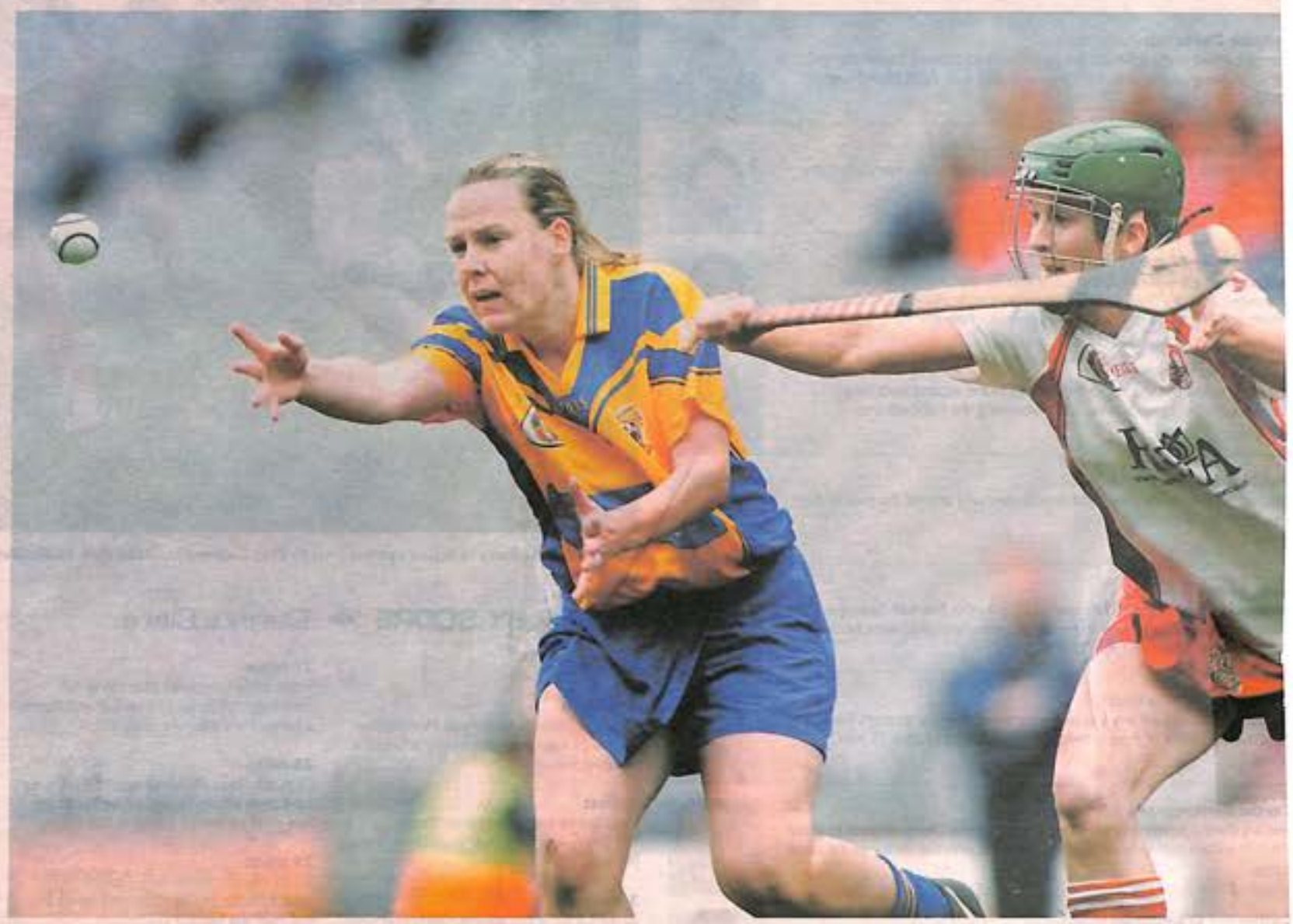
The game floated on with a life of its own and six minutes went by before Derry got the next score, the equaliser, with a minute left.

Then came those dramatic Commane and the piercing goal from Diamond.

If the game is rewound back to the first-half, Clare could have been ahead at the break. They went in level at seven points each but for the first 20 minutes Clare had control. They dictated the tempo and with the half-forward line working well, they found joy on the scoreboard, but couldn't pull away.

A couple of long range frees from McGoldrick kept Derry on the tails of Clare and in the last ten minutes of the half, Derry did enough to give themselves a springboard for the last half hour.

Nobody could have known the second period would run for closer to 40 minutes just as nobody would have wished for Clare to lose in the manner they did.



Above:
Clare's Catherine O'Loughlin gets to the ball ahead of Derry's Claire Doherty in Croke Park on Sunday.
Pat Murphy/SPORTSFILE

>> Match Details

Derry Claire O'Kane (Castledawson), Catherine Pickering (Castledawson), Helena Kelly (Slaughneil), Ciara Cushnehan (Lavey), Kate Laverty (Greenlough), Claire Doherty (Slaughtneil), Jane Carey (Eoghan Rua), Gráinne McGoldrick (Eoghan Rua) (1-3, 2f), Brid Convery (Glen), Katie McAuley (Castledawson), Aisling Diamond (Ballaghy) (1-3), Edelle Henry (Lavey), Sinead Cassidy (Balleran) (0-3), Paula McAtmney (Swatragh) (0-3, 3f), Aileen Laverty (Greenlough) (1-0). **Subs** Maeve McGoldrick (Eoghan Rua) for Catherine Pickering

Clare Denise Lynch (Kilmaley), Helen McMahon (Kilmaley), Deirdre Corcoran (Cellbridge), Amy Colleran (Clooney), Kathy Hally (Wolfe Tones), Deirdre Murphy (Clooney) (1-0), Siobhan Lafferty (Kilnamona), Kate Lynch (Kilkishen), Jane Scanlon (Clarecastle), Carina Roseingrave (Kilnamona) (0-2), Catherine O'Loughlin (Kilnamona), Aoife Ryan (St Vincent's) (0-2), Claire Commane (Corofin) (1-6, 4f), Sharon McMahon (0-3) (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Sharon O'Loughlin (Clarecastle). **Subs** Fiona Lafferty (Kilnamona) (0-1) for Kathy Hally, Kathy Hally for Jane Scanlon, Stephanie Moloney (Broadford) for Sharon O'Loughlin, Aine O'Brien (Newmarket-on-Fergus) for Catherine O'Loughlin, Catherine O'Loughlin for Aoife Ryan

Player of the Game
Claire Commane (Clare)

Match Official
Cathal Egan (Cork)

Derry camogie goes from strength to strength

This millennium has been the most fruitful period for Derry Camogie. They won the All-Ireland Junior Championship in 2000 and reached the final in 2006 and were beaten by Dublin. Derry won their first All-Ireland title at U16 level in 2006 and are still on course to retain their crown, having been held to a draw by Waterford in the All-Ireland Final last month. These sides meet again next Saturday (15th September).

Ballinascreen represented Derry at the All-Ireland U14 Feile na Gael this year and won Division 2 Cup beating their great Down rivals Ballycran in a very entertaining final. This was their second success at Féile as the won in 2003 also. Bellaghy lifted the All-Ireland Division 3 Feile trophy in 2002.

St Mary's Grammar School in Magherafelt beat Athenry to win the All-Ireland Senior A Colleges Cup this year. While dominated by Derry players, there were also camogs from Antrim and Tyrone on the successful panel.

The under-age structures in Derry ensure a constant supply of talented young camogie players at club, school and county level.

Prior to 2000, Derry had won 2 All-Ireland Junior Championship titles in 1969 and 1978. There is a link connecting the 1978 champions and the team playing today: Aileen and Kate are daughters of Bridget Laverty (nee McCloskey) and Sinéad is daughter of Sinéad Cassidy (nee Burke). Both Brigid and Sinéad won an All Ireland Junior title with Derry in here in Croke Park in 1978.

Katie McAuley from Castledawson was selected as Ulster Young Player of the Year 2001, 2002 and was nominated for an All Star. Derry captain Claire Doherty is a wonderful ambassador for camogie.

WEXFORD

Back in Camogie Final after long absence

P. J. AHERN charts the Model County's march to a first All-Ireland senior final appearance in thirteen years.

Sept. 2007

Hanley stunned at dramatic final finish

CLARE manager, Colm Hanley, didn't hide from the hell of it all. Roughly ten minutes before he shared a few words with the media, the Shannon man had been seconds away from guiding Clare to their first All – Ireland junior title since 1986.

One stroke of a ball from Aisling Diamond changed everything. An All–Ireland had been ripped from Clare and the clock dictated that time had caught up with them. There wasn't enough of it left with which to launch one last attack on the Derry goal.

"I'm a bit stunned to be honest with you," Colm Hanley admitted. "I still can't put words to it. I'm just not sure where the hell we are right now," he added.

"What do you say to them? They were absolutely brilliant. You couldn't fault them. That's sport I suppose. You can't legislate for that," he noted, remembering the fatal stroke from Diamond's hurley.

While Hanley wasn't about to take from Derry's display, he was left querying where the referee managed to come up with six minutes of injury time. A hold-up during those six minutes led to almost another two minutes of added time.

"It's just a bit much to get the head around. Maybe you can answer it?" Hanley said on the added time issue.

"What in the name of God was that about? At the time we just got a free, went two points up and I said to Eoghan 'that's it.' Next thing the six minutes went up. Not to be unsporting or anything but I can't figure it out. I'm not taking from Derry. Fair play to them. They kept going and going and they got the luck that maybe they feel they deserved. But six minutes? I can't understand it," he said.

The Clare manager, who was joined by his brother, Eoghan, and John Nihill on the sideline, could only think of complementary words to say about the Clare panel. They couldn't have given anything more. He was convinced of that.

"At every single training session everything they did was to perfection. They deserved more than that. Simple as that. They just did. Inside in that changing room there isn't an ounce of energy from anyone. It's not just because they were caught at the last second. They're wrecked. They're out on their feet. All we asked for was work rate and we got more than that. We got work rate that I've never seen to be honest with you from any team I've had," he stated.

"I don't feel they came up short. Coming up short is when you don't perform and they certainlyperformed and they performed outstandingly well," finished Hanley.



Stellah Year for Sinnott's Models

While their male counterparts bowed out tamely at the claws of the mighty Cats in the All-Ireland semi-final, the camogs of Wexford have torn up the form book to make it to their first All-Ireland final in 13 years. There is a tangible hum of expectation down by the Slaney, team manager Stellah Sinnott is taking one match at a time, as *Cóilín Duffy* found out.



IT WAS THE YEAR of the famous 'five-minutes All-Ireland' when Offaly stole the Liam McCarthy Cup from the fingertips of Limerick and the Irish soccer team beat Italy in the Giants Stadium at the World Cup in America.

Yet all that was cast aside by the time the All-Ireland senior camogie final came around and little did the likes of current Wexford manager Stellah Sinnott and panellist Avis Nolan think that in 1994, they would have to wait 13 years to grace another show-piece decider.

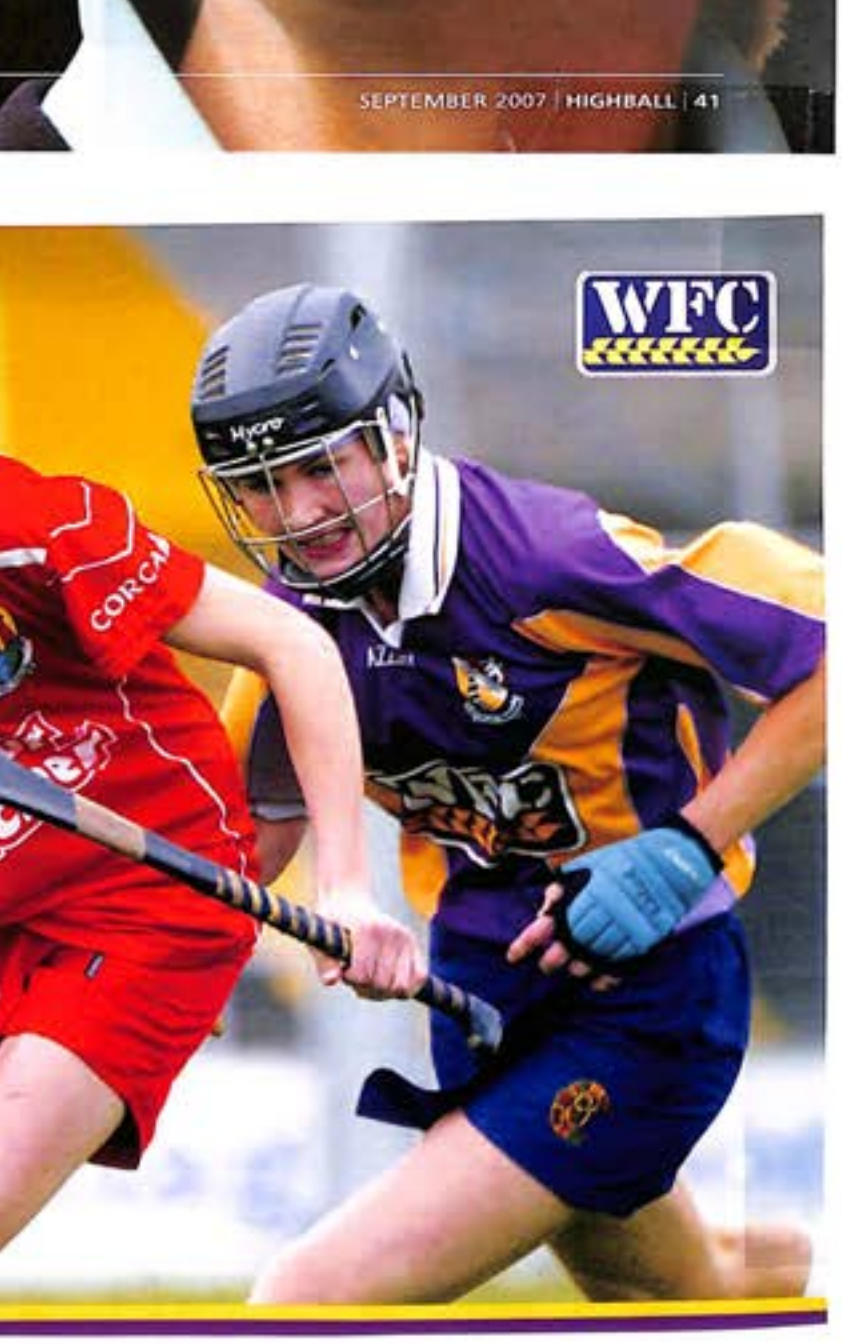
Kilkenny beat Wexford that day to give them their 12th and last crown to date and it was hard to believe that neither team would take an All-Ireland title in the interim as both Cork and Tipperary went on to dominate the competition.

Ironically, the only two female senior inter-county camogie managers at present were in action that day, Sinnott battling hard for the Slaneysiders while current Kilkenny manager Ann Downey was Cats captain that year. The duo subsequently played together on a Leinster hockey team that won a Junior Interprovincial title in the late nineties.

It is losses like that 1994 decider which have spurred Sinnott on to reach the glory days again, with an All-Ireland title not gracing the banks of the Slaney since 1975.

The dedication of Sinnott and her backroom staff of Wexford People editor and former PRO Alan Aherne, Noel Ryan and trainer Eddie Flynn have ensured that all the necessary work has been put in this year to ensure that this senior team are very much capable of denying All-Ireland champions Cork a three-in-row success, in their sixth successive decider.

Wexford overcame Galway in the Gala All-Ireland semi-final on August 11th at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny and although initially ecstatic with the victory, Sinnott was keen to bring her feet to the



Winners 2007


All Ireland Colleges Senior B - St. Mary's Nenagh


Ashbourne Shield – Garda College


All Ireland Colleges Senior C – Greenhills Carrick-on-Suir


Purcell Cup athlone IT


National League Division 4 – Monaghan


Minor B All Ireland Championship – Antrim


Gala All Ireland Junior Championship – Nancy Murray Cup – Laois


U16A All Ireland Championship – Kilkenny


National League Division 1b – Limerick


National League Division 1a – Cork


Ashbourne Cup – UCD


All Ireland Colleges Senior A – St. Mary's Magherafelt


National League Division 3 – Westmeath


Gala All Ireland Junior Championship - Máire Ní Chinnéide Cup – Carlow


National League Division 2 – Waterford


Féile na nGael – Sarsfields, Galway

Foireann Iubhaile 1982

Johnson&Perrott Motor Group

CORCAIGH



Cork beat Dublin in the All Ireland Senior Final of 1982 and went on to win two in a row beating Dublin again 1983. With only one change in panel between '82 and '83 we honour the members of both of those teams here today.

Pat Moloney-Lenihan *(Captain)*	Killeagh	1982
Cathy Landers *(Captain)*	Killeagh	1983 (also played in 1982)
Marion McCarthy	Éire Óg	82 & 83
Eileen Dineen	Éire Óg	82 & 83
Miriam Higgins	Éire Óg	82 & 83
Martha Kearney	Na Piarsaigh	82 & 83
Claire Cronin	Old Aloysians	82 & 83
Marion Sweeney	Killeagh	82 & 83
Mary O'Donovan	Éire Óg	1982
Sandie Fitzgibbon	Glen Rovers	82 & 83
Mary O'Leary	Watergrasshill	82 & 83
Val Fitzpatrick	Glen Rovers	82 & 83
Claire Kelleher	Éire Óg	82 & 83
Mary Geaney	Éire Óg	1983
Noelle O'Driscoll	Éire Óg	82 & 83
Angela Higgins	Watergrasshill	82 & 83
Ger McCarthy	Glen Rovers	82 & 83
Liz Lynch	Douglas	1983

Galway mourns GAA stalwart Kennedy

CAMOGIE: Galway and Connacht camogie was last night mourning the sudden death of Michael Kennedy, a man who pioneered the sport in the West.

Mr Kennedy, 66, died suddenly at his Castleblakeney home in east Galway yesterday. He was the main driving force behind the emergence of the Pearses camogie club, which won five All-Ireland club titles between 1996 and 2002.

He was chairman of the Galway camogie board when the county won its only All-Ireland senior title in 1996 and he was also chairman of the Connacht camogie board.

KENNEDY (Banogues, Castleblakeney, Ballinasloe and late of Cloughoola, Peterswell, Co. Galway) — Sept. 13, 2007. Michael 'Mike', the best husband, father and grandfather friends and family could ever have, (suddenly), at his home, to the inexpectable grief of his loving wife and friend Mary, his daughters Colette (Walsh), Ann (Earls), Maura (Farrell), Nuala (Cunningham), sons-in-law Sean, Willie, PJ, Kevin, his adorable grandchildren Shane, Cathal, Emma, Karen, Rachel, Liam, Conor, Daragh and Jessica, Emily and Luke, brother Sean, sister Myra, mother-in-law Bridget (Hough), brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and his great neighbours, also his friends in The Pearses Camogie Club and throughout the Camogie circle. R.I.P. Reposing at his residence this (Saturday) evening from 6 o'c. also on Sunday until 10 o'c. Removal on Monday at 11 o'c. to St. Peter and Paul's Church, Ballymacward for 12 o'c. Mass with Funeral proceeding to the new cemetery, Ballymacward. House private on Monday morning by family request. "You will always have a special place in our hearts"

Oak Leafers hold off Deise

CAMOGIE: An excellent defensive performance in the second-half ensured that Derry took the All-Ireland U16 Camogie crown with a 3-14 to 2-2 win over Waterford in yesterday's replay at Portmarnock, *writes Cóilín Duffy.*

The sides were level at 1-4 to 2-1 at the interval but Derry were by far the stronger side in the second half with goals from Mullally and Siobhan McKeigue ensuring a fine Derry win.

Scorers: Derry - E Mullally 2-4; S McKeigue 1-3 (1f); E Mullen, D Crystal 0-2 each; R Kelly, A Ní Bhaiside, M Rodgers (1 45) 0-1 each. Waterford - P Jackman (1-1f) 1-1; D Fahey 1-0; A Flood 0-1.

CAMOGIE

ALL-IRELAND U16 Final: Derry 3-14 (E Mullally 2-4; S McKeigue 1-3 (1f); E Mullen, D Crystal 0-2 each; R Kelly, A Ní Bhaiside, M Rodgers (1 45) 0-1 each) **Waterford 2-2** (P Jackman (1-1f) 1-1; D Fahey 1-0; A Flood 0-1)

SEPT. 2007

Tipperary

Development: Work has commenced on the development plan at the County camogie pitch since last week. The pads have been set in place and the bolts installed for the pillars of the stand. The next step is the frame work and Eamonn Brown of Gerard Brown Engineering will be working on that next week. The pitch too is to be ploughed and reseeded. This work will mean that the popular County grounds will be closed for matches and while this will be of major inconvenience to all who reach semi-and finals, the pitch will have a far more superior surface when it re-opens next year.

In the meantime, finances are needed to continue with this great work and clubs are reminded to sell their full allocation so as the work will not be held up on the project. Ticket stubs along with appropriate amount to be sent to Margaret Skehan or Rose Mannion on or before 14th. Tickets cost €10 each and the prizes are a T.V. home entertainment system.



Ballygarvan's county senior camogie players Emer Dillon, Sarah O'Donovan and Jennifer Browne with Marion McCarthy (Chairperson, Cork Camogie Board) and Michael Moynihan (chairman, Ballygarvan camogie club)

Cork hold on for place in decider

Cork	1-8
Wexford	1-6

PRIDE was very evident in this highly-entertaining, closely-fought All Ireland senior B Championship semi-final in Templemore last Saturday afternoon.

Cork, determined not to fall to Wexford for the second time in six days, gave a gutsy performance against a County wanting to prove they had finally broken Cork's stranglehold on Camogie.

Physically demanding from the throw in, the game from the outset was going to be low scoring. Both sides shared an equal amount of possession in the opening minutes as both defences came under pressure.

Regina Curtin caught and cleared a large amount of ball, assisted well by Tina Roche while at the other end Bernie Holohan and Emma Moran broke up many Cork attacks.

A five-minute spell broke the deadlock as Cork finally managed to prise open Wexford's back six. Rachel Myers hit over, a Ciara O'Connor free matched it. A minute later an excellent Cork move involving Marie Watson, Marian Jagoe and Deirdre Twomey saw the latter scramble the ball over the line to claim Cork's only goal of the game. Jagoe and Marie Corkery added another two to give Cork a five-point cushion midway through the half.

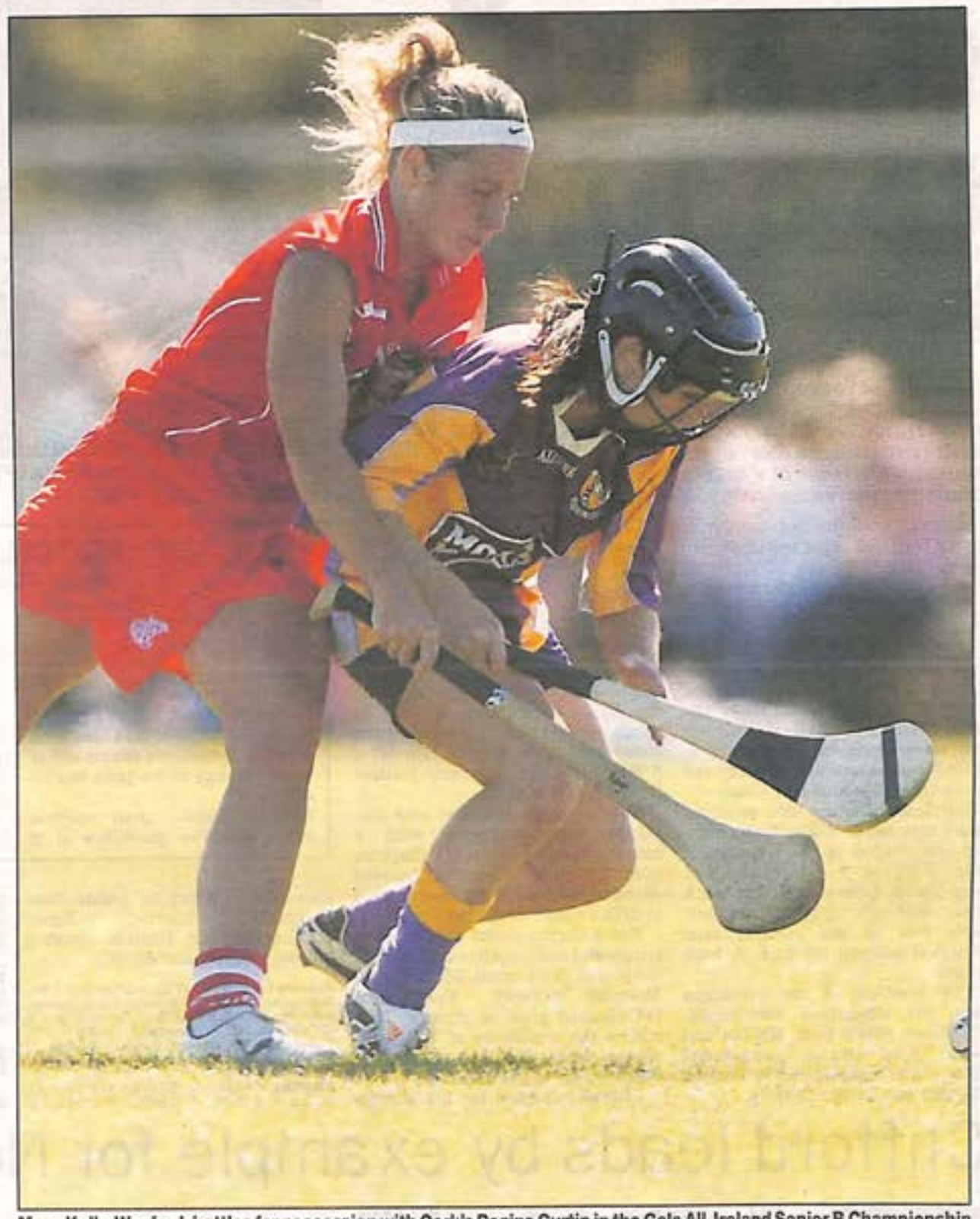
Wexford began to gain control around the middle of the field with Siona Nolan and Stacey Redmond on top. Given the quality of their supply of ball in, Cork could be thankful at half time for Wexford's poor shooting which saw them hit six wides. As it happened it was frees which kept Wexford in contention, their only point from play coming on 30 minutes from Sara Nolan.

Marie Corkery was doing great work up front, her perseverance and workrate preventing Wexford from clearing easily. In fact both sides' endeavours in this regard had to be applauded as no ball went uncontested.

The hot sun brought with it a swirling wind which blew cross field, favouring neither team in particular. Cork could be happy with their 1-5 to 0-4 lead at the break. With five out of their six forwards all getting on the scoresheet, things looked promising for the Rebels.

But it was Wexford who dominated the second period and it was a combination of sheer determination by Cork's defence and goalkeeper Gillian Harrington and a bit of bad luck for Wexford that they didn't capitalise on this possession.

They literally owned the ball in the first 10 minutes but only managed a point from a '45. Linda Dorgan, who came more into the game, stretched the gap to four again. Sub Greta Heffernan narrowed it to three and there it stayed for the next seven minutes before Cork sub Denise Cronin gave Cork a little cushion again. Despite Wexford's dominance it was Cork's ability to tap over the points when they got half a chance that was the difference. Deirdre Twomey added another with eight minutes left on the clock and now Wexford had goal on their mind.



Mags Kelly, Wexford, battles for possession with Cork's Regina Curtin in the Gala All-Ireland Senior B Championship semi final in Templemore.

Picture: Matt Browne / SPORTSFILE



Cork manager Aidan Crowley was delighted with the spirit shown by his side.

LINDA MELLERICK

Switching Siona Nolan into full forward, they piled the pressure on Cork. A goal looked inevitable and sure enough it came three minutes later when a long free in was saved on the line but pushed over in the scramble to leave just two between the sides.

Cork, to their credit, stepped up a gear and won this critical period. Hitting two wides, they could have finished Wexford off. They didn't but hung on as Una Kearney blew the final whistle and Cork advanced to meet Galway or Limerick in the decider on September 30.

Scorers: Cork: D Twomey 1-1, R Myers, M Jagoe, M Corkery, E O'Sullivan, A Thompson, L Dorgan and D Cronin 0-1 each.

Wexford: C O'Connor 1-3(0-2f, 0-1 '45), Siona Nolan 0-1 ('45), Sara Nolan and G Heffernan 0-1 each.

CORK: G Harrington; D Hayes, N Mulcahy, L Hawkes; L O'Connell (Capt), R Curtin, T Roche; L Dorgan, A Thompson; E O'Sullivan, M Corkery, R Myers; D Twomey, M Watson, M Jagoe.

Subs: D Cronin for R Myers (44mins).

WEXFORD: H Jacob; E Moran, C Atkinson, K Atkinson; B Holohan (Capt), N O'Connor, F Doran; S Redmond, S Nolan; A Moran, M Kelly, L Holohan; S Kehoe, S Nolan, C O'Connor.

Subs: G Heffernan for A Moran (40mins).

Referee: U Kearney (Armagh).

Crowley admits his side were nervous

What they said

BOTH the pressure and the relief were clearly etched on the face of Cork manager Aidan Crowley at the final whistle yesterday.

This was a very important win for Cork. Wexford are riding on the crest of a wave after their All Ireland triumph over Cork last Sunday and they came to Templemore with a spring in their step, determined to add the B title to their gallop.

"This win was a great boost," said Crowley. "We looked nervous at times, particularly in the second half. Our forwards were scoring well in the first half but I suppose we didn't give them much quality ball in, in the second.

"We could have closed out the game early on but didn't. We showed great spirit after they got the goal and that's the sign of a good team that you can keep going when teams come back at you."

Looking ahead to the final where Cork now play the winners of Limerick and Galway, all predictions lean towards a Limerick/Cork final. How does Aidan feel about that?

"Well they've beaten us a few times this year already and that's sure to spur us on.

"Obviously with that being Limerick's first team, it's a huge challenge for us but we're there. We're in the final now and anything can happen."

Cork have the Minor championship semi-final against Tipperary next weekend and with maybe six players involved on both panels, Aidan says the teams have pulled well together.

"We've been working very well with the U18s these past couple of weeks, we've had a run of injuries but we've come through and will put our heads down now for the next fortnight again."

SEPT. 2007

County Senior Camogie Championship

Stylish Duharra overcome 'Mines

County Senior Camogie Championship

Duharra 5-15 Silvermines 1-6

Report and photographs by Rose Mannion at Dolla

In the wind down of the senior club championship, Duharra brushed aside the challenge of a gallant Silvermines when the sides met on Friday evening last in Dolla.

On a lovely summer warm evening, Duharra are ending their second season as a combination club (mixture of Burgess and Portroe) and their star studded sides win was indeed expected against the 'Mines who are tasting senior status for the first time this year.

Duharra dominated the game from beginning to end and while they were unable to pick off a goal in the opening half, they certainly ran riot in the second half, piercing the 'Mines net on five occasions.

While this looked like a run away for the Duharra side, it was however tough at times and certainly Silvermines made Duharra earn their win. Within eleven minutes of the start, Duharra had six points to their credit, despite the fact that they also hit three wides.

Eimear McDonnell (4) and Ruth Barry (2) before the 'Mines' Teresa Timmons converted a free to keep her side in touch. Silvermines enjoyed many spells of possession but were far from able to break down the Duharra defence, in particular Sinead Dillon, Trish O'Halloran and Sheena Howard who had a great game and cleared time and again.

Eimear McDonnell had a further point to her credit from a free. Therese Brophy also got her name on the scoreboard and Ruth Barry scored also before Helena Ryan kept the Mines in touch.

For a further five minutes the 'Mines managed to keep Duharra scoreless but Sarah Hayes found the uprights with minutes remaining in this half. Duharra then hit a dark patch and while they prevented the 'Mines from having any serious possession, they did however go through a spree of erratic shooting. Silvermines can take some consolation from the fact that their defending played a part in this. Just on the break, Ruth Barry left the half time score at Duharra 0-11 Silvermines 0-2.

It was obvious that the 'Mines were unable to curb the stars such as Sheena Howard and Sinead Nealon. Therese Brophy was doing a lot of damage while Eimear McDonnell and Ruth Barry cleaned up in the second half and just powered their way through the 'Mines back line.

Silvermines had no answer and Emma Dunlea between the uprights came under huge pressure. Mary Coughlan and Laura Green, Martina Gleeson and Fiona Kennedy were tireless workers but all six forwards were unable for the second half siege.

Duharra tore into attack on resumption and four minutes into the game Ruth Barry bagged her first goal. Silvermines were trying to gather themselves after the shock when in less than two minutes later, Ruth Barry took advantage of the slackness and drove home her second goal.

The 'Mines continued under pressure to try and recover but Sarah Hayes was fouled and Ruth Barry widened the gap further. There was certainly no return now for the 'Mines and it was merely a case of going through the motions as all six Duharra forwards were playing in perfect harmony.

Aine Mulcahy relieved Nessa O'Driscoll and she made several moves that resulted in Ruth Barry splitting the upright's and as the third quarter ended, Eimear McDonnell found the 'Mines net after Therese Brophy and Eimear McDonnell did the spade work.

Any other team would have thrown in the towel but not the 'Mines as they fought back and as Laura Greene chased as if her life depended on the outcome she got a pass to Geraldine Stapleton who in turn slotted over.

Silvermines were now digging deep and a half decent chance at goal was blocked by Sinead Dillon and went out for wide. However, the 'Mines Siobhan McCarthy and Martina Gleeson were working hard and had the ball set up for Geraldine Stapleton who was closed down but not before she picked out the lone Caitriona Treacy who rattled Duharra's net.

Duharra's reply was swift and two minutes after Aine Mulcahy's point, Ruth Barry bagged her third goal after Sarah Hayes and Aine Mulcahy engineered the right moves. Silvermines dug deep and a second chance at goal came off the upright and out. However they managed three points before the whistle through Fiona Kennedy, Laura Power and Helena Ryan.

Player of the Match: Ruth Barry (Duharra).

Scorers: Duharra: Ruth Barry 3-7, 0-3 frees; Eimear McDonnell 1-5; Sarah Hayes 1-1; Therese Brophy, Aine Mulcahy 0-1 each.

Silvermines: Caitriona Treacy 1-0; Helena Ryan 0-2; Fiona Kennedy, Geraldine Stapleton, Laura Power 0-1 each; Teresa Timmons 0-1 free.

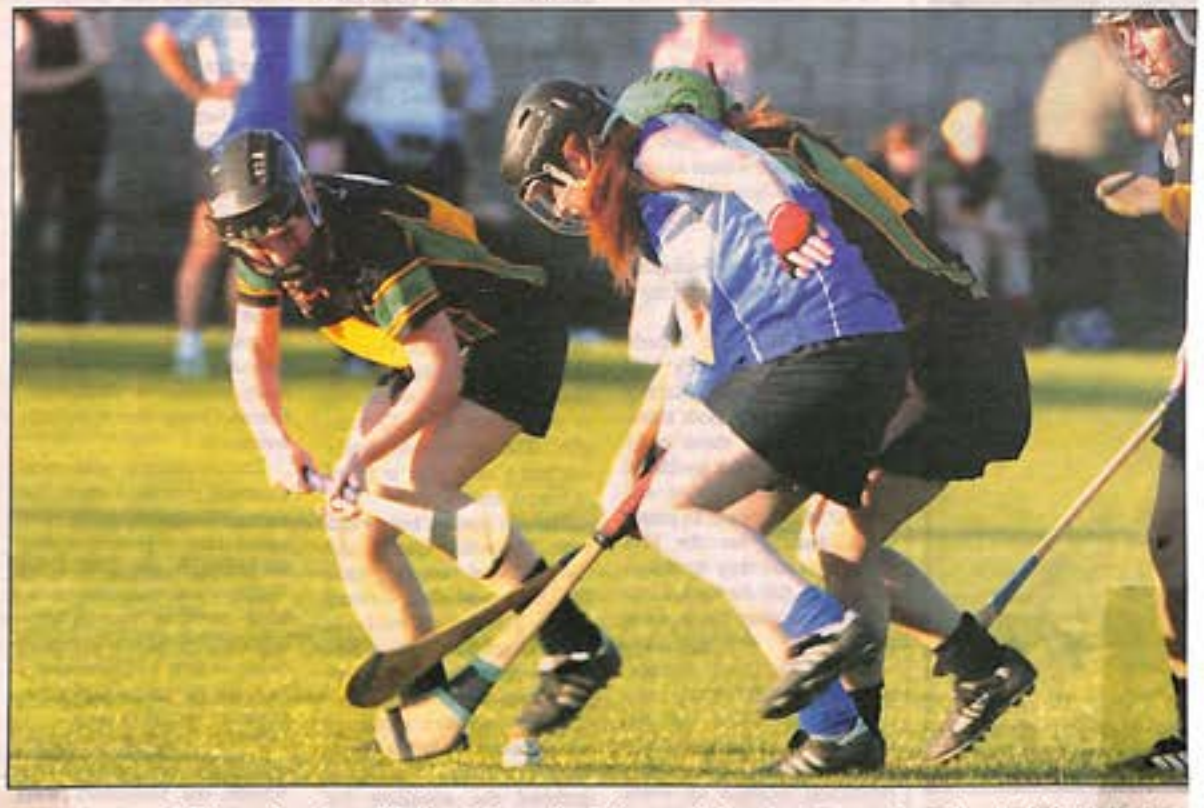
Duharra: Amy Kissane; Karen O'Brien, Sinead Dillon, Trish O'Halloran; Maeve Moloney, Sheena Howard, Sinead Nealon; Jenny O'Halloran, Eimear Dwan; Ruth Barry, Sarah Hayes, Therese Brophy; Eimear McDonnell, Deirdre McDonnell, Nessa O'Driscoll. Subs used: Aine Mulcahy for N O'Driscoll, Sinead Quinlan for S Hayes, Anne Marie O'Brien for T Brophy, Niamh Bonner for E McDonnell.

Silvermines: Emma Dunlea; Rachel O'Doherty, Mairead O'Donoghue, Mary Coughlan; Laura Greene, Siobhan McCarthy, Martina Gleeson; Fiona Kennedy, Geraldine Stapleton; Maire O'Doherty, Caitriona Treacy, Ciara Ryan; Laura Power, Theresa Timmons, Helena Ryan. Sub used: Joanne Nolan for M O'Doherty.

Referee: Michael Hayes (Ballina



Duharra's Trish O'Halloran gets her clearance in during their championship match against Silvermines on Friday evening last in Dolla.



Laura Power of Silvermines is well pinned down by Duharra during their championship clash in Dolla last Friday.

Cork in 'B' final

Camogie

Cóilin Duffy

CORK advanced to the All-Ireland Senior B Camogie decider following a 1-8 to 1-6 win over Wexford at Templemore on Saturday.

The winners led by 1-5 to 0-4 at half-time with Deirdre Twomey blasting home Cork's goal in the 11th minute but Wexford made a strong second half comeback to cut the gap to two points at the finish.

Cork will now face either Galway or Limerick in that decider. That second semi-final, will take place next weekend after it was postponed on Saturday due to a bereavement.

Meanwhile Derry took the All-Ireland U16 Camogie crown thanks to a 3-14 to 2-2 win over Waterford in Saturday's replay at St. Peregrines, Portmarnock.

The sides were level at 1-4 to 2-1, following an entertaining opening half with Emma Mullally scoring the Derry goal while Deirdre Fahey and Patricia Jackman kept the Deise in touch.

Derry were the stronger side in the second half however. Goals from Mullally and Siobhan McKeigue ensured Derry captain Aine Kelly lifted the cup.

Limerick, Cork reach B final

CAMOGIE: Limerick are through to meet Cork in the Gala All-Ireland Senior B final next week after their 1-10 to 0-4 home win over Galway at the Gaelic Grounds.

At half-time, Limerick led by 1-2 to 0-3 with the goal coming from Mairead Kelly and they held their opponents to just one point in the second half with Eileen O'Brien, the top scorer with six points.

Meanwhile, Cork became the first team to qualify for the All-Ireland Minor A Camogie final following their 1-10 to 1-5 win over Tipperary at the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick yesterday.

Despite an early goal from Aoife McLoughney for Tipperary, Cork led by 0-7 to 1-3 at the interval and although Tipperary held a 1-5 to 0-7 advantage early in the second half, the Rebels staged a strong comeback.

Captain Deirdre Twomey played a leading role and her 58th minute goal after a pass from Sharon Whelton ensured Cork prevailed by five points at the finish.

Antrim advanced to the penultimate stage of the Minor A championship after a 3-12 to 3-11 quarter-final win over Clare at Commercials in Rathcoole.

Senior B team reach final

A GREAT result for the Cork senior B side as they withstood strong pressure from Wexford to book their place in the final of the McGrath cup.

Cork as defending champions had to be at their best to hold of the challenge of a Wexford side that showed fierce determination. A goal form Deirdre Twomey helped give cork a\n early lead and with Rachel Myers Marion Jaego and Marie Corkery all on the score sheet Cork were five points ahead fifteen minutes into eh game.

Wexford settled with Stacy Redmond and Siona Nolan gaining a grip around the mid field and at the break it was cork who led 1-5 to 0-4. Wexford battled hard from the restart and had the Cork lead down to three points with Denise Cronin and Deirdre Twomey pointing Cork extended the advantage but the goal Wexford were needed came when they managed to scramble the ball to the net after a long range free was stopped on the line.

Now with just two points between them cork had to be at their best and to their credit they stood up and were counted as Wexford applied enormous pressure to grab a winner.

Cork now await the winners of the Galway Limerick semi final which was to have taken place last weekend but was postponed due to the untimely death of Michael Kennedy former Galway senior selector and trainer.

UNDER AGE

THREE under 14 league finals were decided last weekend Milford took the under 14A title but not before a titanic battle with a spirited and determined Ballinhassig side it finished 1-9+ to 1-5 and both sides are to be credited with turning in a superb display.

The Under 14 B title went to Courcey Rovers who defeated Mallow on a

The under 14 D final ended all square after Bishoptown and Charleville finished level 1-6 to 3 goals so they will have to do it all again. Brian Dillon's defeated Sliabh Rua while Enniskeane had a victory over the Douglas second team in the under 14 C semi finals

The Under 16 Championships got under way last week with Glen Rovers recording a 4-14 to 1-4 victory over Ballygarvan in the A championship to book themselves a semi final spot against Ballincollig. In Under 16 C championship replay Brian Dillon's had a 4-9 to 2-8 victory over Watergrashill.

Champion activities continue

PLENTY of under age and adult championship games to be decided in the coming week

Tomorrow Friday in under 16 C championship Sarsfields meet Aghbullogue in Sars at 5.45pm Brian Dillon's meet Sliabh Rua in Riverstick 6.15pm in Under 16 B Championship Douglas "2" meet Blackrock in Douglas 6.15pm. On Saturday in

Under 16 B Tracton take on Valley Rovers in Tracton 6.15pm in under 16C

St Catherines host Ballinora in Conna 3.30pm St Marys meet Ballinascarty in Charleville 12.30 and in the Under 16 D championship Semi finals Bishopstown play Youghal in Delaney's 1.30pm on Saturday while Barryroe meet Glen Rovers "2" in Inniscarra 1.45pm this game follows the very attractive Under 16 A championship Semi final where Milford and Douglas meet at 12 noon. In the Evening Echo senior B round robin series Glen Rovers and Douglas meet on Wednesday next in Nemo at 6.30pm in what will be a historic game which see the first ever senior camogie championship game under lights.

Camogiechat

With Mary Newman

Victory for Carrigaline

CARRIGALINE and Ballinhassig battled it out in the last game in their section of Evening echo round robin senior B championship on Monday last with Carrigaline recording a victory on a 5-4 to 1-3 score line goals from Laura Thompson, Jackie O'Keeffe, Pattie Keeffe and Elaine Egan helping them to victory.

The victory brings Carrigaline back into the reckoning for a semi final spot, Valley Rovers lead the group with six points and they are followed by Carrigaline on four Eire Og are hot on their heels on three points with one game to come against Valley Rovers. A draw would see Eire OG play off with Carrigaline while a victory for the Ovens girls will see them through all which makes for an interesting final game not to be missed.

In junior A championship Fr O'Neills recorded a 5-6 to 1-5 victory over Blackrock in their last game in the round robin series a victory which puts the former senior club through to the semi final stages.

Cork minors meet Tipp in All Ireland semi final

THE county minor side travel to Limerick on Saturday to met Tipperary as they seek a place in the All Ireland final and Cork will be hoping with good victories under their belt over Clare Limerick and Galway in the group series that they will continue their winning ways to book a final spot.

THE SHAPE I'M IN — KATE KELLY

Kate keeps her eye on the ball

WEXFORD camogie player Kate Kelly scored three of the points in her county's triumphant clash against Cork in this year's All-Ireland final — but, for her, the final moment of the game was the best of all.

"That final whistle — it was just fabulous, it was just ecstatic. And the supporters coming onto the pitch — it was unreal," says the 27-year-old, who is a business manager with a Waterford company.

Kate, who's single, hasn't had a lot of time to relax in the past few weeks however. This weekend she'll be playing in the All-Ireland ladies' intermediate football final when Wexford meet Leitrim at Croke Park.

What shape are you in?
Pretty good at the moment. We've been watching our diet and fitness since early in the summer and we started training last November. Now we're getting to the time when we can let our hair down a little.

Do you worry about your weight?
No, I'm fortunate enough that I don't have to.

Do you drink or smoke?
I do a bit of drinking on occasion — wl like Bulmer's.

What are your healthiest eating habits?
I eat normal dinners, consisting of good food all the time. I might have beef with a couple of vegetables and potatoes or bacon and cabbage or chicken carbonara.

Do you have any weaknesses, food-wise?
I eat fries at weekends. Other than that, I wouldn't be too bad. I'm not really a lover of chocolate or crisps.

How much sleep do you need?
I like to get a good night's sleep, usually nine hours from 11pm to 8am.

What causes you stress?
Work can be stressful — getting projects done on time. Other than that, not a lot stresses me. I deal with it by trying to get the job done and I relax after work by going home and having a bath or sitting in front of the TV or going for a walk.

What motivates you?
I'm a high achiever so it's important to me to be the best I can — getting the top award in camogie, and in work terms trying to do the best job I can.

Do you pray?
Yes, I usually go to Mass at weekends.

What makes you happy?
Being at home with family and friends, playing sport, out and about kind of stuff — socialising with people I get on with. And when the purple and gold flooded the pitch at Croke Park on the second Sunday in September, that was my wildest dream, something I've been hoping for since I was a child.



FIT AND FEISTY: Camogie player Kate Kelly keeps in shape through training and eating good food.
Picture: Dylan Vaughan

Limerick cruise to final clash with Cork

CAMOGIE: Limerick are through to meet Cork in the Gala All-Ireland Senior B final next week after their 1-10 to 0-4 home victory over Galway at the Gaelic Grounds.

At half-time Limerick led by 1-2 to 0-3 with the goal coming from Mairead Kelly, and they held their opponents to just one point in the second half with Eileen O'Brien, the top scorer with six points.

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Despite an early goal from Tipp's Aoife McLoughney, Cork led by 0-7 to 1-3 at the interval and although Tipperary held a 1-5 to 0-7 advantage early in the second half, the Rebels staged a strong comeback.

Team captain Deirdre Twomey played a leading role and her 58th minute goal, after a pass from Sharon Whelton, ensured Cork prevailed by five points at the finish.

Meanwhile, Antrim advanced to the penultimate stage of the Minor A championship following a slender quarter-final victory over Clare at Commercials in Rathcoole.

A late point from Clare Laverty ensured that the Ulster side prevailed on a 3-12 to 3-11 score-line.

A hat-trick of goals from Marie Rafferty ensured Clare held a 3-8 to 1-6 interval lead but two goals from Racquel McCarry ensured an Antrim comeback.

— Coilin Duffy

Sept 2007

SEPT 2007

O'Reilly stars as Courceys lift the crown

Courcey Rovers	**2-4**
Mallow	**1-3**

COACHED by Cork senior camogie player Rachel Moloney, Courcey Rovers lifted the County U14B title with a victory over Mallow ***writes*** **MARY NEWMAN.**

In an exciting final the Ballinspittle girls worked hard throughout the hour and were full value for their four point lead at the final whistle.

Credit must also go to Mallow, who battled to the full-time whistle, but they met stern resistance from a Courcey Rovers defence where Julie Mulcahy and Caron O'Reilly excelled.

Courcey's led at the break 1-2 to 0-3, their goal coming from a Jacinta Crowley free. It gave them the edge after a close opening half where Julie Fitzpatrick struck three points for Mallow in reply to points from Julia Mulcahy and Jacinta Crowley for Courcey's.

Throughout the second-half the sides were evenly matched.

Mallow took the lead when Aisling Glynn finished to the net after she reacted quickest to a 45 metre free, which dropped short in the Courcey Rovers square.

Courcey's dug deep and were quickly back on level terms.

An Aisling Moloney point settling them once again.

With the title up for grabs, captain Caron O'Reilly showed her leadership qualities when she advanced from her centre-back position to take on the Mallow defence and finish to the net for a superb goal.

Now playing with confidence Courcey's worked hard as Mallow came in search of an equaliser.

Jacinta Crowley pointed a free to put four points between the teams and despite strong Mallow pressure there was now way through the Courcey's defence, who held firm to the final whistle to take the title.

COURCEY ROVERS: A O' Sullivan, A McCarthy, A Allen, J Ryan, P Collins, C O Reilly (1-0), L O' Donovan, J Crowley (1-2), J Mulcahy (0-1), A Keating N McCarthy, A O' Sullivan, E Hannon, A Moloney (0-1), E Moloney.

Sub: J Condon for E Hannon.

MALLOW: T Kelleher, J Long, L Tanner, A Neenan, J O' Donnelly, K Healy, M O' Connell, J Fitzpatrick (0-3), B O' Sullivan, Aisling Glynn (1-0), L Guiney, S Glynn , B Ganley, E Coakley, R O' Callaghan.



The Courcey Rovers U14 B Team that took the county league title last weekend by defeating Mallow.

Milford win close clash

By MARY NEWMAN

U14A Final

Milford	**1-9**
Ballinhassig	**1-5**

A SUPERB display from two committed teams saw Cork Féile champions Milford pinned to their collars by a committed Ballinhassig side.

At the full-time whistle the title went to Milford, but not before they had to withstand a tremendous rally from a very committed Ballinhassig side.

Milford went in as raging favourites to lift the crown, but Ballinhassig had other ideas.

With eight minutes to the full-time whistle Ballinhassig led after they had taken the game to Milford from the throw-in, but a late rally saw the Cork Féile holders take the title.

Aisling O'Brien pointed early in the opening half for Ballinhassig.

It was followed by a Grace O'Callaghan pointed free.

Jayne O'Leary had one from play, while Milford held a one point advantage thanks to a Rebecca Sheehy goal and a point from Sarah Flaherty.

It was nip-and-tuck throughout the second-half as the sides battled for supremacy.

Orla Murray grabbed Ballinhassig's goal, but Milford picked off their points with Louise O' Flynn, Rebecca Sheehy, Sarah Flaherty, Grainne Sheehy and Geraldine O'Connor all contributing as they chased Ballinhassig.

Grace O'Callaghan and Emma Jordan kept Ballinhassig in control with points, but Milford levelled with a point from a '65 with four minutes remaining.

Milford pointed three frees in succession to edge ahead before grabbing a late insurance point to take the title.

Louise O' Flynn, Milford, was named as player of the match following a superb performance.

BALLINHASSIG: Eimear Cadogan, Ciara O'Leary, Miriam O'Riordan, Sarah Jane Hurley, Aisling Lee, Emma O'Donavon, Valerie Desmond, Emma Jordan (0-1), Orla Murray (1-0), Amy Cullinane, Aisling O'Brien (0-1), Jayne O'Leary (0-1), Michelle Murphy, Grace O'Callaghan (0-2), Clodagh McCarthy.

MILFORD: Katie O'Leary, Ciara Fitzgibbon, Nicola Browne, Nicole O'Connor, Katie Galvin, Niamh O'Brien (captain), Caroline Watson, Aideen O' Flynn, Louise O' Flynn (0-2), Sarah O'Flaherty (0-4), Maura Flanagan, Grainne Sheehy (0-1), Rebecca Connolly, Rebecca Sheehy (1-1), Kellie Hodgson, Geraldine O'Connor (0-1), Helen Bradley, Maeve Falvey, Grainne Fitzgibbon, Aine Fitzgibbon, Lilly Quirke, Katie Dillane.

Subs: Geraldine O'Connor for Rebecca Connolly.

Douglas which take place on Wed Sept 26th

SYMPATHY

Glen Rovers wish to offer our sincere condolences and support to our Senior Vice captain and minor selector Cornellia Shortt on the death of her father Paddy.

Cor, as she is affectionately known, has carried on the proud sporting tradition of her Dad since she began playing camogie at a very young age.

To Catherine, Graham, Padraig Cornellia and Jonathan we offer our support at this time, May He Rest in peace

BALLINHASSIG

Ballinhassig v Douglas U14 A County semi-final

Douglas started proceedings with a point and looked very good in opening five minutes but we gradually came back into the game spurred on by a great display from wing back Valerie Desmond. Grace O'Callaghan scored our first point but. Douglas responded with a goal.

We soon levelled proceedings with an excellent goal by Grace O Callaghan, followed with another point which gave us a half time lead of 1-2 to 1-1.

Douglas dominated the beginning of second half scoring three points without reply. Our wing-back Emma O'Donovan, had to go off with an ankle injury, which forced us to regroup, the situation looked ominous for us with the loss of such a key player. Una O'Leary replaced her and Audrey Walsh also came on replacing Marie Kiely.

Aisling Lee star forward in first. half, was drafted back to bolster up the defence, with Miriam O Reardon moving out field and we came storming back with a great goal from mid fielder Aisling O Brien we dominated for the remainder of game with a further two points from Grace O'Callaghan frees, and a sterling display from Miriam O'Reardon. Final score: Ballinhassig 2-4 Douglas 1-4

Scorers from Ballinhassig: Aisling O'Brien 1-0, Grace O Callaghan 1-4.

Team: Eimear Cadogan, Marie Kiely, Miriam O'Reardon, Ciara O'Leary, Michelle Murphy, Emma O'Donovan, Valerie Desmond, Orla Murray, Aisling O'Brien, Aisling Lee, Emma Jordan, Amy Cullinane, Clodagh McCarthy, Grace O'Callaghan, Jayne O'Leary.

Subs: Una O'Leary, Audrey Walsh, Megan O'Leary, Chloe Mahon, Samantha O Brien, Noreen O'Brien, Niamh Sheehan.

The U14 A County final between Ballinhassig and Milford will be played in Coachford at 2pm today Saturday September 15.

Ballinhassig Camogie Club will be restarting the 45 card drive on October 3rd. at 9PM sharp in the GAA club rooms. Cost €10 to play. New players more than welcome and looking forward to seeing our regular players

ST CATHERINE'S

Club Sponsors Cork Builders Providers

U16 C Championship

On Saturday last we travelled the long journey to Kilbrittain to take on the local side in this preliminary game in this year's U16 Championship. The long journey proved worthwhile as we ran out comfortable winners 8-9 to 1-1 while our girls hurled well we will surely meet stiffer opposition in future rounds. Our next outing will be against Ballinora in the first round of this competition and this game is scheduled to take place on Saturday September 22 at a time and venue yet to be decided.

Team: L. Bumster, F. Feeney, C. Clancy, A. Aherne, J. Mangan, A. O'Keeffe (captain), R.O' Callaghan, K. Hannon, F. Cotter, S. Barry, K. Murphy, S. Gallagher, E. Neville, F. Neville, K. Mellerick. Subs: A. Doyle for Mellerick, C. Mc Auliffe for Feeney, E. Murphy for Neville. Scorers: F. Neville 4-6, E. Neville, K. Hannon 1 -0, S. Barry 0-2, F. Cotter 0-1

U13 Imokilly League 12 -a-SIDE

Our U13s met Sarsfields in Ballynoe recently and ran out 4-2 to 2-0 winners. There was little between the teams for the first 10 minutes until Leanne Bumster pointed in the 13th minute and added on another point from a well taken free. Shortly afterwards a great pass from Emer O'Brien to Leanne ended in the back of the net. Kate Mellerick goaled just before the half-time whistle

Sars goaled at the beginning of the second half and we remained scoreless until the 20th minute when Rachel O' Callaghan goaled. Sars got their second goal of the game in the final minutes of this half. This was a good display from all the girls.

Team: R. Spillane, L. Ahern, C. Mc Auliffe, E. Murphy, M. Galvin, K. England, R.O' Callaghan, M. Mulcahy, E.O' Brien, L. Bumster, K. Mellerick, G. Walsh. Subs: H. Leahy, L Leahy, A O'Brien, J O' Keeffe, L Hartnett. Scorers: L Bumster 2-2 (1f) K. Mellerick 1-0, R. O'Callaghan 1-0.

U11 East Cork competitions 12-a-side. On a fine sunny evening recently Dungourney travelled to Ballynoe to fulfil this fixture. The visitors opened the scoring jailing after 10 minutes but it was to be their only score of the game with our girls dominating the remainder of the game. A great pass from Maeve Mulcahy to Emer O'Brien resulted in our first goal and she followed that soon after with a second one.

There was plenty of hurling in the second half of this game and it was not until the 22nd minute that N. Coughlan goaled. Maeve Mulcahy and Katie England finished the half with a goal each. A well deserved win for this U11 squad.

Team: E. Spillane, L. Hartnett, M. Galvin, L .Ahern, J.O' Keeffe, A .Fitzgerald, E.O' Brien, M. Mulcahy, K. England, M. Walsh, N. Coughlan, A. Mulcahy. Subs: A. O ' Mahony for M. Walsh, C. Mc Carthy for A. Fitzgerald, B. O 'Keeffe, A. Roche, M. Leahy

Scorers: E. O'Brien 2-0, N. Coughlan 1-0, K. England 1

Junior shield

We played Ballincollig in the above competition we started the game well and half-way through the first half picked up a three-point lead. Ballincollig got a grip and goaled twice before half-time to leave us a goal down.

Ballincollig were first to score in the second-half but their seventh-minute point was to be their only score as our girls upped their performance for the remainder.

Strong play all over the field saw us goal four times in the second half and run out comfortable winners. This was a great display from our girls and hopefully they will continue this performance.

Team: M. Mulcahy, K. Higgins, A. Galvin, C. Hurley, D. Mulcahy, S. Noonan (c), C. O' Brien, M. Daly, A. Cotter, P. O 'Brien, A. Hayes, T. Fitzpatrick, A. Collins, E. Harpur, A. Mangan. Scorers: A. Hayes 1-3, E. Harpur, M. Daly, A. Collins 1-0 each, T. Fitzpatrick, P O'Brien 0-1 each

We hosted Ballygarvan in our second game of the competition, this was an exciting and entertaining game but we looked in trouble at half time as we trailed by two goals however we put in a tremendous second half performance to run out four point winners. This was another brilliant performance with the team showing great character and commitment when required.

The half-time switch of Elaine Harpur and Annemarie Hayes was the decisive move in the game as both players were very influential in the second half. Well done to all the girls and we look forward to your next encounter.

Team: M. Mulcahy, K. Higgins, A. Galvin, A. Hartnett, A. Cotter, S.Noonan, C. O'Brien, M. Daly, A.O' Keeffe, P. O'Brien, A. Hayes, T. Fitzpatrick, C. Hurley, E. Harpur, A. Mangan. Subs: L. Kearney for C. Hurley, P. Moroney, S. Barry. Scorers: A. Mangan 2-1, A. Hayes 1-4, P. O'Brien, M. Daly 0-1 each.

On Sunday last, our Junior B team travelled to Ballinspittle to take on Courcey Rovers in our third game in the above competition.

After a tough first half in which we found it difficult to convert our possession, our improved performance in the second half saw us run out comfortable winners.

This was another good performance and one more victory in our remaining two matches should see us progress to the knock -out stages in this competition. Well done to al our players who travelled to this early morning fixture on All-Ireland Football final day.

Team: A. Hartnett, K. Higgins, A. Galvin, A. Cotter, D. Mulcahy, S.Noonan, C. O 'Brien, A. O' Keeffe, M. Daly, T. Fitzpatrick, E. Harpur, P.O' Brien, M. Mulcahy, A. Hayes, A., Mangan. Subs: M. Twomey for A.O 'Keeffe, S. Barry for C.O' Brien, D. Mc Curtain for M. Mulcahy.

Scorers: A. Mangan 2 -1, A. Hayes 1-2(f), E. Harpur 1-1, M. Daly 1 — 1, M. Mulcahy 0 -1

All-Ireland Camogie sevens

We took part in the above competition which took place in the Kilmacud Crokes Club on Sat last. We were drawn in Group E with Kiltormer from Galway, Burnclody from Wexford and Silvermines from Armagh.

Having won our three games we lost out to eventual tournament winners, Athenry from Galway in the Semi — final. This was a great achievement from our girls and huge credit to all the players who travelled. A quick word of thanks to Ann, Pat and Marie for their contribution to a most enjoyable day and weekend

Panel: A. Hayes, F. Cotter, F. Neville, M. O'Keeffe, L. Higgins, D. Twomey, E. O'Keeffe (capt.), Y. O'Neill, D. Leahy, N. Mulcahy

All-Ireland Camogie final

Cork's dream of three titles in a row was shattered on Sun last as an outstanding Wexford team were victorious by two points. Like a lot of games this year early scores were to prove decisive and Wexford got the start they wanted when gaoling twice early in the first half. Cork rallied as everyone knew they would in the second half and closed the gap to 1 point. One feels that if they could have drawn level that they might have won the game however Wexford rallied again and were full value for their two point win.

The scenes on the pitch after the match showed how much this title meant to Wexford and the number of supporters they had at the game was huge.

Well done to the Cork management team and all the players especially our own Orla Cotter. Despite a leg injury early in the game Orla gave a very good account of herself and we were all very proud of her contribution.

A special thanks to all the supporters from our own area and club who travelled to Croke Park to support Orla and Cork.

As we stood in Croke Park after the game you could have been standing in Pairc Naomh Caitrionaigh such was the support. Like all Cork players Orla was extremely disappointed with Sunday's result but this is a good Cork team and hopefully they will come back to take further honours in the future.

One person who should not be forgotten in last Sunday's events is Denise Twomey who was a member of Cork's panel and who had made a encouraging start to the season when she suffered a number of injuries which curtailed her season's activities. Well done Orla and Denise.

U16 C Championship

Our U16 team will take on Ballinora in the first round of this competition. This game is scheduled to take place in Dungourney today, time to be confirmed later.

All-Ireland Senior B semi-final

Well done to Cork's Senior B team on their recent success in this year's All Ireland Semi — final against Wexford. Special congratulations to our own club members Noreen Mulcahy, Deirdre Twomey, Esther Power and Lisa Higgins who featured on this panel.

They will now go forward to meet the winners of Galway v Limerick in the All Ireland Final on Sunday September 30.

GRENAGH

Our U18 team have been doing well in their championship and have one match left to play We have a very small but dedicated panel many of whom are young, they have won three matches and drawn one.

Our results to date are Grenagh 3-11, Millstreet 2-6; Grenagh 2-12, bride rovers 1-5; Grenagh 4-4, Bishopstown 2-10; Grenagh 2-6, Tracton 1-8.

Our last match is to happen soon and is against Passage West, we would like to thank our panel and its mentors for their dedication and enthusiasm and wish them every success in this last match.

They are a great encouragement to our other teams especially the juniors (13-a-side) with whom some of the U18s play.

BARRYROE

The U14 Camogie Team travelled to Inniscarra last Saturday last to play Charleville in the Semi-Final of the County Championship After a thrilling game they were narrowly beaten on a score line of 3-5 to 4-0. Scorers for Barryroe were: Fiona O'Regan, Orla O'Regan, Sinead O'Leary and Aine Weldon 1-0 each.

There were outstanding performances from Claire O'Dwyer, Triona Mc Carthy, Lisa Dullea, Patricia O'Donovan, Aine Weldon and Denise O'Sullivan.

Team: Jennifer Madden, Aoife O'Donovan, Lisa Dullea, Rachel Hurley, Deirdre Sexton, Claire O' Dwyer, Katie Moloney, Patricia O'Donovan, Triona McCarthy, Claire Sexton, Aine Weldon (C) Sinead O'Leary, Fiona O'Regan, Denise O'Sullivan, Orla O'Regan.

Subs: Emma Deasy for Katie Moloney, Claire Tyndall for Sinead O'Leary, Olivia McCarthy, Amy Lordan, Kate O' Regan, Rebecca Harrington

Sept 2007

CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

DOUGLAS

Douglas camogie club travelled to Mosney for the All Ireland Finals having won the Munster in July down in Tralee. We met Sarsfields of Galway who are Feile winners 07. Playing against a very strong wind our backs of Shannon Dempsey in excellent form assisted by Alison Peate, Deirdre Bevan and Sarah Kavanagh, Amy Birmingham, Clodagh Duggan, went in at half time Sars: 1-4 Douglas 0-3.

We had the wind in the second-half and with Fiona Sexton Rachel Baxter and Rebecca Cotter fought hard to break the Sars defence and with Siobhan O' Mahony in goal and Aine O'Donovan worked hard and were rewarded with a goal from Clare Shine.

Sars on the attack and added to two points, Clare Shine pointed again leaving us only two points behind, Eylsia McCarthy Laura Cooney and Sinead Kearney all trying very hard up front.

Now with all the play we had some narrow wide's and with time running out Aine O'Donovan shot for goal hit the crossbar at a speed that on another day would have dropped into net but it came back off the crossbar and cleared up the pitch time up.

The final score was Sars 1-6 Douglas 1-4. While there were bitter tears of disappointment the girls and mentors can be proud of they way they played, the girls gave it there all on the day and with luck not on our side it was not to be. Douglas Camogie Club hold the record of representing Munster in the Community Games All-Irelands for six years in a row and hopefully will make it seven.

We would like to thank those who travelled in support and Tesco's for allowing the girls to bag-pack to offset expenses. Also thanks to Denise McCarthy and Helen Duggan for attending a sponsored sleepover with the girls, and a special thank you to our four chaperones Fiona Shine, Mary Baxter, Tara Cooney and Therese Cotter.

Well done ladies, the girls had only good things to say and praised you all for the fun weekend. Many thanks to Noel Sexton for his sponsorship of the hoodies and to Helen Duggan, Niall Kavanagh and Anne Kearney many thanks for your hard work over the year.

Congratulations to the boys' U11 hurlers who took the All-Ireland title in Community Games in style. Well done to all involved with both teams. The future looks bright for Douglas Camogie, Hurling and Football club.

Senior B: Our senior team played a challenge game against Senior A St. Finbarr's recently and it was a good game for the girls some of whom are still only 15. Next up in championship are Glen Rovers next Wednesday.

BRIAN DILLON'S

Junior B Championship Brian Dillon's vs Buttevant

Full-time Score: Brian Dillon's 1-6 Buttevant 1-7

Highly committed Brian Dillon's girls gave a magnificent performance, what a talented team, only a goal separated the teams at half-time Therese Drummond gave an extremely impressive display and showed her outstanding talents clocking up 1-5 of the final score.

Throughout the second-half Dillon's worked to cut the deficit but the Buttevant defence stood its ground and edged ahead of Dillon's by one point to take victory.

Every player deserves praise for a fine team display. A heartbreaking loss for Dillon's who gave it their all in the second-half. Well done girls and thanks to all the supporters. Good luck in the up and coming league matches.

Panel: Danielle Love, Claire O' Mahony, Anita Cotter, Orla Lawrence, Amanda Dorgan Emer Keane Deirdre Ring, Susan-Kate Brosnan, Therese Drummond, Emma Lane, Therese Deane, Megan Kelly, Jane Dooley, Gillian O'Connell, Clair Dooley, Lucy Bradfield, Christine O' Mahony, Caroline Horgan, Aisling Russell, Emma Burns, Anna Dorgan, Tracy Walsh, Nicola Ring, Denise O' Flynn, Nicole Gleeson, Sarah Cotter

Junior B League Brian Dillon's versus Mallow

Congratulations go to Brian Dillon's girls who gave a great performance. The first-half finished with Mallow ahead by two points. Dillon's fought back to take the upper in the second half. There was great play by all the girls. The match finished with a draw. Therese Deane gave an impressive display and showed her outstanding talents. Great scores were got from Therese Deane, Therese Drummond & Jane Dooley. Good luck in the next League match. Well done girls.

Half-time: Brian Dillon's 1-6 Mallow 2-5. Full-time Score: Brian Dillon's 2-12 Mallow 3-9. Team: Danielle Love, Lucy Bradfield, Claire O'Mahony, Aisling Russell, Amanda Dorgan, Emer Keane, Deirdre Ring, Susan-Kate Brosnan, Therese Drummond, Clair Dooley, Therese Deane, Megan Kelly, Caroline Horgan, Gillian O'Connell, Jane Dooley, Denise O'Flynn, Anna Dorgan, Sarah Cotter, Tracey Walsh

U16C CHAMPIONSHIP

Brian Dillon's v Watergrasshill

Full-time Score: Brian Dillon's 2-7 Watergrasshill 4-1

A hard fought match all the way both sides gave it their all and a draw was the fairest result all round. Well done to the Brian Dillon's players who made a great effort and players such as Susan Kate Brosnan, Donna Carroll and Clair Dooley were the scorers for Brian Dillon's.

In the forward line Orla Ni Shuilleabhain and Michelle Ring gave it their all while Sarah Cotter and Lucy Bradfield kept Watergrasshill at bay when they came on the attack. Saoirse Rodgers (goal) made some outstanding saves. Well done to all the team. We will certainly be looking forward to the replay as this was a nail biting performance. Good Luck to you all in the replay!

Team: Sarah Attridge, Lucy Bradfield, Susan Brosnan, Emma Burns, Donna Carroll, Sarah Cotter, Clair Dooley, Nicole Gleeson, Eadaoin Kelly, Jessica Kenny, Rebecca Myers, Orla Ni Shuilleabhain, Kate O'Brien, Denise O'Flynn, Rebecca O'Mahony, Michelle Ring, Saoirse Rodgers.

U16C Championship replay
Brian Dillon's v Watergrasshill

Fulltime Score: Brian Dillon's 4-9 Watergrasshill 2-8

Scorers for Brian Dillon's Susan-Kate Brosnan 0-1 Donna Carroll: 0-1 Clair Dooley 0-3, Jane Dooley: 4-3, Rebecca O'Mahony 0-1.

A tough match. Both sides gave it their all and Watergrasshill were ahead by two points in the first half. But in the second-half Dillon's came out with such passion that they were able to display their true Camogie skills.

The team gave a solid performance and with a player like Jane Dooley in the full-forward line who got some outstanding scores, this helped the team to victory. Good luck in next match this weekend against Sliabh Rua. Thanks to all the Supporters. Team: Sarah Attridge, Lucy Bradfield, Susan Brosnan, Emma Burns, Donna Carroll, Sarah Cotter, Clair Dooley, Nicole Gleeson, Eadaoin Kelly, Jessica Kenny, Rebecca Myers, Orla Ni Shuilleabhainn, Kate O'Brien, Denise O'Flynn, Rebecca O'Mahony,

Michelle Ring, Saoirse Rodgers

U14 C County Semi-final

Brian Dillon's 6-7 Sliabh Rua 0-1

The enthusiasm and motivation showed by the girls on the team ensured a great match with Sliabh Rua. Dillon's showed their strength and character throughout the whole match with each individual giving an outstanding performance. This team shows great promise for the future and the girls played brilliantly as a team which left each player contribute to the match. Well done to all the girls and good luck in the final.

Team: Jessica Aigbolga Sarah Attridge Ruth Brosnan Susan-Kate Brosnan Donna Carroll Sarah Cotter Niamh Cotter Donna Dineen Karen Henry Jessica Kenny

Kayleigh Luby Rebecca Myers Orla Ni Shuilleabhain Kate O'Brien Sarah O'Donovan Niamh O' Mahony Rebecca O' Mahony Michelle Ring

Shauna Ring Caoimhe Rodgers Saoirse Rodgers Sadhbh Shannon

UNDER 18C CHAMPIONSHIP

We travelled to the agricultural college in Clonakilty to play Barryroe in the under 18C championship. Barryroe started the game better than our selves and scored three goals Brian Dillon's scored five points from Jane Dooley Susan Kate Brosnan, Donna Carroll, and Megan Kelly. Dillon's went in losing at half time three goals and one point to 5 points .The second half Dillon's started with great determination and heart and further points from Dooley and Brosnan put Dillon's in front. The midfield was brilliant in their solo runs and player of the match Donna Carroll did trojan work on taking on the Barryroe defence and scoring a well taken goal. Dooley scored a great goal from midfield and further points from Donna Carroll and Susan Kate and Megan Kelly and Amanda Dorgan had Dillon's going very strong. More goals came to Dillon's from Rebecca O Mahony and Orlaith Ni Shuilleabhain and Dillon's took the game by a score line of 5 goals and 13 points to Barryroe's 3 goals and 4 points others that played well were Emma Burns and Deirdre Ring in the back line .well done to all the girls on a fantastic win.

Well done to the Cork Senior Camogie team you did us all proud you represented your County in the final and you have done so much for promoting Camogie

Thanks to Liz O' Mahony who organised a bus of Supporters to go to Croke Park and well done to all the young players who were delighted to have the opportunity to travel to support their County and the team

GLEN ROVERS

With all our under age teams busy as players begin to return from summer holidays, a word of praise to all our coaches from senior to under age who continued through the summer months with the training of the various teams thus ensuring their was plenty of camogie for those players who were around for the summer months.

MINOR

Well done to our minor team who proved their determination recently when they took to the playing fields twice within twenty four hours as they got their championship campaign back on track. With memories of the horrific weather conditions which prevailed last season at the end of this competition we set about sticking to our fixture schedule and decided with the co operation of the girls to play tow games last weekend. On Saturday evening we travelled to Ballygarvan where in a terrific contest we came away winners on a 3-8 to 2-7 score line. With Karen O Connell picking off some excellent points we began to settle gaols form Laura Harris and captain Amy Murphy had us ahead but we had to hold off strong Ballygarvan rally before victory was secured.

It was home at the Glen field on Sunday evening as we played hosts to Rockban and our girls shook off any tiredness they may have had to run out winners on 4-10 to 1-3. Well done to the panel and their selectors Barbara Kenefick Tara Cunningham and Cornellis Shortt for the wonderful efforts put into this campaign with just one game to go they are on full points and on course to contest emerge from the group to contest the closing stages of the championship

UNDER 14

Our under 14 team travelled to Ballyclough to meet Milford in the under 14A league semi final after a titanic struggle Milford ran out winners but not before a spirited and determined display from our girls who can be proud of their display against the Cork Feile champions.

UNDER 16

Promoted this season to A grade following our victory in the county league in 2006 our Under 16 first team made the club proud with their display again Ballygarvan on Friday last which saw us run out 4-14 to 1-4 winners. From goalkeeper Emma Dunlea who had a tremendous hour between the posts to number fifteen the girls were superb, Nicole O Brien making her debut with the team showed plenty of skill while around her the forward line of Sinead O'Halloran, Karen O Connell, Sinead Gallen Hayley Keane and Lorna Crowley 0picked off their scores with the inspirational Denise Luby also getting on the score sheet with her excellent shooting. We now look forward to contesting the county semi final where Ballincollig will provide stiff opposition on Saturday next Sept 29th

Our second Under16 team will meet Barryroe in their championship semi final tomorrow Sunday September 2 3rd throw in is in Inniscarra Camogie grounds Ballyanley at 1.45pm and we encourage everyone to travel to support this very young team who have made huge progress this season.

UNDER 10

Pride of place this week to our under 10 girls who brought home the first trophy for 2007 competition when they recorded victory in the Shield competition at the annual Ballinhassig tournament coming through their group recording two victories we lost out narrowly to Valley Rovers but qualified for the shield semi final where we met Sliabh Rua in a close game we came out on top with a goal to spare three goals to two. We met Blamey in the final and it was here our girls showed their class as they took the title 4-0 to no score.

It was a huge achievement for the girls who thoroughly enjoyed the day well done to their mentors Linda O Sullivan and Carol Bridgeman who put in huge effort on the day to ensure the girls enjoyed their trip. Thanks also to the Ballinhassig club for their invitation every year to such an enjoyable days camogie

UNDER 13

Under 13 games begin next week when our A team meet Douglas in the Glen Field on Tuesday next at 5.30 players to meet at 4.45pm, again we have entered two teams in the Seandun under 13 competitions training for both teams training continues with the under 16 team on Monday Wed and Friday at 5.30pm

SENIOR

Our senior team played out a superb championship game with Newcestown before going under on a 4-7 to 2-6 score line, despite having ample possession we failed to convert it and were left to rue our sixteen wide's through the hour. Again every player gave it their all and battled to the finish. Training continues on Monday and Wed at 6.30pm as we prepare for our game against

Bride made to work for win



Bride Rovers, winners of the East Cork U13 A Camogie Championship after their victory over Killeagh.

Bride Rovers	4-2
Killeagh 'A'	3-4

The East Cork division recently held their U13 A and B championship finals.

By MARY NEWMAN

U13 Camogie Championship

Bride Rovers took the first divisional A title with a win over Killeagh A, while there was better luck for the Killeagh second team who defeated Castleyons in the B final.

Bride Rovers had the minimum to spare over Killeagh in the first final. Two determined sides gave it everything in quest of victory.

Killeagh applied early pressure but Bride Rovers took an early lead with Mary Hazelwood getting the finishing touch to captain Jennifer Barry's long-range free to help ensure it crossed the goal line.

Killeagh responded with a point a minute later from Jessie Barry but Chloe O'Flynn stretched the Bride Rovers lead with a pointed free in the 14th minute. Brianne Bartley increased Bride's lead with an excellent goal but back came Killeagh, with Jessie Barry drilling home a fine effort that gave keeper Rebecca Howard no chance.

With play swinging from end to end Bride Rovers responded as Sonia Quirke crashed the ball to the Killeagh net to give her side a to 3-1 to 1-1 lead. Killeagh were well in contention by the whistle thanks to a Jessie Treacy goal and a Shauna Keniry point on the stroke of half-time.

Both defences excelled through the second half as scores were hard to come by.

A pointed free from Shauna Keniry in the 34th minute narrowed the gap to a minimum but Jennifer Cahill had four points between the sides when she grabbed a vital goal.

Killeagh were not finished and quickly replied when Sarah Treacy finished to the net and again a point separated the teams with eight minutes remaining.

Chloe O'Flynn struck a point from play to increase the Rovers advantage but the Killeagh response was brisk when the outstanding Shauna Keniry cut the deficit to the minimum with a great point.

Killeagh fought hard for the equaliser but Bride Rovers held their nerve to capture their first title at this level.

Jennifer Barry, Bride Rovers, was player of the match.

BRIDE ROVERS: Rebecca Howard, Laura O'Sullivan, Eadaoin Cashman, Eibhlin Toomey, Shannon Mulhall, Jackie Johnson, Jennifer Barry, Jennifer Cahill, Chloe O' Flynn, Mary Hazelwood, Brianne Bartley Sonia Quirke Megan Geany, Patricia O'Sullivan, Erin O'Keeffe, Eva O'Leary, Katie Connor, Dayna Connolly, Lauren Friel, Carmel Mulcahy, Cliona Murphy

KILLEAGH A: Shauna Keniry, Elizabeth Mulcahy, Shauna Landers, Elaine Meade, Aoife Walsh, Rebecca Fitzgerald, Niamh Daly, Jessie Barry, Laura Treacy, Ali Rose Sisk, Nora Walsh, Jessie Swayne, Sarah Treacy, Jessie Treacy, Louise O'Neill, Claire O'Keeffe and Emily Desmond.

Killeagh 'B'	7-3
Castleyons	3-0

In this encounter Killeagh B ran out comfortable winners.

Taylor Kruschel opened the scoring for Killeagh with a well-taken point in the third minute. Melissa O'Sullivan replied with a similar score for Castlelyons in the eight minute but it was Louise O'Neill who got the opening goal for Killeagh.

A Killeagh scoring spree before half-time put them in pole position and left Castlelyons chasing the game.

Clare O'Keeffe struck for two goals inside five minutes with Kruschel also on target. Kruschel added a beautiful point in between to leave Killeagh in front at the short whistle, 5-1 to 1-0.

In the early exchanges of the second half there was little to separate the teams. A Melissa O'Sullivan goal for Castlelyons from a free gave them some hope. Louise O'Neill who was prominent for Killeagh was on hand to finish to the net and though Castleyons grabbed a goal through Megan McNulty, it was a case of too little too late. Maggie Draddy finished the game of the contest with a goal.

KILLEAGH B: Patricia Curtin, Rhianna Cooney, Louise O'Neill, Isabelle O' Mahony, Sarah Treacy, Jessie Treacy, Ashling Landers, Niamh Fitzgibbon, Jessie Daly, Lauren McCarthy, Claire O'Keeffe, Emily Desmond, Aoife Landers, Emma Fitzgerald, Taylor Kruschel, Ciara Daly, Zoe Mc Evoy, Ellen Beanim, Maggie Draddy, Annemarie Geary.

CASTLEYONS: Lydia O'Mahony, Emma O'Leary, Danielle Walsh, Melissa O'Sullivan, Amelia Feeney, Clodagh Daly, Danielle Flynn, Jade Spink, Shannon O'Sullivan, Megan McNulty, Beibhinn Conron, Rachel Murphy, Clodagh Maye, Claire Murphy, Jessica O'Regan, Alna Dinneen, Clodagh Barry, Kate Daly, Caoimhe Conron, Clodagh Flynn, Cait McCarthy, Mary Walsh, Liah Spillane.

Player of the match: Melissa O'Sullivan.

Cúl4kidz

MAGS TO RICHES!



"Give everything you have in training as it will stand to you in a match situation"

STAR FILE!

Name	Mags D'Arcy
Team	Wexford
Age	19
Debut	2002 v Galway
Position	Goalkeeper
Honours	1 All-Ireland Senior title, 1 Ashbourne Cup title, 1 All-Ireland League title, 4 Leinster Senior titles, 2 Leinster Minor titles, 3 Leinster U-16 titles, 1 Senior B County title, 1 Leinster Colleges title.
Club	St Martins
Fav Food	Mexican
Fav Book	The Secret by Rhonda Byrne
Fav Music	Acoustic
Fav Film	Airplane
Fav TV	Grey's Anatomy
Hobbies	Hockey and Gaelic football
Occupation	Student

MAGS D'ARCY WEXFORD

It's been an outstanding year in Mags D'Arcy's camogie career. In February she was part of the UCD team that won the Ashbourne Cup for the first time since 1988 and she was then picked as No.1 on the 2007 Colleges All-Star team.
Mags Darcy had arrived but the best was yet to come!
After losing out to Cork by the narrowest of margins in a thrilling National League final in May, they picked themselves up and set out on the trail of the O'Duffy Cup with renewed confidence.
They went on to beat Cork, Dublin, Galway and Kilkenny with their only defeat coming at the hands of Tipperary. This set up a semi-final date with Galway, where they booked a place in the final for the first time since 1994 in a scoreline of 2-18 to 0-14.
It was a great day for Wexford as they took on Cork in the final. The Model County got off to a dream start with two great goals from Una Leacy that rocked the Rebels. Cork fought back like real champions but Mags and Wexford held on for a historic win and their first All-Ireland title in 32 years.

What is it like being part of an up-and-coming team like Wexford and winning an All-Ireland final?

The set-up within Wexford camogie this year has been excellent and it certainly showed in the team's performances.

It's been a great year for you. What have been the highlights?

Playing in Croke Park was brilliant but winning the All-Ireland against such a great team as Cork was the icing on the cake. Winning the Ashbourne Cup this year with UCD comes close probably for more reasons off the pitch than on, however, it was a great moment for a great bunch of girls.

Which is the toughest team you have faced?

A few years ago there was a spell in which Tipp were going for a three-in-a-row of All-Irelands, during that period I probably saw the back of the net more times than the ball itself.

Who was the hardest forward you had to defend against?

Wexford's finest, Michelle Hearne.

Who was your childhood sporting hero?

I was a big fan of Eric Cantona; the way he played football was and still is unforgettable.

Which players do you admire most?

As a young player I admired Jovita Delaney who was the Tipp goalkeeper. I have a lot of respect for the likes of Áine Codd, Kate Kelly and a numerous amount of players around the country who give huge commitment every year.

What are your future hopes?

To take as much enjoyment out of what I'm doing for as long as I'm doing it.

Do you play any other sports?

Camogie takes up a lot of time but I try to squeeze in a bit of Gaelic football throughout the season. It's nice to get a balance and a break away from the hurley one or two nights of the week.

What advice would you give to young players?

Give everything you have in training as it will stand to you in a match situation.

What is the most important skill for a goalkeeper in your opinion?

Confidence and concentration is what sets any player apart from another. You could have all the skills in the world but if you don't know how to use it it's worth nothing to you and your team mates at the end of the day.

Cúl Fact!

Mags also loves football and in 2006 she took part in the TG4 Underdogs Ladies football team. She loved every minute of it.

SEPT. 2007

Rebels in search of revenge over Tipp

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie

KEEN rivals Cork and Tipp will battle for a place in the All-Ireland minor final when they meet tomorrow at the Gaelic Grounds Limerick at 1pm.

Defeated at the same stage last season by Galway Cork travel in determined mood but will meet strong resistance from a Tipperary side that reached the U16 All-Ireland final in 2005.

Earlier this year the sides met in the opening round of the Munster championship where Cork recorded a five-point wni.

Since then both have come through their respective sections in the All-Ireland championship series to qualify for the semi-final stages.

Tipperary have been working hard at underage level and are pleased with their progress.

Pat McLoughney has continued up the line as manager of this Tipperary side since U16 level and has several members of that panel still in the lineout.

Therese Shortt, Geraldine Stapleton Aoife McLoughney Christina Kenneally and Fiona Young are experienced campaigners while Aine Brislane is a young, up and coming player who has impressed at U16 and colleges level this season.

Tipperary got their campaign off to a good start with a victory over Wexford before turning in a creditable display over All-Ireland champions Kilkenny, losing out by five points in a high-scoring contest. They rallied to record a victory over Dublin to finish as runners-up in the group to Kilkenny.

Cork selectors Annemarie Healy Paddy Corkery and Sile Thompson have assembled a strong panel that recorded victories over Limerick Clare and Galway to top their group.

In their last game against Galway they showed fierce determination to hold on to their lead against strong Galway pressure captain Deirdre Twomey, Aine Moynihan, Niamh Dilworth, Aisling Thompson, Erin Corkery and Sinéad O'Callaghan are amongst the players to once again to lead the way.

Two years ago Tipperary snatched victory at the death in a thrilling U16 Munster decider with virtually the same players facing each other again Cork will be seeking revenge as they strive to reach the decider but know nothing more that 100% effort will do against a strong Tipperary outfit.

CORK PANEL: Denise Leahy, Leah Weste, Aisling Thompson, Aine Moynihan, Christine O'Neill, Niamh Dilworth, Erin Corkery, Carolyn Motherway, Maria Walsh, Roisin De Faoite, Brid Twomey, Marguerite Vaughan, Ella Ryan, Aileen Twomey, Sharon Whelton, Kathleen O'Brien, Deirdre Twomey (capt.), Denise Cronin, Sinead O'Callaghan, Lisa Marie O'Mahony, Lydia Cunningham, Siobhan Gleeson, Juanita Brennan, Sinead O'Brien.

Twomey puts seal on victory

Cork	1-10
Tipperary	1-5

A LACKLUSTRE contest that really only came to life in the closing stages saw Cork secured their place in the All-Ireland minor championship final by edging out Tipperary at the Gaelic Grounds Limerick on Saturday.

A strong closing display where they struck 1-3 without reply ensured their passage was finally secured.

But they can count themselves lucky as in the finish it was a solid display from their defence that kept them in a game where they failed to record a second half score until the 23rd minute of the half.

Time out of number the Cork defence came under severe pressure as Tipperary battled to extend the one-point lead they held from the fifth minute of the second half but the Cork rearguard held firm with Leah Weste (who had to retire injured with four minutes remaining) Maria Walsh and Aine Moynihan all superb.

Cork led 1-3 to 0-7 at the break and should have been further ahead given the huge amount of possession they had enjoyed in the opening 30 minutes.

On several occasions Tipperary were grateful to excellent goalkeeper Kristine Kenneally who was called on several times to deny the Cork inside line who persisted in shooting for goal when points were there for the taking. Through the opening half she was by far the busier of the two goalkeepers as she confidently dealt with anything the Cork forwards threw at her.

Cork settled quickly and inside five minutes had two points on the score board from Deirdre Twomey and Niamh Dilworth. Fiona Young pointed to settle Tipperary but Cork enjoying plenty of possession



Cork captain Deirdre Twomey, who scored 1-3 for her side on Saturday.

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie

stretched their led with three points from Twomey, Erin Corkery and Dilworth without reply.

Having squandered several scoring chances, Cork were dealt a killer blow when, in a rare Tipp attack, Aoife Mc Loughney smashed high into the roof of they net.

Boosted by the goal Tipperary kept the pressure on and two quick points from Young and Catriona Maher had them in front with three minutes to the half time whistle but Cork rallied with Dilworth and Denise Cronin pointing to give them a one-point interval lead.

On the resumption Tipperary showed improvement and, beginning to gain the upper hand around midfield, they put the Cork defence under pressure.

Playing with confidence, they were back on level terms through a Siobhan McGrath point.

Kenneally denied Dilworth with a superb save before McLoughney edged them ahead for the first time in the game, converting a close in free but Cork continued to battle against a strong Tipp defence where Theresa Shortt and Geraldine Stapleton were in control.

With their defence coming under enormous pressure, Cork battled hard to hold their line while up front the Cork forwards twice struck the upright as the Tipp defence scramble to safety.

With seven minutes left Dilworth converted a free to level matters before captain Twomey hit over an excellent point from an acute angle and one sensed the determination in Cork.

Again the Cork defence withstood a Tipp raid as Leah Weste cleared to safety finding corner forward Erin Corkery who set up Twomey with a well-placed cross for the captain to finish to the net.

Now a goal in front, Cork had to stand firm and this they did before Aisling Thompson pointed free six minutes into injury time ensuring their place in the final was secured.

CORK: D Leahy L Weste A Moynihan, C O'Neill, C Motherway, M Walsh, R De Faoite, B Twomey, A Thompson (0-1f), K O'Brien, N Dilworth (0-4 frees), D Twomey (1-3), E Corkery (0-1), D Cronin (0-1), S O Callaghan. **Subs:** S Whelton for S O Callaghan (41mins, L Cunningham for L Weste (inj 61mins).

TIPPERARY: K Kenneally Ryan, S Rabbitte, D Ryan, T Shortt, G Stapleton Flanagan, S Hayes, N O'Connell, C Devane, F Young (0-2, 0-1 f 0-1 45), S Mc Grath (0-1), C Walsh, A McLoughney (1-1) C Maher (0-1). **Sub:** A Brislane for C Maher (45mins).

Referee: D Noble (Dublin)

Milford take A title in close game

Milford	1-9
Ballinhassig	1-5

CORK Feile champions, Milford, added the under-14, A county title to their collection, but not before a stern test from by a spirited Ballinhassig.

Aisling O'Brien pointed early in the opening half for Ballinhassig, followed by a Grace O'Callaghan pointed free. Jayne O'Leary had one from play, while Milford held a one-point advantage, thanks to a Rebecca Sheehy goal and a point from Sarah Flaherty. It was nip-and-tuck through the second-half as the sides battled. Orla Murray grabbed Ballinhassig's goal, but Milford picked off their points with Louise O'Flynn, Rebecca Sheehy, Sarah Flaherty, Gráinne Sheehy and Geraldine O'Connor all contributing as they chased Ballinhassig. Grace O'Callaghan and Emma Jordan kept Ballinhassig in control with points, but Milford levelled with a point from a 65 at four minutes remaining. Tiredness began to creep in. Milford pointed three frees in succession before grabbing a late insurance point to take the title. Louise O Flynn, Milford, was named as player of the match.

Ballinhassig: Eimear Cadogan, Ciara O'Leary, Miriam O'Riordan, Sarah Jane Hurley, Aisling Lee, Emma O'Donovan, Valerie Desmond, Emma Jordan (0-1), Orla Murray (1-0), Amy Cullinane, Aisling O Brien (0-1), Jayne O Leary (0-1), Michelle Murphy, Grace O Callaghan (0-2), Clodagh McCarthy

Milford: Katie O'Leary, Ciara Fitzgibbon, Nicola Browne, Nicole O'Connor, Katie Galvin, Niamh O'Brien (captain), Caroline Watson, Aideen O'Flynn, Louise O'Flynn (0-2), Sarah O'Flaherty (0-4), Maura Flanagan, Grainne Sheehy (0-1), Rebecca Connolly, Rebecca Sheehy (1-1), Kallie Hodgson, Geraldine O'Connor (0-1), Helen Bradley, Maeve Falvey, Grainne Fitzgibbon, Aine Fitzgibbon, Lilly Quirke, Katie Dillane.

Sub: Geraldine O' Connor for Rebecca Connolly.

Victory for Rovers

Courcey Rovers	2-4
Mallow	1-3

IT was victory for Courcey Rovers as they edged out Mallow to take the U14 B titles with four points to spare at the final whistle.

The side, coached by Cork senior camogie player Rachel Moloney, had to be at their best against a Mallow side that battled to the full-time whistle. The Courcey Rovers defence had to withstand strong pressure but with Julie Mulcahy and Caron O'Reilly playing excellently, they withstood the Mallow pressure to be crowned champions.

Courcey Rovers: A O'Sullivan, A Mc Carthy, A Allen, J Ryan, P Collins, C O'Reilly (1-0) capt, L O'Donovan, J Crowley (1-2), J Mulcahy (0-1), A Keating, N McCarthy, A O'Sullivan, E Hannon, A Moloney (0-1), E Moloney. Sub: J Condon for E Hannon.

Cork girls are up against it

SUNDAY
Senior Division 1B All-Ireland final: Cork v Limerick, Gaelic Grounds, 2pm

THE Cork senior division 1B camogie side go in quest of the county's first All-Ireland title of the year on Sunday when they defend their title against Limerick.

It's has the makings of a thriller as Cork strive to make it back-to-back titles, while Limerick are on the trail of a historic double.

Limerick camogie has had a great year. The decision to make the step down to the B grade has proved a huge success for a county that struggled at the higher level.

Now under the guidance of former hurling star Ciaran Carey, they have re-established themselves and having annexed the division 1B league title they are hungry for more.

Cork and Limerick have met three times this season with Limerick winning all three.

It was close in the opening game of the league where a point separated the sides.

In the league final Limerick showed too much strength for Cork and ran out 1-14 to 0-5 winners.

In the round-robin championship series Limerick were Cork's bogey team before Cork turned in a good display to defeat Tipperary.

They drew with Galway and received a walkover from Dublin in their last game of the series, before going on to carve out a hard-earned two point semi-final win over Wexford two weeks ago.

In that game Cork were pinned to their collars before victory was secured.

The performance of their defence in particular helped them secure a final berth.

It is the Cork defence that will once again hold the key to retaining their title.

They will have to be at their best to defeat this Limerick side who will rely on youngster Claire and Niamh Mulcahy and former Galway star Orla Curtin to grab the bulk of their scores.

If Cork can close them down from the off, they can stamp their authority on the contest.

Carey has turned around the fortunes of Limerick camogie.

They are hot favourites to record the double, but the pressure is on them to deliver.

On their way to the final they won their section of the round-robin series beating Dublin, Cork, Galway and Tipp.



Limerick corner-forward Sinead McAuliffe takes on Cork defenders Lucy Hawkes, Noreen Mulcahy and Lynda O'Connell in the National Camogie League Division 1B final which Limerick won.

Camogie fixtures

TOMORROW

U14D league final replay: Bishopstown v Charleville, 11am, Brinny, (note the change of venue);
U14C league final: Brian Dillons v Enniskeane, 1pm, Coachford, (note the change of venue).
U16A county championship semi-final: Glen Rovers v Ballincollig, Nemo Rangers 5.45pm;
U16B county championship: Killeagh v Passage, 2.30pm, Killeagh.

SUNDAY

U16C county championship: Blarney v Na Piarsaigh, 12 noon, Blarney.

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie

Last weekend they beat Galway in the semi-final.

They look a well balanced side. The more established players like Michelle Casey, Vera Sheehan and Eileen O'Brien have shown a new confidence this season.

Rose Collins, Sinéad McAuliffe and captain Aoife Sheehan, who down through the years have soldiered for the county during times when camogie had not enjoyed much success, will also need to be curtailed.

The decision this year to re-grade has given the game in Limerick and the players a much needed boost.

Carey and his fellow selector Liz Carroll have brought a new enthusiasm to training and they are not short of determination and skill.

The players and all the clubs have rowed in behind them in an effort to restore pride in the county.

With the league title under their belts, confidence is at an all time high.

Cork will strive to annex back-to-back titles, a hard feat when one considers it's the counties second string team.

Cork have lost sure impressive performers from last year's winning line-out, including Miriam Deasy (retired), Denise Twomey (injured) and Orla Cotter, who made the step up to the A team.

It's a huge ask, but certainly something that is not out of reach.

Limerick were the only team to defeat Cork in the league and championship series this year.

The backroom team of Sile Golden, Kay Dunne and Willie O'Regan are mindful of this.

They are determined to go one better and reverse these results.

Last year in his first season with the division 1B side Aidan Crowley guided the county to their first All-Ireland title.

Throughout the league and championship campaign this year they have showed the same determination.

Cork lost Charlotte Kearney and Ann Marie Fleming due to injury during the campaign.

Both are a huge loss, while they await news on minor player Leah Weste, who has a wrist injury following Cork's minor clash with Tipp last weekend.

Last season's U16 player Aisling Thompson has slotted in to the side with ease, while the experienced Linda Dorgan, Marie Corkery, Lucy Hawkes and Eimear O'Sullivan-have turned in solid displays in all games.

The Cork side is captained by Lynda O'Connell, who will lead the side from her customary position at centre-back.

Sunday is a huge test for this Cork side who will have to be at their very best against the league champions, but these Cork girls will not be found wanting.

They will give it a huge effort to ensure the title stays Leeside for another 12 months.



Cork coach Aidan Crowley focussed on the task.

Crowley upbeat about Rebels' chances of retaining title

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie

THE hunger is as great as ever. The determination remains the same as Aidan Crowley focuses on his side's meeting with Limerick on Sunday.

Last season, with no previous experience of camogie at any level, the Valley Rovers man successfully guided the county to their first senior 1B All-Ireland title.

Twelve months on his side are 60 minutes from recording back-to-back titles, but he is under no illusions as to the task.

"Limerick are raging favourites given that this is their first team, but we are very determined.

"We are not going up there just to make up the numbers.

"We intend to give it one hell of a cut to retain our title."

A sharp eye for the game, the Carrigaline-based primary school teacher previously coached at underage and U21 level and he guided the fortunes of his hurling club to a county U21 hurling final, where they lost out to Erin's Own.

"I have always enjoyed my involvement, both as a player and a trainer and have been involved in GAA all my life really."

Now enjoying his second season involved with camogie Aidan has nothing but praise for his charges.

"The commitment and dedication from every one of the players since our first league game way back in March has been superb.

"It would be tremendous to round of the year with a victory.

"They deserve something for all the efforts they have put in."

Support is something the team receive in abundance from their backroom team and driven on by Aidan and his fellow selectors, Sile Golden, Kay Dunne and Willie O'Regan they have left no stone unturned as they prepare for battle with Limerick.

"It was a huge disappointment to lose the league final to Limerick.

"We are determined to turn that result around and win.

"From our first game of the round-robin series we set ourselves the target of making the final.

"Now we are at the point which we set out to be at and we are just 60 minutes away from retaining our title.

"It would be a huge achievement for us to defeat Limerick's first team on Sunday.

"After the disappointment of losing the senior and U16 finals in recent weeks it's would be great to take the senior B title."

While Aidan has nothing but praise for this charges, his own commitment and dedication has not gone unnoticed.

He has given huge commitment to retaining the title.

He has been attending training sessions or matches four or five evenings a week.

Without the support of his family this would not have been possible.

Wife Eithne and three sons, Michael, Matthew and Eoin are without doubt the back bone of Crowley's enthusiasm and his biggest fans.

Certainly it will be tough, have no doubt about that, but champions die hard, Limerick be warned.

Cork and Limerick battle it our for title

BIG game on Sunday as Cork defends their senior division 1B All Ireland crown when they meet Limerick in the All Ireland final in Kilmallock Limericks having already annexed the league title are chasing the double and having made the step down form Senior A to B this season have shown plenty of strength in both league and championship to date.

Limerick have regrouped under the guidance of former hurling star Ciaran Carey fielding their first choice fifteen they will prove a handful for Cork's second side.

Already this season the sides have met three times with Limerick recording victories in all games in the round robin championship series Cork defeated Tipperary before recording a draw with Galway they receiving a walk over from Dublin in their last scheduled game of the series before going on to carve out a hard earned two point semi final victor over Wexford in a close semi final.

Cork will have to be at their best to defeat this Limerick side that are favourites to record the double.

In their path to the final they recorded victories in their section of the round robin series over Dublin Cork Galway and Tipperary to top the group before defeating Galway in the semi final last weekend.

Last year Aidan Crowley guided the county to their first All Ireland Senior B title and through the league and championship Cork have showed the same entuasim Linda Dorgan, Marie Corkery Lucy Hawkes and Eimear o Sullivan are amongst the players whom a lot will depend on and they will be mindful that Sunday is a huge day for camogie in the county as they strive to retain their crown, the Cork girls are renowned for their fight and determination and they will put in a huge effort to ensure the title stays Leeside.



Cork Captain Lynda O'Connell & Limerick captain Aoife Sheehan pictured at the Gaelic grounds, Limerick City on Saturday 22nd September 2007.
Picture: Emma Jervis/ press 22

Minors make it to final

CORK booked their place in the All Ireland minor final when they had five points to spare over Tipperary in contest that failed to come to life through the hour.

A determined Tipperary side made life hard for Cork who in the finish pulled away to book their place in the final. Cork were grateful to their defence who held solid under severe Tipperary pressure and they will know another performance such as last weekend will not suffice in the final when they face holders Kilkenny who having recoded three in row of Under 16 titles will prove a huge handful for Cork.

Seandun U11 finals

ON SATURDAY last the Seandun division held their under 11 finals and on a splendid day for camogie Douglas took the premier titles edging out Blackrock in an exciting final with just two points to spare, in the A final Brian Dillon's defeated Na Piarsaigh to take the spoils while in the B decider just one goal separated Douglas and St Vincent's with the Douglas girl taking the crown. Well done to all concerned and to the youngster who enjoyed a splendid day's camogie.

Lynda has sights set on a medal



LINDA MELLERICK

ST FINBARR'S will be hoping they welcome home an All-Ireland winning Cork Captain tomorrow as Lynda O'Connell leads her side into battle against Munster opponents Limerick in the All-Ireland Division 1B final in Kilmallock.

Cork go into game as heavy underdogs.

Limerick are in the 1B final, some might feel unfairly, but in truth they needed this season to put them on the right track again. And unlike some counties who are quite happy to win All-Irelands at the same level year in and year out, battling against promotion, Ciarán Carey and this Limerick side want to be competing and holding their own against the best.

In fact many of this Limerick squad are used to life in the top flight having won numerous All-Ireland senior club titles with Granagh Ballingarry.

Vera Sheehan, Aoife Sheehan, and Eileen O'Brien, are three players who immediately spring to mind as players who would claim a spot on any senior inter-county side.

In fact one of the reasons I am so in favour of All star awards is because it recognises players like those mentioned above who may never win a Senior All-Ireland title but are amongst the best players in the country.

If Limerick can keep the momentum they are showing this year going, the future looks bright for them.

Physically stronger than Cork, they had a 3-11 to 2-5 victory over the rebels last July in the fourth round tie. Having lost the National League final to the same opponents, Cork have it all to do but based on the manner of their semi-final victory over Wexford there is great heart and spirit in this team and Limerick won't have it all their own way.

Cork have a very good side with many players on the fringe of the senior A squad. In fact one or two of the team dropped off the senior panel this year wanting to fully concentrate on a team they are an integral part of. They felt they were just making up numbers on the senior squad and you can't blame them for that.

This year sees the last of this division 1B competition having been introduced for the first time two years ago as part of the Competitions Review trial. It has proved successful but it is in essence the Intermediate championship. Funnily, while being a grade higher than junior, the junior championship holds higher rank and is played as the curtain raiser on All-Ireland final day. Giving the competition a senior status ie division 1B title added importance to the competition. Reverting back to intermediate status may diminish this once again.

The junior competition remains for junior graded counties only and while I wholeheartedly agree with this it's a shame that many of the division 1B players will never get to play in Croke Park, stuck as they are in this intermediate championship.



Fáilte



Is cúis áthais dom fáilte a chur romhaibh go Páirc na nGael inniú. Tá súil agam go mbeidh lá iontach againn agus cluiche den scoth á imirt so staid iontach seo. The Gala Senior 'B' Final today between Limerick and Cork is a repeat of the league final played in Nowlan Park played earlier in the year. Limerick won comprehensively that day but would be careless to expect the same today. When any Cork team reaches a final they are formidable opponents. I expect a strong challenging game.

Limerick took serious action by appointing Ciarán Carey as team manager. They knew they had the talent but the focus was somewhat off-centre. Appointing Ciarán was an inspired choice. One of the most skilful and inspirational hurlers of the modern era, he has improved every aspect of the players' game. Camogie needs Limerick back in the Gala Senior A championship. This too is the ambition of Ciarán Carey and his squad. Limerick will look to captain Aoife Sheehan and her sister Vera for leadership but with strength in both defence and the forwards Limerick have a strong team.

Cork won this competition last year and will want to retain the title. Under the guidance of Aidan Crowley they defeated Wexford in a close semi-final. Cork are led by captain Lynda O'Connell in the half-back line and will look to other key players such as Lucy Hawkes and Maria Watson in the forwards. The Cork minors are already in the Minor Final and by the time you read this we will know the opposition – either Kilkenny or Antrim. Congratulations to Cork Ladies Football team that won the three-in-a-row last weekend. A special well done to the dual players Angela Walsh, Briege Corkery, Rena Buckley, Caitriona Foley and Mary O'Connor. We wish Mary O'Connor a speedy recovery from her injury, a result of a freak accident in football training. The Senior A camogie team contributed to a superb Gala All-Ireland Final against Wexford. Cork were great champions and were most co-operative in relation to PR and promotion opportunities. I thank them for their professional approach. Congratulations to Wexford and all credit to the players who visited the schools in the counties in the days after the final.

This has been a splendid year for camogie, competitive, exciting and skilful games. On All-Ireland Day in Croke Park we saw two wonderful finals, the best of all the Gaelic Games Finals this year.

Thanks to the Limerick County Board, in particular Jimmy Hartigan, for making their facilities available this weekend and last here in Páirc na nGael. Thanks to Ciarán Quigley who referees the game today and his officials. This is the last Gala All-Ireland Final of 2007 and on behalf of Cumann Camógaíochta we would like to thank Gary Desmond, Chief Executive, and his team. It has been a good year for both.

Thanks to all who promote and support our games.

Liz Howard

Liz Howard,
Uachtarán

Corcaigh

Dearg agus Bán

(1) **Gillian Harrington**
G. Ni Arrachtáin
(Valley Rovers)

(2) **Deirdre Hayes**
D. Ni Aodha
(Milford)

(3) **Noreen Mulcahy**
N. Ni Mhaolchathaigh
(St Catherines)

(4) **Lucy Hawkes**
L. Ni Eachàin
(Valley Rovers)

(5) **Lynda O'Connell**
L. Ni Chonaill (Capt)
(St Finbarrs)

(6) **Regina Curtin**
R. Nic Curtáin
(Milford)

(7) **Tina Roche**
T. De Róiste
(Aghabullogue)

(8) **Lynda Dorgan**
L. Ni Dheargáin
(Grenagh)

(9) **Aisling Thompson**
A. Nic Thomáis
(Milford)

(10) **Eimear O'Sullivan**
E. Ni Shúilleabháin
(Ballinhassig)

(11) **Marie Corkery**
M. Ni Chorcra
(Clonghduv)

(12) **Marian Jagoe**
M. Iagó
(Tracton)

(13) **Deirdre Twomey**
D. Ni Thuama
(St Catherines)

(14) **Maria Watson**
M. Nic Uait
(Milford)

(15) **Rachel Myers**
R. Ni Mhir
(St Finbarrs)

ROGHNÓIRÍ:
Manager: Aidan Crowley
Selectors: Sile Golden, Kay Dunne, Willie O'Regan

(16) **Eimear White**
E. de Faoite
(Barryroe)

(17) **Anne Marie Fleming**
A.M. Pléimeann
(Barryroe)

(18) **Denise Cronin**
D. Ni Chróinin
(Ballincollig)

(19) **Shona Cunningham**
S. Nic Cuinneagáin
(Youghal)

(20) **Esther Power**
E. de Paor
(St Catherines)

(21) **Evelyn Ronayne**
E. Ni Rónáin
(Dungourney)

(22) **Michelle Browne**
M. de Bhrún
(Mallow)

(23) **Cladagh Deasy**
C. Dhéiseach
(Valley Rovers)

(24) **Áine Moynihan**
Á. Ni Mhuineacháin
(Ballygarvan)

(25) **Kathleen O'Brien**
C. Ni Bhriain
(Mallow)

An Réiteoir: Ciarán Quigley, Cill Dara; Standby: Morgan Conroy, Port Láirge;

Luimneach

Glas agus Bán

(1) **Sile Moynihan**
S. Ni Mhúineacháin
(Na Piarsaigh)

(2) **Aideen McNamara**
E. Nic Conmara
(Na Piarsaigh)

(3) **Rose Collins**
R. Ni Choileáin
(Ahane)

(4) **Janet Garvey**
J. Ni Ghairbhith
(Tourmanfulla)

(5) **Grace McNamara**
G. Nic Conmara
(Adare)

(6) **Aoife Sheehan**
A. Ni Shiocháin (Capt)
(Granagh-Ballingarry)

(7) **Moira Dooley**
M. Ni Dhúda
(Ahane)

(8) **Vera Sheehan**
V. Ni Shiocháin
(Granagh-Ballingarry)

(9) **Deirdre Fitzpatrick**
D. Nic Giolla Phádraig
(Killeedy)

(10) **Eileen O'Brien**
E. Ni Bhriain
(Granagh-Ballingarry)

(11) **Meadbh de Nais**
M. de Nais
(Granagh-Ballingarry)

(12) **Niamh Mulcahy**
N. Ni Mhaolchathaigh
(Ahane)

(13) **Marie Keating**
M. Chéitinn
(Killeedy)

(14) **Mairead Kelly**
M. Ni Cheallaigh
(Galbally)

(15) **Orla Curtin**
O. Nic Curtáin
(Killeedy)

ROGHNÓIRÍ:
Manager: Ciaran Carey; *Selector:* Liz Carroll;
Liaison Officer: Noreen Culhane; *First Aid:* Linda Moran

(16) **Áine O'Reilly**
A. Ni Raghallaigh
(Ballyagran)

(17) **Claire Mulcahy**
C. Ni Mhaolchathaigh
(Ahane)

(18) **Dymphna O'Brien**
D. Ni Bhriain
(Killeedy)

(19) **Alison White**
A. de Faoite
(Ballyagran)

(20) **Sinead McAuliffe**
S. Nic Amhlaoibh
(Ballyagran)

(21) **Michelle Casey**
M. Ni Chathasaigh
(Killeedy)

(22) **Marie McGrath**
S. Nic Amhlaoibh
(Knockaderry)

(23) **Tara Power**
T. de Paor
(Croom)

(24) **Siobhan Enright**
S. Nic Ionnrachtaigh
(Granagh-Ballingarry)

(25) **Nora Collins**
N. Ni Choileáin
(Ahane)

Umpire: John Morrissey, Tiobraid Árann; 4th Official: Rita Coen, An Ghailllimh.

Oct 2007

Limerick rally to earn replay with Cork

Limerick	**1-10**
Cork	**2-7**

by Colm O'Connor

LIMERICK and Cork must meet again to decide the destination of the Gala All-Ireland Senior B Camogie title.

A storming finish from the Ciarán Carey managed Limerick forced a replay after a thrilling decider at the Gaelic Grounds yesterday. Captain Aoife Sheehan scored a goal from a 21-metre free and then deep into injury time Niamh Mulcahy landed a free from midfield to level the scoring.

Cork looked on target to retain their title with a goal in each half and when Lynda Doran goaled in the 54th minute they opened a 2-7 to 0-8 lead.

Although Cork dominated the opening half, Limerick resumed after half time with Rose Collins, Dymphna O'Brien and free-taker Eileen O'Brien reducing the advantage.

Cork made a lightening start when they had the ball in the Limerick net after just three minutes as Maria Watson made no mistake from close range after good work by Marian Jagoe.

Limerick had opened the scoring though Niamh Mulcahy. The Ahane teenager was due to play with the Irish U-19 Women's soccer team this week, but withdrew to play in this final.

O'Brien responded to the Cork goal with a free, but Limerick were then to score just one more point in the opening 30 minutes — through Mairead Kelly in the 18th minute. Cork dominated on the scoreboard and hit just two first half wides to Limerick's five. Eimear O'Sullivan (2) and Maria Watson (3) helped Cork to a 1-5 to 0-3 half-time lead.

Scorers for Cork: M. Watson 1-4 (0-3frees), L. Dorgan 1-0, E. O'Sullivan 0-2 (1free), D. Twomey 0-1.

Scorers for Limerick: E. O'Brien 0-4 (3frees), A. Sheehan 1-0, N. Mulcahy 0-2 (1free), M. Kelly, R. Collins, D. O'Brien, V. Sheehan 0-1 each.

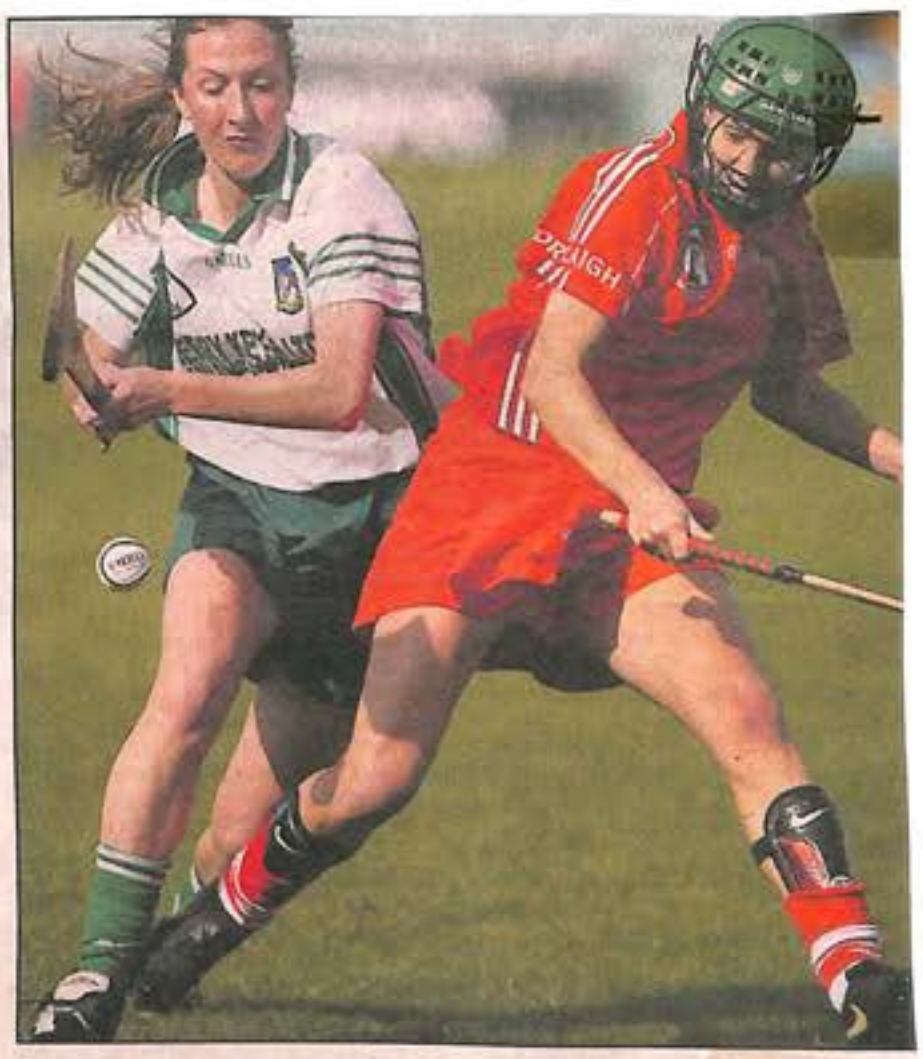
LIMERICK: S. Moynihan; A. McNamara, R. Collins, J. Garvey; G. McNamara, A. Sheehan (capt), M. Dooley; V. Sheehan, D. Fitzpatrick; E. O'Brien, M. de Nais, N. Mulcahy; M. Keating, M. Kelly, O. Curtin.

Subs: C. Mulcahy for G. McNamara (28m), D. O'Brien for M. Kelly (36), S. McAuliffe for M. de Nais (41), A. O'Reilly for M. Keating (43)

CORK: G. Harrington; D. Hayes, N. Mulcahy, L. Hawkes; L. O'Connell (capt), R. Curtin, T. Roche; L. Dorgan, A. Thompson; E. O'Sullivan, M. Corkery, M. Jagoe; D. Twomey, M. Watson, R. Myers.

Subs: D. Cronin for M. Jagoe (40), M. Browne for R. Myers (48), E. Ronayne for M. Corkery (62).

Referee: C. Quigley (Kildare).



Cork's Marian Jagoe battles with Limerick's Janet Garvey in yesterday's All-Ireland B camogie final at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick. Picture: Press 22.

Oct

2007



The Ballinhassig A team celebrate their semi-final win at the U10 camogie tournament in Ballinhassig recently



Enjoying the action at the U10 camogie tournament in Ballinhassig recently were Marie O'Reilly and Lisa O'Callaghan. Picture: Howard Crowdy



The Valley Rovers A team pictured at the Ballinhassig U10 camogie tournament. Picture: Howard Crowdy

LEVEL PEGGING

IT'S STILL all to play for the Cork Senior Division1 B side that had to endure the heartbreak of a late equalising point thirty seven and a half minutes into the second half from Niamh Mulcahy as Limerick grabbed a late draw.

Cork gave it their all through a thrilling final and certainly the manner in which the game finished left a lot to be desired, through the first half we had a few stoppages and the referee correctly added one minute and thirty two seconds, also in the second half there were a few stoppages but no way did it warrant seven and a half minutes injury time.

From the throw-in Cork were determined to match limerick stride for stride and showed they had no intention of relinquishing their crown. They hooked, blocked and played with spirit and heart and from number one to fifteen gave it everything.

Limerick fielding their first choice side had already met and defeated Cork on three occasions this year, in the league final they were well in control but no last Sunday as Cork set the pace of the game from the start. Niamh Mulcahy opened the scoring with a Limerick point but Cork Marie Watson had Cork in the lead with a fourth minuet goal and through the first half Cork picked off their points to stretch their advantage's Eileen O Brien pointed a free in response but two from Eimear O' Sullivan and three in a row Marie Watson had Cork ahead 1-5 to 0-3 at the break as Mairead Kelly struck a Limerick point.

Rose Collins and Eileen O'Brien had cut the lead with points as Marie Watson replied for Cork to put four between the sides back came limerick with three points before Deirdre Twomey had Cork two ahead and when

Linda Dorgan's beat Sile Moynihan with a high shot to the net Cork were back in control. Eileen O Brien pointed as Limerick fought back and with the clock ticking towards injury time Limerick grabbed Captain Aoife Sheehan's twenty one metres free skimmed off a Cork Hurley into the net and now just a point separated the sides with two minutes of normal time remaining.

Cork held composure as Limerick battled for something and as the clock moved into and over injury time Mulcahy showed plenty of calm to strike between the posts to give Limerick the equaliser and with it came the full-time whistle.

Meet the Captains



Lynda O'Connell
Cork



Aoife Sheehan
Limerick

Paths to the Final

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Wexford	5	4	0	1	8
Limerick	5	4	0	1	8
Cork	5	3	1	1	7
Galway	5	2	1	2	5
Tipperary	5	1	0	4	2
Dublin	5	0	0	5	0

SEMI-FINALS

15th Sept — Gala All-Ireland Championship Senior 'B' Semi-Final
Cork ..... 1-08 1-06 ..... Wexford

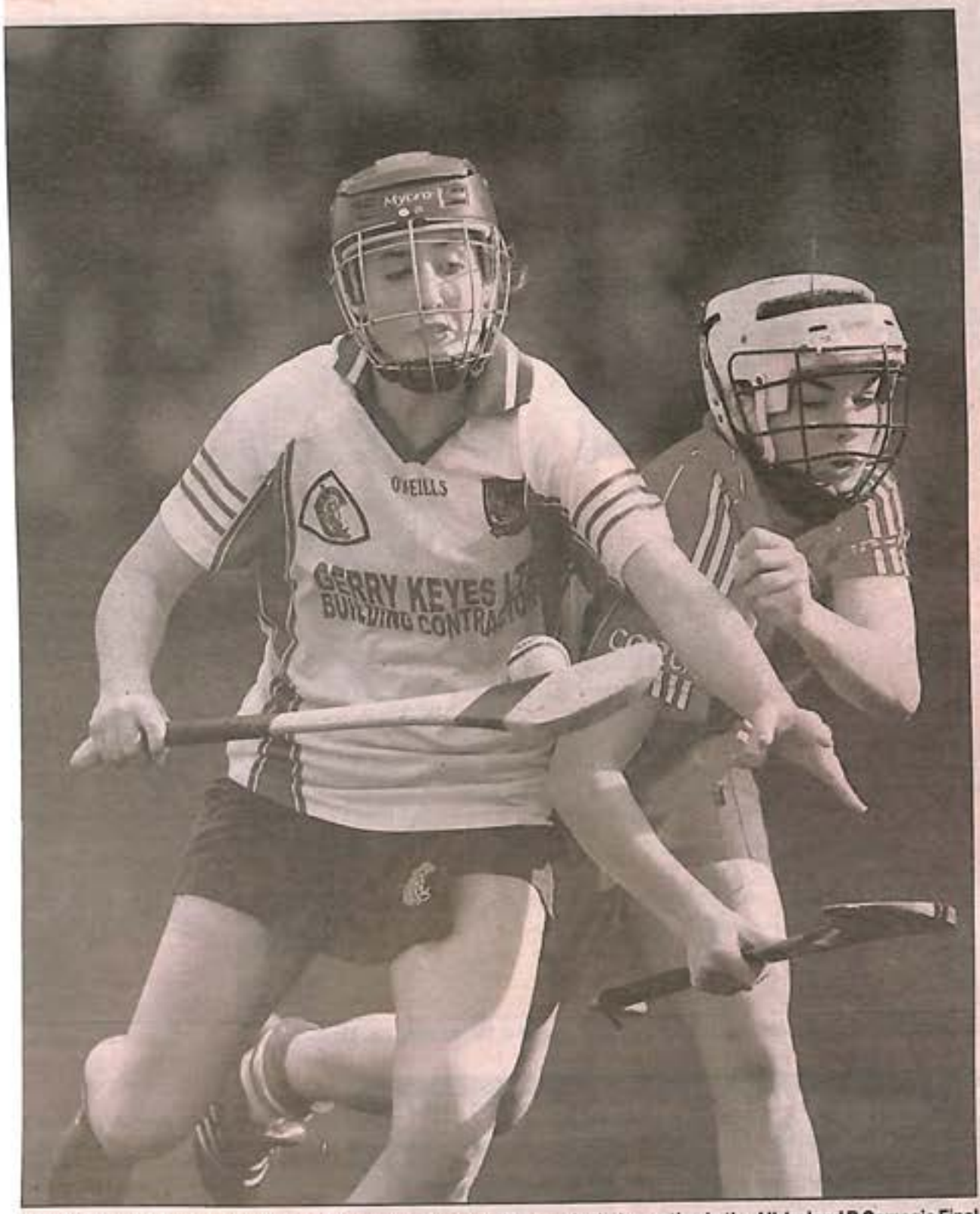
22nd Sept — Gala All-Ireland Championship Senior 'B' Semi-Final
Galway ..... 0-04 1-10 ..... Limerick



Aisling Thompson, Cork, in action against Meadbh de Nais, Limerick. Gala All-Ireland Senior B Camogie Championship Final Replay, Cork v Limerick, Pairc Uí Rinn, Co. Cork.

Oct. 2007

Cork robbed



Cork's Deirdre Twomey closes down Limerick's Aideen McNamara in their meeting in the All-Ireland B Camogie Final played in the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick on Sunday. Picture: Press 22.

Mulcahy late puck steals it

Cork 2-7
Limerick..... 1-10

By MARY NEWMAN
At the Gaelic Grounds

THE CRUELTY of sport was certainly epitomised yesterday in the Gaelic Grounds as Cork watched Niamh Mulcahy's long free sail over the bar heading into the eight minute of injury time.

The score gave Limerick a second chance, after the Leesiders looked to have done enough to retain their senior division 1B All-Ireland title.

The disappointment was clearly etched on the face of the Cork players and backroom team as they trailed off the field after they had given it everything in quest of glory.

It was clear from the throw-in that Cork were not there just to make up the numbers and they had no intention of relinquishing their title.

All over the field they played as if their lives depended on the result they hooked, blocked and chased the Limerick girls as their defence as a unit was superb.

Up front Eimear O'Sullivan, Marie Watson and Deirdre Twomey had too much pace for a sluggish Limerick defence while at midfield the hard working Lynda Dorgan and Aisling Thompson held their own with Vera Sheehan and Deirdre Fitzpatrick with the Cork duo winning the majority of possession.

Limerick, fielding their first choice side had already met and defeated Cork on three occasions this year. In the league final they were superior in all sectors but not yesterday, as the Leeside ladies, who went in as complete outsiders, gave it everything and set the pace from the start.

Niamh Mulcahy opened the scoring with a Limerick point but Cork hit the front inside three minutes after Lynda O'Connell's long range clearance from defence was directed into the path of the unmarked Marie Watson by Deirdre Twomey for Watson to blast Cork into a lead they held until the death.

Throughout the first half Cork picked off their points to stretch their advantage. Eileen O'Brien pointed a free in response to Watson's goal, two from Eimear O'Sullivan and three in a row from impressive full-forward Marie Watson had Cork ahead 1-5 to 0-3 at the break.

Mairead Kelly got through 12 minutes from the interval for a Limerick point against a Cork defence in which Regina Curtin, Lynda O'Connell and Tina Roche were in control.

With full-back Rose Collins operating up front on the resumption, Limerick struck for an early point, a minute later Eileen O'Brien had the

Crowley disappointed by late equaliser

What they said

AIDAN CROWLEY

Cork manager Aidan Crowley praised his side for their superb performance but was bitterly disappointed that Limerick grabbed a draw with the last puck of the game

"To be honest I would be slow to point the finger but certainly I would have to question seven and a half minutes of injury time, we had a player down injured two minutes into added time and when we enquired we were informed there was another four to be added, in fact after this there was another five and a half minutes played and to be honest I don't think anybody has any idea where the extra minute and a half came from."

As to the awarding of the free in the first place Aidan was again lost for an answer

"Well Lynda seemed to win the ball cleanly and was amazing that the ref thought otherwise and gave a free in, it was a long way out and it held in the air for a second I suppose we were lucky it went over it could easily have dropped into the net.

"We know we played well today but we will have to do a lot better next week, I have no doubt but that Ciaran will be telling his girls the same, we are looking forward to the replay and all we can ask for from our girls is to once again raise their game just like they did today. "We are proud of every one of them and just a little disappointed that we didn't hold out but still we are in with a great chance and we will be focused and ready just like we were today."

CIARAN CAREY

"I feel there was a lot more in us today we never got going at all but we showed tremendous character and spirit and never gave in, I know there is a lot more in our forwards and I would be hoping for a lot more from them next day," said Limerick manager Ciaran Carey at full-time.

As to the added time Carey wasn't to sure how much time was left but he did think his side was in big trouble.

"When Cork got the second goal I thought now we're in trouble and we have some work to pull this one out of the fire but we hung in there, I know a lot of people are pointing to the added time but we just played on and kept going and I was glad to see the ball sail over the bar for the equaliser it was a pressure shot but Niamh didn't let us down.

by late free



Cork's Marie Corkery battles Limerick's Meadbh de Nais in their meeting in the All-Ireland B Camogie Final played in the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick on Sunday.
Picture: Press 22.

THREE TALKING POINTS FROM THE BIG GAME

1 REF WATCH

This was a poor performance.

On several occasions he failed to be decisive action, opting to throw the ball in. He also allowed high pulling to go unchecked including one very obvious occasion when Denise Cronin was blatantly struck.

And there was the seven and a half minutes of injury time.

2 PLAYER OF THE MATCH

As a unit the Cork defence were superb with Noreen Mulcahy, Lynda O'Connell and Regina Curtin standing tall.

Up front Eimear O'Sullivan and Marie Watson were magnificent while the hard working Marie Corkery played with determination.

Cork's Regina Curtin, however, gets the nod.

3 TURNING POINT

Aoife Sheehan's goal two minutes from normal full time from a 20-metre free as Cork led by four points with the clock ticking. Full-back Rose Collins now operating in attack took on the Cork defence and won a free. Sheehan stepped up and took responsibility finishing to the net and from here to the finish Cork clung on..

lead down to a goal and it was backs to the wall for the Cork defence as an improving Limerick were now applying all the pressure.

Marie Watson gave Cork breathing space with a pointed free to again put four between the sides but now an overworked Cork defence looked to be feeling the pinch as they conceded three points without reply.

Cork needed a lift and it came from Deirdre Twomey. Winning a ball in the shadow of the Mackey Stand she struck it sweetly over the bar from an acute angle and Cork were two ahead.

Twice the Cork defence stood firm under pressure and when Linda Dorgan's dipping shot deceived Sile Moynihan to end up in the net Cork were back in control.

Eileen O'Brien pointed as Limerick fought back but again the Cork defence stood firm. Regina Curtin and Noreen Mulcahy were doing trojan work as they held their line.

With the clock ticking towards injury time Limerick grabbed a lifeline as Rose Collins used her strength to brush past the Cork defence and was fouled. Captain Aoife Sheehan's shot skimmed off a Cork hurley and ended in the net and now just a point separated the sides with two minutes of normal time remaining.

With their title on the line Cork held their ground as the Limerick girls battled for survival but time after time Cork cleared their lines.

As the clock moved into and over injury time all eyes were on referee Ciaran Quigley who seemed oblivious to it all as still they played on.

With seven and a half minutes of injury time played Cork's Linda Dorgan looked to have won the ball legitimately, however to the amazement of many in the ground she was penalised, up stepped Mulcahy who displayed nerves of steel to skilfully strike it straight between the posts to give Limerick the equaliser and with it came the full-time whistle.

It would be unjust not to comment on the playing of seven and a half minutes of injury time which certainly was not warranted, granted there were several stoppages and by our estimation four to five minutes at the most would have been more than sufficient.

At the end of the day its all to play for again but let's hope next time out a fourth official is in attendance to give both players, supporters and media a clear indication as to the time to be added on.

Scorers for Cork: M Watson 1-4 (0-3 f), L Dorgan 1-0, E O'Sullivan 0-2 (0-1 f), D Twomey 0-1.



Cork's Eimear O'Sullivan goes for the ball with Limerick's Aoife Sheehan at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick on Sunday. Picture: Press 22.

Limerick: E O Brien 0-5 (0-3 f), A Sheehan 1-0, N Mulcahy 0-2 (0-1 f, 0-1 pen), M Keating, D O Brien, R Collins 0-1 each.

CORK: G Harrington, D Hayes, N Mulcahy, L Hawkes, L O'Connell, R Curtin, T Roche, L Dorgan, A Thompson, E O'Sullivan, M Corkery M Jagoe, D Twomey, M Watson, R Myers.

Subs: D Cronin for M Jagoe (inj 40), M Browne for R Myers (48), E Roynane for M Corkery (inj 62).

LIMERICK: S Moynihan, A Mc Namara, R Collins, J Garvey, G McNamara, A Sheehan, M Dooley, V Sheehan, S Fitzpatrick, E O Brien, M de Nais, N Mulcahy, M Keating, M Kelly, O Curtin.

Subs: C Mulcahy for G Mc Namara (28), D O'Brien for M Kelly (38), A O'Reilly for M de Nais (42).

Referee: C Quigley (Kildare).

Aidan has the Rebels ready to win



Limerick corner forward Sinead McAuliffe takes on Cork defenders Lucy Hawkes, Noreen Mulcahy and Lynda O'Connell in the drawn National Camogie League Division 1B Final at Nowlan Park.

Sunday,
All-Ireland Senior Division 1B camogie final replay, Cork v Limerick,
Páirc Uí Rinn, 12.15pm,

IT'S back to the drawing board for Cork and Limerick o when the sides meet on Sunday to decide the destination the Senior Division 1B All-Ireland championship title.

By MARY NEWMAN

Division 1B camogie Final

On Sunday last Cork came ever so close to causing a major upset by beating favourites Limerick in Limerick.

They almost retained their crown, but they were denied in the end by a controversial free in the eight minute of injury time.

A huge question mark hung over the amount of time added on the referee as did the awarding of the free which tied up the contest.

From the throw-in last weekend, Cork gave it their all, which was testament to the hard work and commitment of the players and coach Aidan Crowley, who had his side fine-tuned for the task in hand.

Three time the sides had met in the run-up to last weekend's game, with Limerick having come out on top in each meeting.

They were hot favourites to add the Sean McCraith trophy to the National League title annexed already this season.

In defence, Cork stood solid as a unit but one has to single out their half-backline where captain Lynda O'Connell, Regina Curtin and Tina Roche stood tall all day.

They pushed Limerick back, while behind them Noreen Mulcahy, Deidre Hayes and Lucy Hawkes closed down the Limerick inside line.

Up front the Cork forwards showed plenty of pace, something that caused trouble for the Limerick defence.

It's here that Cork can capitalise on Sunday as they have the ability to take on the Limerick rearguard and win scores, as shown last weekend by the impressive Eimear O'Sullivan, Deirdre Twomey and Marie Watson.

Again this weekend the midfield pairing of Aisling Thompson and Lynda Dorgan will have to work hard. Last week they gained the upper hand over the impressive Vera Sheehan and Deirdre Fitzpatrick.



Cork's Regina Curtin had a fantastic game in the draw final.

A big doubt surrounds the availability of Marie Corkery, who left proceedings two minutes into injury-time with a shoulder injury and Marion Jaego, who also had to retire early.

The selectors will give both Corkery and Jaego time to recover and while there is huge concern over both, it's feared that Corkery may not make it.

This will be a huge blow to Cork.

Having watched this team throughout the league and championship campaigns all season. last week was by far their best display.

One wonders now can they raise their game again to such levels or will Limerick, grab their second chance?

It was heartbreaking for Cork having come so close and now to have to endure another day.

Certainly Limerick were pleased with the manner in which they fought back.

They were five points down with six minutes of normal playing time remaining.

They thought their chance had gone, something coach Ciaran Carey readily admitted to me after the contest.

He also felt his side just did not perform on the day and is hoping for a bigger input from a forward line that only scored six points from play, with 1-4 coming from frees.

"We were sluggish and I feel there is a lot more in our team.

"I will be asking for a bigger performance from our forwards the next day.

"Cork were good, they didn't allow us settle and hopefully, we can address this on Sunday."

Ciaran Carey has helped turn around the fortunes of camogie in Limerick and they were hot favourites to record the double last weekend.

The pressure was on them to deliver and they almost failed, but they are still alive and that spells danger for Cork.

The switching of full-back Rose Collins to their attack and the introduction of substitute Dympna O' Brien had a big bearing on their Houdini act.

Captain Aoife Sheehan led the way striking a 21-metre free to the net, before Claire Mulcahy showed nerves of steel to put the ball between the posts from the halfway line.

They will not want to find themselves in a similar position on Sunday.

I doubt Cork would allow them selves make another slip-up.

Limerick, who regraded this year from division 1A to 1B were the only team to defeat Cork in the league and championship series.

Cork are still as determined as ever to reverse these results.

Sunday is once again a huge test for this Cork side.

They know they will have to be at their best once again.

Last weekend was a super human effort, now the big question is being asked.

Do they have the same hunger and determination or will Limerick be ready and know what to expect?

Cork were annoyed last time out that they let the title slip.

Limerick were somewhat stunned by the Cork performance and they will certainly be ready.

Another big effort is required to lift the crown.

It remains to be seen which coach, Crowley or Carey, can motivate their side enough for one final push.

My money is on Cork, who look to have enough in the tank to just about shade it.

CORK PANEL: Gillian Harrington, Valley Rovers; Deirdre Hayes, Milford; Noreen Mulcahy, St Catherine's; Lucy Hawkes, Valley Rovers; Lynda O'Connell, St Finbarr's; Regina Curtin, Milford; Tina Roche, Aghabullogue; Linda Dorgan, Grenagh; Aisling Thompson, Milford; Eimear O'Sullivan, Ballinhassig; Marie Corkery, Cloughduv; Marion Jagoe, Tracton; Deirdre Twomey, St Catherines; Marie Watson, Milford; Rachel Myers, St Finbarr's; Eimear White, Barryroe;. Ann Marie Fleming Barryroe, Denise Cronin, Ballincollig; Shona Cunningham, Youghal; Esther Power, St Catherine's; Evelyn Roymane, Dungourney; Michelle Browne, Mallow; Aine Moynihan, Ballygarvan; Clodagh Deasy, Valley Rovers; Kathleen O'Brien, Mallow; Liz Bugler, Valley Rovers; Hazel O'Regan, Clonakilty; Leah Weste, Ballincollig; Lisa Higgins, St Catherine's.

O'Connell hopes second bite is sweeter

CORK captain Lynda O'Connell is looking forward to leading her side out once again in an All-Ireland final.

This time it will be in front of her family and friends on home ground as Cork and Limerick replay their division 1B decider in Páirc Uí Rinn on Sunday (12.15pm).

"It's a great honour to captain the team and certainly I did not expect to be doing it again, just seven days after leading the side out in the Gaelic Grounds.

"Hopefully, we will get it right this time out and win."

Lynda saw her side do everything that was required and still not win last weekend.

"We were disappointed that they equalised, especially the way they did, with the last puck of the game.

"We looked to have had it won and the injury-time was so long.

"I suppose on the balance they fought back and a draw was probably a fair result, but we still felt hard done by with the amount of injury-time played."

The chartered accountant with Apple Computers is looking forward to Sunday and feels Cork will have to again raise their game to defeat the league champions.

"We just put last weekend to the back of our minds and got it together again. We re-grouped and just worked on areas where we can improve on and we know we can do it.

Coach Aidan Crowley is equally as determined to win on Sunday.

"The buzz is the same and the girls are looking forward to Sunday.

"I suppose last weekend a lot of people thought we left it behind us, but now we will have to just do it all again.

"We have a few injuries, but we are hoping to have a full squad to choose from.

"We may have to wait until Sunday morning to be sure of a few injuries but hopefully they will come right so that we can put out our best team and win."

Oct. 2007

Carey's side cap memorable year

By THERESE O'CALLAGHAN

Gala All-Ireland B Camogie Final
Limerick 2-9 Cork 0-6
At Pairc Ui Rinn, Cork

A truly memorable year for Ciarán Carey's side as they completed the League and All-Ireland double.

Losing Deirdre Fitzpatrick to a second yellow card eight minutes into the second half would have floored many a team, but the Shannonsiders held on defiantly to claim a famous win on Leeside.

Yesterday all the pointers before hand indicated a home win. The Rebels felt they should have triumphed a week earlier in the Gaelic Grounds until Niamh Mulcahy came to the rescue with a late free. The Limerick girls then journeyed south with unbelievable self-belief.

Carey and selector Liz Carroll rung the changes too bringing Claire Mulcahy and Dymphna O'Brien into their starting 15.

We had a fiery start with both teams showing their intent right from the throw-in. Referee Ciarán Quigley flashed a few yellow cards in the first half, but while the hurling was tough, it was also honest. It was apparent too that neither side would give way easy. But, hunger is a wonderful stimulant for any team and it was evident that the green and white wanted this one really badly. That was apparent once Eileen O'Brien wriggled through the Rebel defence to register Limerick's opening score - a goal - after just six minutes.

O'Brien knows more than most the agony of losing and yesterday's victory must have made up for the many barren years when she soldiered alongside the likes of Vera and captain Aoife Sheehan, Rose Collins, Grace McNamara, Fitzpatrick, Meadhbh de Nais and a few more.

Cork too played their part, but Limerick were good value for their 1-3 to 0-4 interval lead.

O'Brien was accurate from frees, Moynihan and company blocked a powerful penalty and Niamh Mulcahy too got in on the scoring. She and sister Niamh were immense. Cork, on the other hand, were struggling. Free-taker Eimear O'Sullivan hit three of their four points, but otherwise they were out of sorts. Aoife Sheehan was a big presence at centre-back while Vera played herself to a standstill.

Limerick surged four points ahead after the break, but then the death knell sounded with Fitzpatrick's departure. Fourteen versus 15, and 22 long minutes to go.

A brace of O'Sullivan frees brought the margin to two. But, the Limerick response was immense. And how they stood up to be counted. O'Brien and sub Marie Keating rifled over a pair of points to push the advantage back to four. But, Cork were still coming at them.

Their half-back line, especially Lynda O'Connell and Regina Curtin thundered into the game, consequently the pressure was on the Limerick defence.

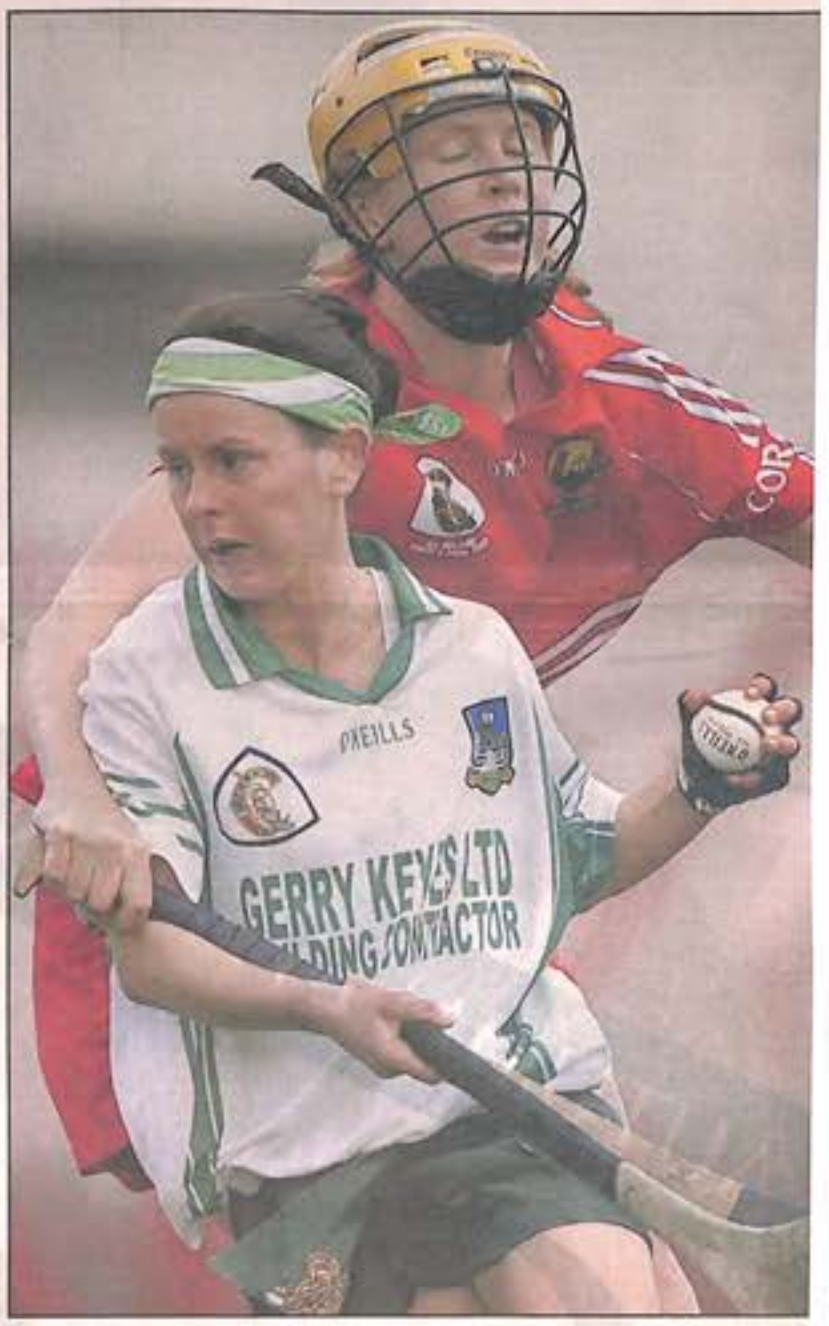
Still they coped and despite their numerical disadvantage they managed to avert the danger. And what a powerful statement they made in the final few minutes. Keeping Cork scoreless, Niamh Mulcahy floated over from play.

And to crown a marvellous day at the office, Orla Curtin who had a fine hour's Camogie, combined with Keating to hammer home goal number two. Then, to seal the deal, de Nais posted the final score.

Scorers: Limerick - E O'Brien 1-4 (0-2 frees, 0-1 45m), O Curtin 1-1, N Mulcahy 0-2, M Keating and M de Nais 0-1 each. Cork - E O'Sullivan 0-5 (frees), D Twomey 0-1.
Limerick: S Moynihan; A McNamara, R Collins, J Garvey; G McNamara, A Sheehan (Capt), C Mulcahy; V Sheehan, D Fitzpatrick; E O'Brien, M Dooley, N Mulcahy; D O'Brien, M de Nais, O Curtin.
Subs: M Keating for M Dooley (53 mins).
Cork: G Harrington; D Hayes, N Mulcahy, L Hawkes; T Roche, R Curtin, L Connell (Capt); L Dorgan, A Thompson; R Myers, E O'Sullivan, M Corkery; S Cunningham; M Watson, D Twomey. Subs: M Browne for R Myers (45), D Cronin for S Cunningham (48)., K O'Brien for M Corkery (53), A M Fleming for T Roche (58).
Referee: C Quigley (Kildare).



At last: Limerick captain Aoife Sheehan holds the McGrath Cup.



Cork's Noreen Mulcahy tries to keep tabs on Limerick's Dymphna O'Brien in the All-Ireland Senior B Camogie Championship Final Repl in Pairc Ui Rinn, Cork. News Digi



Gimme that: Limerick captain Aoife Sheehan accepts the McGrath Cup from Camogie President Liz Howard in Pairc Ui Rinn. News Digital



All smiles: Niamh Mulcahy recieves her Player of the Match award.

Aoife Sheehan: 'We hope we can hang onto Ciarán'

By JEROME O'CONNELL

SECURING Ciaran Carey as manager has been identified as step one on Limerick's path to success in next season's All-Ireland senior camogie championship.

Just days after Limerick's historic win in the All-Ireland Senior B final, thoughts turned to next season, when Limerick will play in the top grade.

"Hopefully we would like to build on this. We hope to hang onto Ciaran," emphasised captain Aoife Sheehan.

"He is inspirational - when he speaks in the dressing room, people listen. Everyone in the squad looks up to him," outlined the impressive centre back.

"He has helped to raise the profile of camogie in Limerick. People who had never seen a camogie match before came to the drawn final in the Gaelic Grounds."

Limerick Camogie Board chairman Joe O'Donnell echoed the praise of Carey.

"Ciaran gave great commitment and he got great commitment from the girls. It has been an amazing journey for the last eight months, since Ciaran came on board," said O'Donnell.

"Ciaran has been amazing. Even for the final down in Pairc Ui Rinn, he brought along some former colleagues; Steve McDonogh, Nigel Carey and Damien Gillane to help him along the sideline and everything like that helps," said the chairman.

"It is up to the county board to harness this win. From a county board point of view, we need to establish Limerick as a senior county with the possibility of building towards an All-Ireland senior title."

The chairman confirmed that no talks had yet been held with Carey about continuing in his role.

"The win goes to show the value of having some one like him in control. The big issue now is to continue to have a serious management in place," said O'Donnell, who is in his fourth year as county board chairman.

Rightly so, celebrations took centre stage this week.

"We are delighted. Hopefully all of us will stay together and we will build on the win," said captain Aoife Sheehan, when speaking to the Limerick Leader.

Last Sunday's win sees Limerick complete a league and championship double over Cork.

"We were more wise to them this time round, " said Sheehan of the replay win.

"In fairness, the way that the championship was run this year we had no match for weeks and then three tough matches in a row, which in a way helped us in the final."

An Eileen O'Brien goal after six minutes set Limerick o their way.

"We needed to get a good star and at half time we knew that w were playing well, but that w could still up our game,"

Limerick were 1-3 to 0-4 ahea at the break, but just after hal time midfielder Deirdre Fitz patrick was sent off for a second yellow card.

"Everyone upped their gam when Dee was sent off. They go to within two points of us, but i fairness our forwards were play ing very well and they got som great scores to win."

Heartbreak for Cork as Limerick claim first title

All-Ireland Senior B Camogie Final

LIMERICK	2-9
CORK	0-6

by Cóilín Duffy

LIMERICK took their first ever Senior All-Ireland Camogie championship title in ideal conditions on Sunday in the Gala All-Ireland Senior B decider at Páirc Uí Rinn.

The previous weekend it took a last gasp equaliser from Niamh Mulcahy to snatch a draw for the Shannonsiders and she was once again an influential player in this game with two points, while also taking the Player of the Match award.

The visitors began this game very strongly and had the ball in the back of the Cork net after just a minute when top-scorer Eileen O,Brien blasted home from 10 yards.

It took Cork 10 minutes to open their account with a point from Deirdre Twomey but Limerick suddenly went five points clear thanks to excellent scores from O,Brien and Mulcahy to ensure a 1-3 to 0-1 score-line after 21 minutes.

The Rebels weren,t going to give up easily and forced the Limerick defence to commit fouls, with Eimear O,Sullivan slotting over three resulting frees in the closing ten minutes of the half. However Limerick held a 1-3 to 0-4 interval advantage.

Cork could have broken in front by this stage but for an excellent save by Limerick goalkeeper Síle Moynihan following an opening half penalty.

Limerick resumed well on the restart with quick points from Eileen O,Brien and Orla Curtin but once again it was Eimear O,Sullivan who kept the home-side in touch from placed balls.

Just two points separated the sides with 11 minutes remaining with Linda Dorgan and Aisling Thompson among those trying hard for Cork.

However Limerick began to play out of their skins once again and following points from substitute Marie Keating and Mulcahy, they broke through for a goal.

Orla Curtin hit the back of the net with three minutes remaining after she cut loose on the left wing and scooped the ball up and blasted straight to the net.

A late Maeve Nash point sealed victory and Limerick,s first ever Senior success.

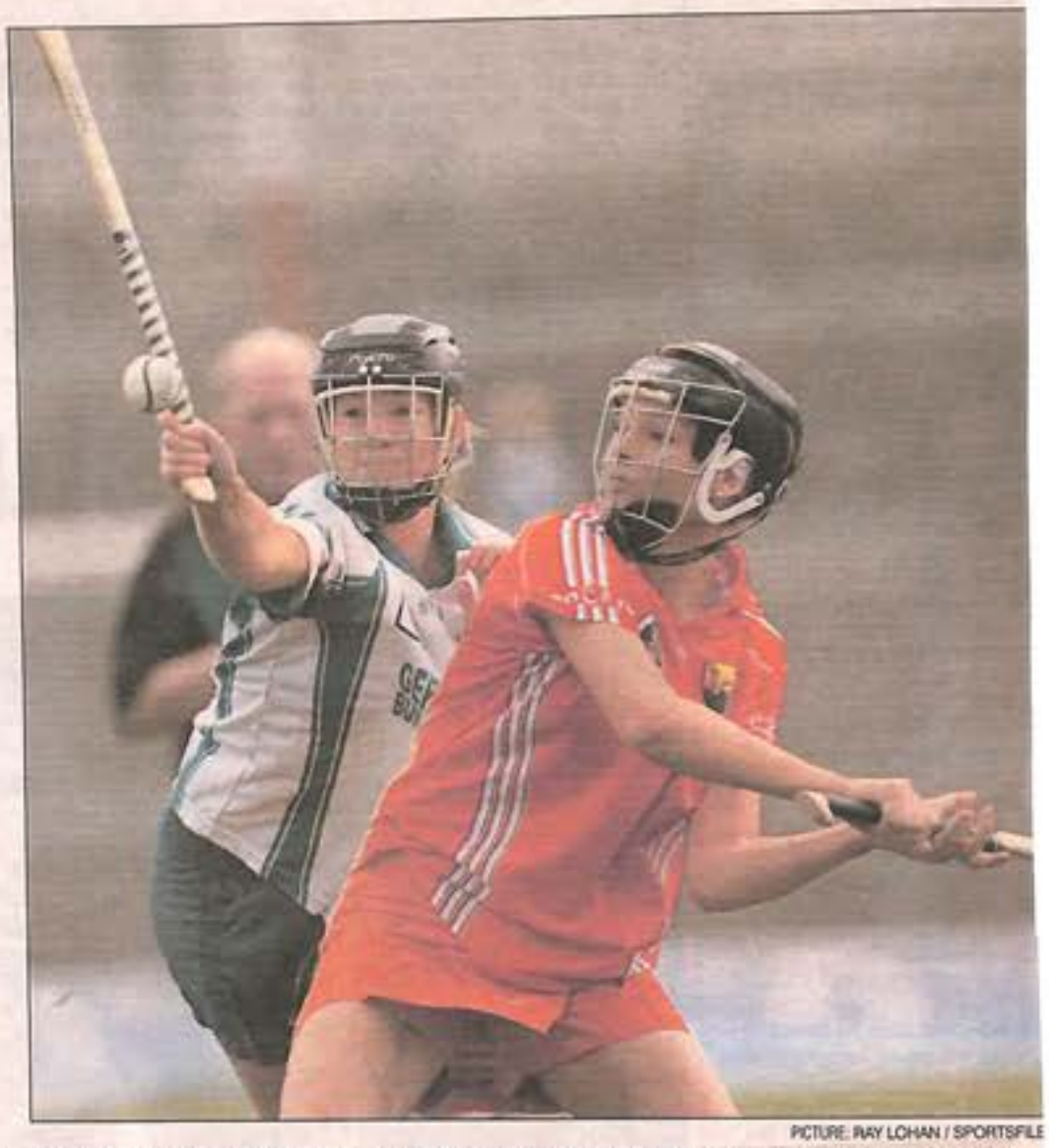
SCORERS- LIMERICK: Eileen O,Brien 1-4 (1f, 1 45); Orla Curtin 1-1; Niamh Mulcahy 0-2; Marie Keating, Maeve Nash 0-1 each.

CORK: Eimear O,Sullivan 0-5 (5f); Deirdre Twomey 0-1.



PICTURE: RAY LOHAN / SPORTSFILE

Cork's Denise Cronin, left, is consoled by team-mate Lucy Hawkes after been defeated by Limerick in the Senior B Camogie Final Replay.



PICTURE: RAY LOHAN / SPORTSFILE

Aisling Thompson, Cork, in action against Meadbh de Nais, Limerick in the All-Ireland Senior B Camogie Championship Final Replay at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Camogie chat

with Mary Newman

DISSAPOINTMENT FOR SENIOR B SIDE

DISAPPOINTMENT for Cork as they relinquished their Gala Senior Division 1B title to a stronger Limerick side on Sunday last a pointed free in the eight minuet of injury time tied the game up seven days earlier and gave Limerick a second chance.

From the throw in Limerick showed they meant business and a goal six minutes into the game from Eileen O Brien gave them an early led they held to the final whistle. At the break they led 1-3 to 0-4 and despite losing a player eight minutes into the second half when referee Ciaran Quigley red carded a Limerick player they simply upped their game and played with a determination on the day Cork could not match, a goal from Orla Curtin with three minutes remaining giving Cork no way back, so it was disappointment for a side who must be gutted having given so much and almost had it the previous week.

MINORS SEEK ALL IRELAND TITLE

ALL Ireland final day on Sunday next as Cork and Kilkenny meet in Clonmel Commercials grounds at 1pm.

It's a big ask of Cork and Kilkenny will go in as favourites holders of the title which they became the inaugural winners of last years they will be determined to make it back to back titles. Cork topped their group defeating Clare Limerick and Galway before knocking out Tipperary at semi final stage.

Kilkenny with victories over Dublin and Wexford knocked out Antrim in their semi final. Marie Dargan, Leanne Fennelly and Katie Power will be the players to watch out for. Cork are captained Deirdre Twomey and they will be hoping that's their defence will stand the up to the strong challenge Kilkenny will pose.

Aisling Thompson Kathleen O Brien Michelle Browne were members of the Senior B side that lost out in last weekends final and they will be determined to go one better this weekend.

UNDER AGE FIXTURES

On Saturday Under16D County Final Bishopstown play Barryroe at 12 in Brinney in the Under16B County Semi Final Valley Rovers take on Killeagh at 2 pm in Brinney on Sunday in Caherlag in the under16C County Semi Final Na Piarsaigh meet Rockban at 11.30 in the Under 16C County Semi Final: Brian Dillon's meet St. Catherines at 1 pm in Caherlag in the U16A County Final Douglas meet Ballincollig at 3.pm also in Caherlag.

Gala All-Ireland Senior B Camogie Championship Final Replay



By Cóilín Duffy

Limerick took their first ever Senior All-Ireland Senior B decider at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Last weekend it took a last gasp equaliser from Niamh Mulcahy to snatch a draw and she was once again an influential player in this game with two points, while also taking the Player of the Match award.

The visitors began this game very strongly and had the ball in the back of the Cork net after just a minute when top-scorer Eileen O'Brien blasted home from 10 yards.

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However Limerick began to play out of their skins once again and following points from substitute Marie Keating and Mulcahy, they broke through for a goal.

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CORK – E O'Sullivan 0-5 (5f); D Twomey 0-1

Oct

2007

ALL-IRELAND Final date



PICTURE: RAY LOHAN / SPORTSFILE

Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association, with Kilkenny captain, Noreen O'Keeffe, and Cork Captain, Deirdre Twomey, at a photo-call ahead of this Sunday's All-Ireland Minor A Camogie Championship Final, which will be taking place in Clonmel.



Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association, left, with Kilkenny captain, Noreen O'Keeffe, and Cork Captain, Deirdre Twomey *Picture: Ray Lohan*

Corn Sighle Nic an Ultaigh

Corcaigh

Dearg agus Bán

(1) **Denise Leahy**
D. Ni Laocha
(St. Catherine's)

(2) **Leah Weste**
L. Weste
(Ballincollig)

(3) **Áine Moynihan**
Á. Ni Mhuineacháin
(Ballygarvan)

(4) **Christine O'Neill**
C. Ni Néill
(Courcey Rovers)

(5) **Carolyn Motherway**
C. Ni Mhodartha
(Dungourney)

(6) **Maria Walsh**
M. Bhreatnach
(Dungourney)

(7) **Róisín de Faoite**
R. de Faoite
(Blackrock)

(8) **Brid Twomey**
B. Ni Thuama
(Aghbullogue)

(9) **Aisling Thompson**
A. Nic Thomáis
(Aghbullogue)

(10) **Kathleen O'Brien**
C. Ni Bhriain
(Mallow)

(11) **Niamh Dilworth**
N. Ni Dhúluachra
(Inniscarra)

(12) **Deirdre Twomey**
D. Ni Thuama *(Capt.)*
(St. Catherine's)

(13) **Erin Corkery**
E. Ni Chorcra
(Éire Óg)

(14) **Denise Cronin**
D. Ni Chróinin
(Ballincollig)

(15) **Sinéad O'Callaghan**
S. Ni Cheallacháin
(Ballinhassig)

ROGHNÓIRÍ:
Ann Marie Healy, Paddy Corkery, Síle Thompson

(16) **Lisa Marie O'Mahony**
L. M. Ni Mhathúna
(Éire Óg)

(17) **Lydia Cunningham**
L. Nic Chuinneagáin
(Glen Rovers)

(18) **Siobhán Gleeson**
S. Ni Gliasáin
(Éire Óg)

(19) **Joanita Brennan**
J. Bhreanáin
(Clonakilty)

(20) **Sinéad O'Brien**
S. Ni Bhriain
(Clonakilty)

(21) **Marguerite Vaughan**
M. Ni Mhachain
(Cloughduv)

(22) **Ella Ryan**
E. Ni Rain
(Dungourney)

(23) **Aileen Twomey**
A. Ni Thuama
(Aghbullogue)

(24) **Sharon Whelton**
S. Ni Uallacháin
(Clonakilty)

(25) **Sarah Coleman**
S. Ni Cholmáin
(Rockban)

Corn Sighle Nic an Ultaigh

Cill Chainnigh

Dubh agus Ómra

(1) **Emma Staunton**
E. Nic an Mhile
(Paulstown)

(2) **Mariga Nolan**
M. Ni Nhualleain
(Freshford)

(3) **Ann-Marie Walsh**
A. M. Bhreatnach
(St. Martin's)

(4) **Paula Butler**
P. de Buitléir
(Mullinavat)

(5) **Leanne Fennelly**
L. Ni Fhionnalaigh
(Mullinavat)

(6) **Collette Dormer**
C. Ni Dhuidhiorma
(Paulstown)

(7) **Kate McDonald**
C. Nic Dhónaill
(Thomastown)

(8) **Maria Murphy**
M. Ni Mhurchú
(Clara)

(9) **Lucinda Gahan**
L. Ni Ghacháin
(Mullinavat)

(10) **Sinéad Long**
S. Ni Longáin
(Piltown)

(11) **Katie Power**
C. de Paor
(Piltown)

(12) **Catherine Walsh**
C. Bhreatnach
(Thomastown)

(13) **Noelle Corrigan**
N. Ni Chorragáin
(Freshford)

(14) **Marie Dargan**
M. Ni Dheargáin
(St. Martin's)

(15) **Michelle Quilty**
M. Ni Chaoilte
(Mullinavat)

ROGHNÓIRÍ:
Ted Browne, Brendan Williams, Edel Maher, John Quilty, Pearse Dargan, Martin Quilty, Fiona Phelan, Vincent Shiel, Lizzie Lyng

(16) **Ruth Bergin**
R. Ni Bheirgin
(Clara)

(17) **Roisin Byrne**
R. Ni Bhroin
(Clara)

(18) **Eilish Cantwell**
E. Chantuel
(St. Martin's)

(19) **Georgina Culleton**
G. Nic Chollatáin
(Piltown)

(20) **Orlaith Curran**
O. Ni Chorráin
(St. Anne's)

(21) **Edwina Keane**
E. Ni Chéin
(St. Martin's)

(22) **Linda Long**
L. Ni Longáin
(Glenmore)

(23) **Ciara Lyng**
C. Ni Loinn
(Rower-Inistioge)

(24) **Noreen O'Keeffe**
N. Ni Chaoimh *(Capt.)*
(St. Martin's)

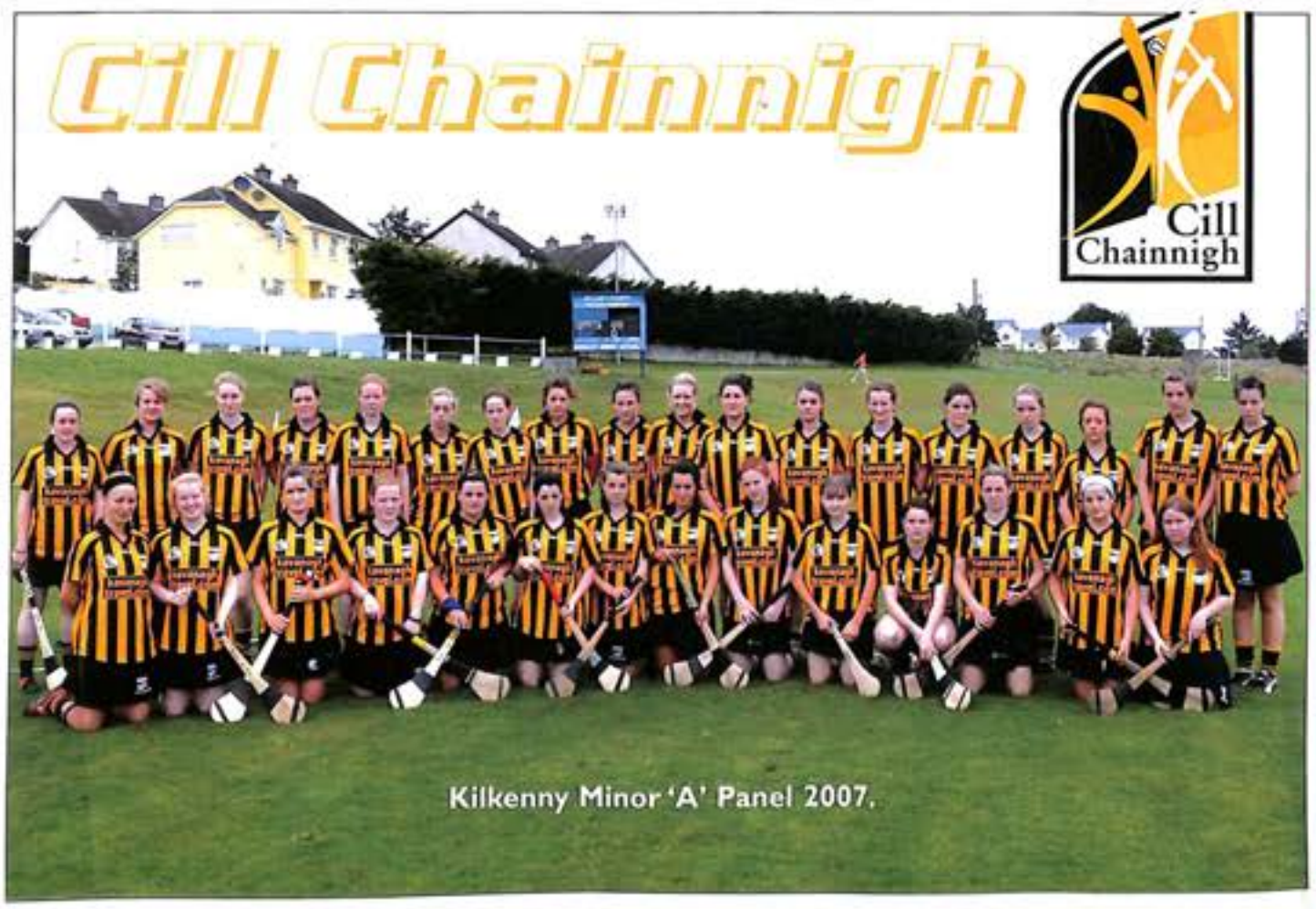
(25) **Lydia Phelan**
L. Ni Fhaoláin
(Carrickshock)

Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann
Mionúr A
Corn Síghle Nic an Ultaigh

Oct.

2007

Cill Chainnigh



Kilkenny Minor 'A' Panel 2007.

Oct 2007

Panel needs to get more competitive



LINDA MELLERICK

CORK didn't deserve to lose by three goals last Sunday in the Division 1B All-Ireland final in Páirc Uí Rinn.

But In truth Limerick were the better side on the day.

Based on last weekend's performance there wasn't an awful lot to go home smiling about in terms of future senior potential.

Once again up front we failed to ignite and it must be an area of concern for next year's senior management committee (whoever that may be).

We are lacking quality forwards across the board.

Some players who may have been close to senior selection in the past, but choose to concentrate on the division 1B side have taken a step backwards.

Over the year's I witnessed average players become very good players after spending a season or so training with the senior squad.

As soon as they dropped from it they fell back again.

You need players better than yourself to drive you to perform and improve.

It is only playing with and against the best that will bring out the best in any individual.

Being that bit above your team mates in terms of skill and 'lording' it at training every night won't make you a better player.

When the going gets tough you can't step up.

I can understand though why players feel that they only make up numbers at senior level and bar one or two positions the team more or less picks itself come championship time, so they walk away.

There should be places up for grabs next year and not just one or two.

But where are the players going to come from?

We didn't have a strong bench this year. We didn't have a sub that could inspire the team when they ran onto the pitch.

Based on last Sunday's display we won't have one next year either.

The Cork senior panel needs a shake up. Readers might feel that is a very harsh statement and how can I say that after losing 'three in-a-row' by just two points.

But I have said for a long time that we were winning a lot of games while playing poorly.

The competition just wasn't there for it to really stand out.

Should Wexford continue to improve and Kilkenny build on their U16 and minor championship victories then the future will be extremely competitive.

We are carrying a number of players throughout the panel.

Things have got a bit stale as they tend to do and many players have found their comfort zone, guaranteed of their place every time.

They need to feel threatened, so much so that they head into training every night with match intensity.

It's this type of threat or pressure or however you want to put it that keeps the Kilkenny hurlers successful year after year.

Their training sessions are renowned for their competitiveness.

It's then second nature on the day when it counts.



Cork's Lucy Hawkes is shattered after the final whistle of the Gala All-Ireland Senior B Camogie Championship final replay.

ST CATHERINE'S

THE semi-final of the U16 C championship is scheduled to take place on Sunday next, October 14, in Caherlag at 1pm On Monday last Carrigaline were visitors to Ballynoe when they took on our girls in the U16 C league semi-final.

St Catherine's proved too strong for Carrigaline and ran out easy winners on a scoreline of St Catherine's 8-11 Carrigaline 0-1.

This win now puts them in the league final, which should be played in the next few weeks.

Scorers for St Catherine's: F. Neville 4-6, K. Hannon 2-0, C. Kearney 1-1, E. Neville 1-0, F. Cotter 0-2 (0-1f), K. Murphy, S. Barry 0-1 each.

Team: L. Bumster; N. O'Donoghue, C. Clancy, A. Ahern; R. O'Callaghan, A.O' Keeffe (capt.), J. Mangan; K. Hannon, F. Cotter; S. Barry, K. Murphy, S. Gallagher; C. Kearney, F. Neville, E. Neville Subs: K. Mellerick for F. Neville, C. McAuliffe for F. Cotter, A. Doyle for S. Gallagher, E. Murphy for C. Kearney.

Well done to our club members Noreen Mulcahy, Deirdre Twomey, Esther Power and Lisa Higgins, who were on the Cork Senior B panel which was defeated by Limerick on Sunday last in the All-Ireland final replay.

Good luck to Deirdre Twomey, who captains Cork , and to Denise Leahy, who lines out in goal, when they meet Kilkenny in this year's U18 All-Ireland final at the weekend.

BRIAN DILLON'S

U16 quarter-final, Brian Dillon's v Carrigaline.

A very one-sided quarter-final, where the scoreline speaks for itself. In the second half the Brian Dillon subs proved their capabilities by increasing the massive scoreline.

Great performances from forwards Rebecca O'Mahony, Denise O'Flynn, Nicole Gleeson, Jessica Kenny, Aoife O'Mahony, Michelle Ring, Jane Dooley, Donna Carroll and Orla Ni Shúilleabháin (before being injured) were visible on the day.

The half-back line of Sara Attridge, Lucy Bradfield & Emma Burns also gave a very solid display. Midfielders, Clair Dooley amd Susan Kate Brosnan, controlled the game, giving great ball into the forward line.

When goalkeeper Saoirse Rodgers moved up to full forward she was as in command of the game as she always is between the sticks.

Well done to all and good luck in the semi-final against St Catherine's in Caherlag on Sunday, October 14, throw-in 1pm.

Scorers for Brian Dillon's: Rebecca O'Mahony 3-1, Donna Carroll 3-0, Jane Dooley 2-3, Denise O'Flynn, Nicole Gleeson 2-0 each, Aoife O'Mahony, Orla Ni Shúilleabháin 1-0 each, Susan Kate Brosnan, Clair Dooley, Michelle Ring 0-1 each.

Team: Saoirse Rodgers; Rebecca Myers, Eadaoin Kelly, Sarah Cotter; Sara Attridge, Lucy Bradfield, Emma Burns; Susan Kate Brosnan (capt.), Clair Dooley; Denise O'Flynn, Rebecca O'Mahony, Donna Carroll; Orla Ni Shúilleabháin, Michelle Ring, Jane Dooley Subs: Kate O'Brien for Myers, Aoife Daly for Kelly, Aoife O' Mahony for Ring, Nicole Gleeson for Ni Shúilleabháin, Jessica Kenny for Rebecca O'Mahony, Niamh O'Mahony for Dooley, Sarah O'Mullane for Susan Kate Brosnan.

U18, Brian Dillon's v Sarsfields.

Both teams proved equal in the first half, Dillon's scoring three points to Sars' goal.

However, Dillon's came out with all guns blazing in the second half and proved their skill. The defence was under huge pressure in the first half but luckily all of the backs performed very well.

After half-time it was the forwards who deserved the praise, scoring 3-3 between them in the second half and leaving the.final score 4-6 to 1-4 in Dillons' favour.

Well done to the girls and good luck in the upcoming championship matches.

Scorers for Brian Dillon's: Jane Dooley 2-1, Susan Kate Brosnan 1-3, Orla Ni Shúilleabháin 1-0, Amanda Dorgan, Clair Dooley 0-1 each.

Team: Amanda Dorgan, Deirdre Ring, Aisling Russell, Megan Kelly, Lucy Bradfield, Susan Kate Brosnan, Clair Dooley, Jane Dooley, Aoife Daly, Emma Burns, Sarah Cotter, Nicole Gleeson, Eadaoin Kelly, Denise O'Flynn, Aoife O'Mahony.

Subs: Danielle Love, Orla Ni Shuilleabháin, Jessica Kenny, Kate O'Brien, Saoirse Rodgers, Sarah O'Mullane.

GLEN ROVERS

A busy and exciting evening for both of our U16 teams on Tuesday evening last when Cork hurler Tom Kenny paid a visit to the Glen Field to as part of a prize won by our own Bridget Luby.

Earlier in the season Bridget surprised our girls when she announced she had entered and won a competition where the prize was a day's coaching with Tom.

Bridget invited our U16 teams to avail of the prize and so the girls enjoyed a great evening's coaching from very patient Tom. Later in the evening Bridget laid on a wonderful treat for the girls in the club where we were joined by our guest and some parents.

Many thanks to Bridget and her husband Tom Luby, who are always to the fore with all club activities We also thank Tom Kenny for his patience and understanding with the huge enthusiasm shown by everyone present. Thanks also to the selectors from the underage section who helped out on the night.

The U13 first team had a good victory against St Vincent's in the second round of the Seandun championship on Friday last at the Glen Field.

With all our girls in top form we set the pace with fine scores from the forwards, Edel O'Connell leading the way, ably assisted by Katie Arnold, who struck for two fine goal, Aisling O'Keeffe, Leeann O'Sullivan and Nicole O'Brien.

Our U13 second team have a busy weekend as well, having played Passage yesterday before travelling to meet St Vincent's on Saturday afternoon.

Our U16 second team have surpassed themselves in their first season by reaching the county semi- final, where they lost out narrowly to Barryroe. All attention is now focused on our league semi-final meeting with Bishopstown, which take place next weekend.

Best wishes go to our senior footballers, St Nick's, when they meet county champions Nemo Ranger in the Senior county championship semi-final in Páirc Uí Rinn this Saturday evening at 6.30pm.

Good luck also to John O'Halloran and his under age hurling team, who play a final tomorrow (Sunday) in Midleton.

We would like to remind all club members and friends that Donal O'Halloran is off to Chernobyl on Wednesday next.

If any body wants to drop sweets or chocolates for him to take to the orphanages, please do so to the Glen Field on Monday night, between 6pm and 7.30pm.

By now, all members of the GAA clubs' draw should have got their receipts and information regarding the new draw, which will start in the last week of October, with the September and October draws being held together. Anybody renewing their membership or wishing to join should contact treasurer Deirdre Coleman or secretary Mary Newman.

Training: senior, junior and U18 teams, Monday and Wednesday at 6.30pm.

U13-U16 teams, Wednesday and Friday at 5.30pm.

Beginners (up to and including 12 year-olds): Sunday at 11.45am and Tuesday at 5.45pm.

New members are welcome, as are old faces who wish

Douglas

U16 A title is up for grabs



Gerard Kelleher of M&J Kelleher Ltd Clondrohid makes a presentation of kitbags to Cork selector Paddy Corkery ahead of tomorrow's All-Ireland final .

Plenty of action on the local front

LOCAL camogie competitions have been running behind schedule because of the success of Cork teams.

Today in Brinny the U16B County semi-final between Valley Rovers and Killeagh takes place at 2.00pm.

On Sunday it's the U16A county final featuring Douglas and Ballincollig in Caherlag at 3pm.

This is preceded by the U16C county semi-final between Na Piarsaigh and Rockban at 11.30am, with the U16C county semi-final between Brian Dillon's and St Catherine's at 1.00pm.

Next weekend the Evening Echo Senior County Championship semi-finals are down for decision.

First into the spotlight will be Muskerry against Milford, which will take place on Saturday.

The following day county champion St Finbarr's meet Cloughduv. It's hoped the Evening Echo Junior C Championship final between Passage and Erin's Own will be decided on Saturday.

On Sunday Enniskeane and Brian Dillon's will meet in a section play-off in the Junior B league, while on the same day Mallow and Sliabh Rua will decide who goes forward to the final of the junior B league.

By MARY NEWMAN

U16A County Championship

Douglas v Ballincollig, Sunday, 3pm, Caherlag.

A NEW name will be engraved on the county U16 championship role of honour tomorrow.

Douglas and Ballincollig chase their first title when they clash in Caherlag at 3pm.

Last season Ballincollig dropped down a grade for the championship, from the A to the B grade.

It proved to be a rewarding decision as they annexed the championship title.

A season older and wiser this year, they have made the step back up a rewarding one to date.

In the first round they saw off county champions

Inniscarra and accounted for Glen Rovers in their semi-final encounter.

They are a strong, well balance side, the majority of whom are 16, and this makes a difference.

Alison Coughlan, Brea O'Callaghan and Aileen Sheehan were members of the Cork U16 panel, while they have other strong performers in Kate O' Donoghue, Clionadh Irish and Orla Ni Chasaigh.

Amazingly, Douglas have still to win the U16

look the part



Oct 2007



Above: The Cork minor team which will contest tomorrow's All-Ireland against Kilkenny. Right: JJ Brown of Brown Brothers Landscaping make presentation of gear to Cork's Ann Marie Healy and captain Denise Twomey Picture: Press 22

championship crown.

Given the huge success that they have enjoyed at underage level this is somewhat of a surprise.

This looks to be their year and they will face into Sunday's encounter as favourites to take the title.

They have strong performers in Cork U16 players Katriona and Pamela Mackey, Moira and Aileen O' Donovan and Julia White.

Since early season they have looked the team most likely to be crowned champions.

En route to the final they had only one game where they defeated Milford and while they would have like to have had another game under their belts, Jimmy O' Mahony and his fellow selectors have been busy in their preparations in recent weeks.

Going in as underdogs will suit Ballincollig and while Douglas will go in as favourites it will not be all one way traffic, and a victory is within the grasp of either side.

IN BRIEF

CLUBS are reminded that the camogie board will hold their annual collection tomorrow at the Evening Echo senior county hurling final.

All clubs are asked to have at least four collectors to help.

Collectors are asked to meet at the covered stand side of Páirc Uí Chaoimh at 2.30pm. Given Kilkenny's refusal to change the All-Ireland Minor final to Saturday, the County Board urges any available personnel, not going to Clonmel, to help with the collection.

to rejoin the fun.

WATERGRASSHILL

JUNIOR camogie championship, Watergrasshill v Blackrock. Both teams began this game well aware of its importance.

Watergrasshill had won the last encounter, but this time Blackrock seemed to have the determination and enthusiasm to tip things in their favour.

Watergrasshill grabbed a well-taken goal when Edel Murphy finished off a pass from Lydia Bracken and rattled the net decisively. Shortly afterwards, Laura Cronin passed to Marie O'Neill who scored her second point of the game.

Blackrock replied with two well-taken points and seemed to be taking charge of the game, not allowing Watergrasshill the space and pace that they like. The Watergrasshill defence had to play a tight, controlled game to withstand the pressure from the Blackrock attack. At the half time whistle the scoreboard read Watergrasshill 1-3 Blackrock 0-4.

The second half had hardly begun when Blackrock scored their first goal following a short, sharp and effective movement down the field. At that stage, the Rockies must have fancied their chances in this match. This was soon remedied by the 'Hill girls when Marion Lynch and Marie O'Neill went on to score 1-2 between them. Blackrock replied with two points but this was too little, too late, as Marie O'Neill, Marion Lynch and Edel Murphy finished by scoring 2-2 between them.

This was a good effort from a well-prepared, determined Watergrasshill team and bodes well for their future in this championship, as they won on a final score of Watergrasshill 3-8 Blackrock 1-5.

We would like to wish the Watergrasshill hurling team and mentors the very best in the County Premier Intermediate hurling final in Páirc Uí Chaoimh tomorrow.

WEEKEND FIXTURES

TODAY

U16D County final: Bishopstown V Barryroe 12 at Brinney

U16B County semi-final: Valley Rovers V Killeagh 2.00pm at Brinney

TOMORROW

All-Ireland minor final: Cork v Kilkenny Clonmel Commercials 1pm.

U16C County semi-final: Na Piarsaigh V Rockban at Caherlag 11.30

U16A County final: Douglas V Ballincollig @ Caherlag 3.00pm

Clinical Cats maul Cork to clinch All-Ireland title

Kilkenny	3-12
Cork	0-7

by Cóilín Duffy

KILKENNY were crowned All-Ireland Minor camogie champions in ideal conditions at Clonmel yesterday.

While last year's Young Player of the Year Marie Dargan and Michelle Quilty caused most of the damage upfront, this was a very impressive team performance by a Kilkenny side dominant throughout the field.

Defender Leanne Fennelly, daughter of former All-Ireland winner Kevin, picked up the player of the match award.

Camogie

Kilkenny began this game as they intended to continue and early points from Dargan (2) and Kate McDonald ensured the Cats led by 0-3 to 0-0 after eight minutes.

The champions continued to pile on the pressure and were rewarded with a Dargan goal in the ninth minute following a good delivery from Catherine Walsh.

A point from play from Deirdre Twomey was Cork's opening score after 11 minutes but Kilkenny upped the gears to hold a 1-6 to 0-3 interval advantage.

Cork tried hard on the restart but two goals from Quilty midway through the second half killed off the game as a contest.

Scorers for Kilkenny: M Quilty (2f) 2-3; M Dargan (1f) 1-4; K Power 0-3; K McDonald (1f), N O'Keefe 0-1 each.

Scorers for Cork: A Thompson (1-45, 1f), D Twomey 0-2 each.

KILKENNY: E Staunton; M Nolan, AM Walsh, P Butler; L Fennelly, C Dormer, K McDonald; M Murphy, L Gahan; S Long, K Power, C Walsh; N O'Keefe, M Dargan, M Quilty.

Subs: A Dunphy for Walsh; A Cantwell for Butler; N Corrigan for Long; G Culleton for Quilty; R Byrne for Fennelly.

CORK: D Leahy; L Weste, A Moynihan, C O'Neill; C Motherway, M Walsh, R De Faoite; B Twomey, A Thompson; K O'Brien, N Dilworth, D Twomey; E Corkery, D Cronin, S O'Callaghan.

Sub: J Brennan for O'Brien.

Referee: Damien Noble (Dublin).



Kilkenny's Lydia Phelan, Leanne Fennelly, player of the match, and Noreen O'Keeffe, captain, celebrate their All-Ireland minor camogie win. Picture: Sportsfile

Oct 2007

Kilkenny	**3-12**
Cork	**0-7**

CORK'S bid to wrestle the minor cup from the clutches of Kilkenny failed at the Commercials GAA Grounds in Clonmel yesterday.

The holders went into the contest as hot favourites to retain their title and rightly so on foot of three U16 and one minor All-Ireland championship victories since 2005.

The experience garnered in these victories was evident as they made it back-to-back titles with players such as Marie Dargan, Michelle Quilty and Katie Power very much to the fore once again.

Cork can have few complaints as on the day they had no answers to Kilkenny.

Up front they lacked the killer instinct of their opponents.

While they did enjoy plenty of possession they failed to convert the chances that came their way — at stages when little separated the sides.

A Catherine Walsh goal eight minutes into the game stretched Kilkenny's lead to six points after they had opened with two Dargan points and one from Kate McDonnell as they played with confidence aided by the brisk wind.

Cork settled and got on the scoreboard 11 minutes into the game with captain Deirdre Twomey leading the way and scoring a superb point. The Cork inside-line battled to get something but met resistance from a strong Kilkenny defence where Leanne Fennelly and McDonnell dominated.

With the Cork defence under severe pressure Denise Leahy had to be at her best to deny Dargan a certain goal before Dargan and Sinéad O'Callaghan exchanged points.

To their credit the Cork defence played with tremendous determination in closing down the huge threat posed by the Kilkenny inside-line where the fast pace of Quilty and Dargan was a danger.

In midfield the hardworking Bríd Twomey battled hard to gain a grip for Cork but the Kilkenny defence cleared their lines confidently under pressure.

Quilty and Kate Power added two points to the Kilkenny tally but, as an improving Cork began to gain the upper hand in the closing 10 minutes of the half, the failure to convert possession into score proved costly.

Aisling Thompson's pointed free was their only reward as Kilkenny led 1-6 to 0-3 at the break.

From the restart Cork threw everything at Kilkenny.

Aisling Thompson pointed a free within two minutes.

Yet as they continued the pressure, the Kilkenny defence stood firm.

Twice Cork came close to grabbing the vital goal they needed. Yet Emma Staunton came to the Cats aid, saving well.

Kilkenny upped their game and struck three points without reply before Denise Twomey got one back for Cork.

Kilkenny began to gaining the upper-hand around midfield and, as the overworked Cork defence began to struggle, the Cats struck for two vital goals to finally put the game beyond Cork's reach.

Quilty showed the Cork defence a clean pair of heels before blasting to the net. Then Dargan raced past the Cork defence before parting to the unmarked Quilty who finished in style.

To their credit Cork never gave up but they could not match the physical power of Kilkenny who played with confidence from the throw in.

Niamh Dilworth got two points for Cork but it was the champions who finished stronger with points from Power, Quilty and Dargan ensuring they retained their title.



Cork's Róisín de Faoite keeps possession from Noreen O'Keeffe of Kilkenny during their All-Ireland Minor A Camogie Championship final clash at Clonmel, Co Tipperary, yesterday. Picture: SPORTSFILE

Cats pounce to beat brave, fighting Cork

By MARY NEWMAN

All-Ireland Minor A Camogie Final

CORK: D Leahy; L Weste, A Moynihan, C O'Neill; C Motherway; M Walsh; R De Faoite; B Twomey; A Thompson (0-2, 0-1 free); K O'Brien; N Dilworth (0-2); D Twomey (0-2) (c); E Corkery; D Cronin; S O'Callaghan (0-1 free)

Subs: J Brennan for K O'Brien (h-t); S Whelton for S O'Callaghan (45); L Cunningham for D Cronin (50); S Gleeson for C Motherway (54); M Vaughan for S Whelton (57)

KILKENNY: E Staunton; M Nolan; A M Walsh; P Butler; L Fennelly; K McDonald (0-1); M Murphy, L Gahan; S Long, K Power (0-3); C Walsh (1-0); N O'Keeffe (0-1) (c); M Dargan (0-4, 0-1 free); M Quilty (2-3, 0-2 frees)

Subs: E Cantwell for C Walsh (32); A Dunphy for P Butler (32); G Culleton for S Long (48); R Byrne for M Quilty (58)

Referee: D Noblem (Dublin).

WHAT THEY SAID

THE reaction from Cork selector Ann Marie Healy at the final whistle was one of immense disappointment.

"We are totally disappointed with the result. Kilkenny are a super team and today were worthy winners but we never did ourselves justice and I know there is so much more in us but we just couldn't get it going.

"We knew coming up to play the champions that it would be hard.

"We trailed by six points at the break but, to be honest, we could have been closer to them.

"We picked up our game in the second half and could have got goals but they rallied and regained their composure.

"The two goals they got inside a short space of time gave them a vital cushion in the second half and we just could not recover.

"It's very disappointing for the girls because they have worked so hard for this. Several of them lost out to Kilkenny last year at U16 level and to lose again today is a huge disappointment.

"I want to pay tribute to all our panel and their clubs who gave them such support in the lead-up to today's final.

"We're gutted but we will be back and hopefully we will regroup and work hard towards knocking Kilkenny from their pedestal next season."

Fellow selector Paddy Corkery was equally disappointed

"We knew it would be tough but we stayed with them through the first half. We missed a few chances in the first half and, if we had got them, it would have boosted us.

"They were scoring easier while we struggled to get on the scoreboard. It's very disappointing for the girls as they gave it everything in quest of the title."

Douglas make it lucky 13 in final

By CONOR WARD

U16A Camogie County Final

Douglas	**0-13**
Ballincollig	**1-6**

IMPRESSIVE Douglas took the U16A Camogie County Championship, beating Ballincollig by a four-point margin, in a competitive match at Caherlag yesterday afternoon.

Ballincollig began well with Sarah Buckley scoring an early free and impressive full-forward Patricia Buttimer adding two nice points from play.

The Douglas half-forward line then began to assert their influence on the game. Julia White pointed after a fine solo run in the 14th minute and Katrina Mackey was on the mark with two frees to level the match at 0-3 0-3.

Ailín O'Donovan took a good point for Douglas but Buckley responded well for Ballincollig with a free and a 45.

The pacy Julia White then opened up a three-point lead for Douglas with two more excellent scores from play.

However some solid defending from the Ballincollig backline before the break, including a great block from Brea O'Callaghan, kept them in touch.

Buckley's long free in the 26th minute brought them back to within two points at half-time, trailing 0-8 0-6.

Moira O'Mahony and Clioghna Murphy began the second-half well in the Douglas midfield and Mackey continued to dominate at left half-forward, scoring after a nice move in the 33rd minute.

Despite the best efforts of Ballincollig's backs, Douglas extended their lead to five points with two more scores from Mackey after more good build-up play from Julia White.

Ballincollig got the break they needed in the 44th minute when a long free from Buckley was deflected in for a goal, reducing their deficit to just two points at 0-11 1-06.

White responded straight away with another good point for Douglas, who continued to press forward.

Ballincollig full-back Alison Coughlan managed to hold them at bay for a while but White added another score in the 51st minute.

As full-time approached, Buckley broke forward for Ballincollig in an attempt to save the game but they could not get the scores they needed and Douglas held out for a well deserved victory.

Ballincollig gave a good account of themselves showing plenty of commitment against an impressive Douglas forward unit.

And there was jubilation for the Douglas girls, their coaches and supporters at the end of an entertaining final.

Scorers for Douglas: K Mackey 0-6 (0-4f), J White 0-6, A O'Donovan 0-1

Ballincollig: S Buckley 1-4 (0-3f, 0-1 45), P Buttimer 0-2

DOUGLAS: J Kavanagh, C Driscoll, D Connolly, S Long; C Lynch, M O'Donovan (capt.), P Mackey; M O'Mahony, C Murphy; J Kelleher, J White, K Mackey; C Clarke, A O'Donovan, E Jordan.

Subs: T McCarthy for C Clarke (56).

BALLINCOLLIG: A Sheehan, L O'Driscoll, A Coughlan, R O'Callaghan, E O'Sullivan, B O'Callaghan, E Nolan (capt.), S Coomey, J Ryle, S Buckley, K O'Donoghue, C Irish, L O'Donoghue, P Buttimer, O Ni Chathasaigh.

Subs: A Walsh for L O'Donoghue (40).

Referee: J O'Leary (Mallow).

Cats get the cream with emphatic win over Cork

Kilkenny	3-12
Cork	0-7

Coilin Duffy

KILKENNY secured the All-Ireland Minor 'A' Camogie championship title thanks to an emphatic final win over Cork at Clonmel yesterday.

Cats duo Marie Dargan and Michelle Quilty caused most of the damage upfront but this was a very impressive Kilkenny outfit who were dominant throughout.

A strong defensive performance from Leanne Fennelly on the half-back line earned the daughter of former All-Ireland winner Kevin, the player of the match award.

Early scores from Dargan (2) and Kate McDonald ensured Kilkenny led by 0-3 to 0-0 after eight minutes.

Champions

The reigning champions continued to pile on the pressure in the opening quarter and a Marie Dargan goal in the ninth minute after a long ball in from Catherine Walsh, showed that they really meant business.

A point from play from Deirdre Twomey brought about Cork's opening score after 11 minutes.

However, the balance of possession was very much in Kilkenny's favour throughout the opening half after which they held a 1-6 to 0-3 advantage.

But Kilkenny remained strong after the interval with two goals from Michelle Quilty mid-way through the second half killing off the game as a contest as the Cats persevered until the finish to ensure a convincing 14 points win.

Meanwhile, Scotland beat Ireland in yesterday's Shinty/Camogie International at Fort William.

Although failing to score in the second half, two goals from Jane Nicol ensured a six points to four points win for the Scots.

Carlow's Valerie Crean was on target for both of Ireland's scores with Westmeath goalkeeper Sandra Greville taking the Player of the Match award.

The Ireland team included players from Monaghan, Mayo, Westmeath, Louth, Donegal and Carlow, while Margaret Francois from the Brussels club represented Europe.

SCORERS—Kilkenny: M Quilty (2) 2-3; M Dargan (1) 1-1; K Power 0-3; K McDonald (1f), N O'Keefe 0-1 each. **Cork:** A Thompson (1 45, 1f), D Twomey 0-2 each.

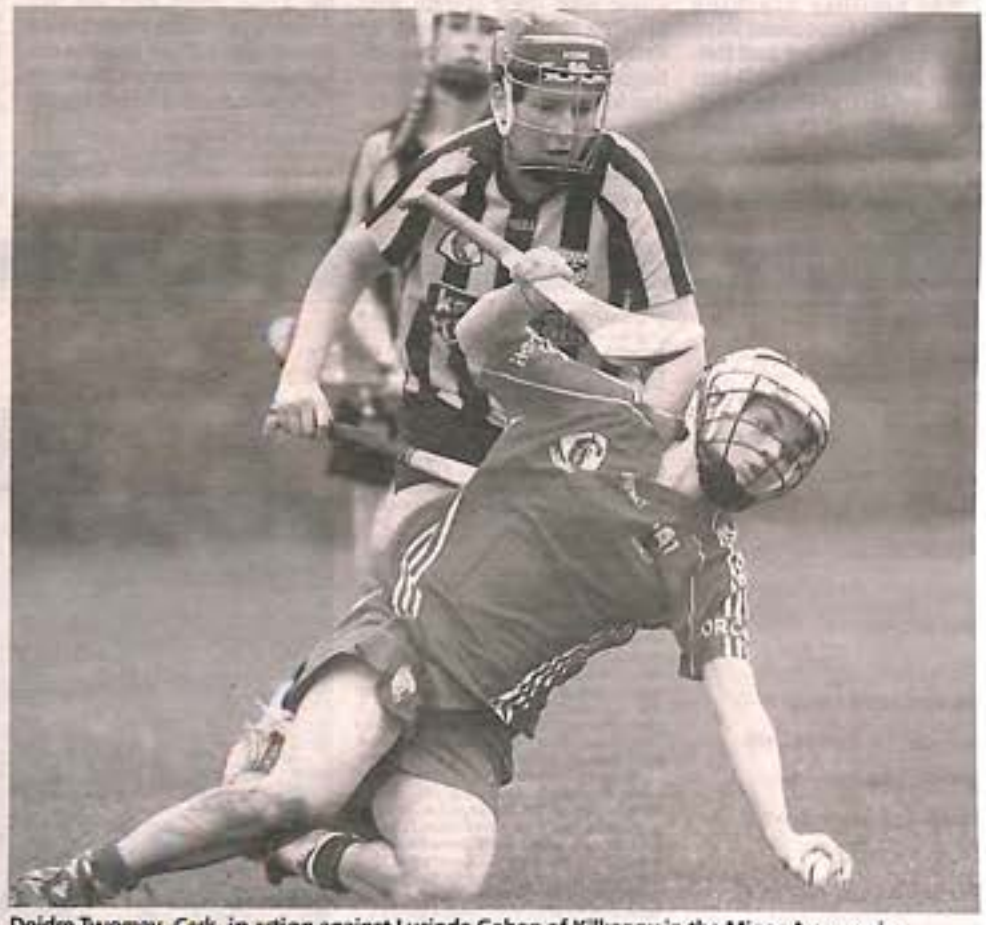
Northside new boys put DART right on track

REIGNING Men's SuperLeague champions DART Killester continued their flawless start to the season at the weekend with new foreign stars Arnoud Dahi and Michael Bonaparte in sparkling form in their 95-81 win over Neptune, writes NEIL AHERN.

Ivory Coast man Dahi and Bonaparte, from Granada, fired 31 and 21 points respectively yesterday to maintain the holders' 100pc record so far this season.

Fellow Dubs DCU Saints also claimed their second win in as many matches as Kenny Gamble shone in their comprehensive 89-69 win over Limerick Lions on Saturday evening

Elsewhere, Merry Monk Ballina got back to winning ways at the expense of struggling newcomers UUJ, while UCC Demons recorded their first win of the season at the expense of Belfast Star.



Deidre Twomey, Cork, in action against Lucinda Gahan of Kilkenny in the Minor A camogie championship STEPHEN MCCARTHY



Derry - junior All-Ireland winners 2007



Derry captain Claire Doherty with the 2007 Gala junior championship

E.S.B. Minor Champions

Historic Sam Maguire Cup Tie

Long Wait Over for Wexford

ISSN 1649-9654

IRELAND'S NO. 1 GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE



Wexford Goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy in action.

It was the day that Wexford camogie at long last "came in out of the cold"—Sunday, September 9, 2007. The day, too, that camogie was also a real winner as the Model County and Cork provided one of the best All-Ireland senior finals in years.

A game worthy of the great occasion and a superb prelude to Wexford's first All-Ireland senior title in 32 long years.

No Wexford native in the bumper attendance at Croke Park, or those who followed events on television, is likely to readily forget the glory of it all.

This was Wexford's day, a team performance of quality and a result to effectively compensate for the many disappointments of the past.

There were moments of niggling doubts and worries, of course, during the game. Like when Cork, bidding for a third successive title, cut their five points deficit at the interval to a point early in the second half.

But Wexford displayed maturity and coolness as they kept their game together and points by Kate Kelly, Ursula Jacob and substitute Katrina Parrock soon had the Leinster side back ahead by four points.

Cork, to their credit, continued to strive earnestly to save their crown, but Wexford held out for a fully deserved 2-7 to 1-8 win.

Every member, from Mags D'Arcy, who brought off a superb save in goal in the closing minutes, right out to Ursula Jacob at left full

forward contributed handsomely. This goes as well for the three substitutes Wexford called in—Aoife O'Connor, Parrock and Claire O'Connor.

PLAYER OF MATCH

However, special mention still must go to Mary Leacy, who led the side in superb fashion from centre half back. She was in top form right from the throw in, but really excelled in the final closing quarter as Cork strove desperately to turn the game their way.

A true player of the match performance, in fact, for the accomplished captain.

Her younger sister, Una, also made a big impression. She gave Wexford the best possible start with a goal after only three minutes and thirteen minutes later was back to handpass to the net.

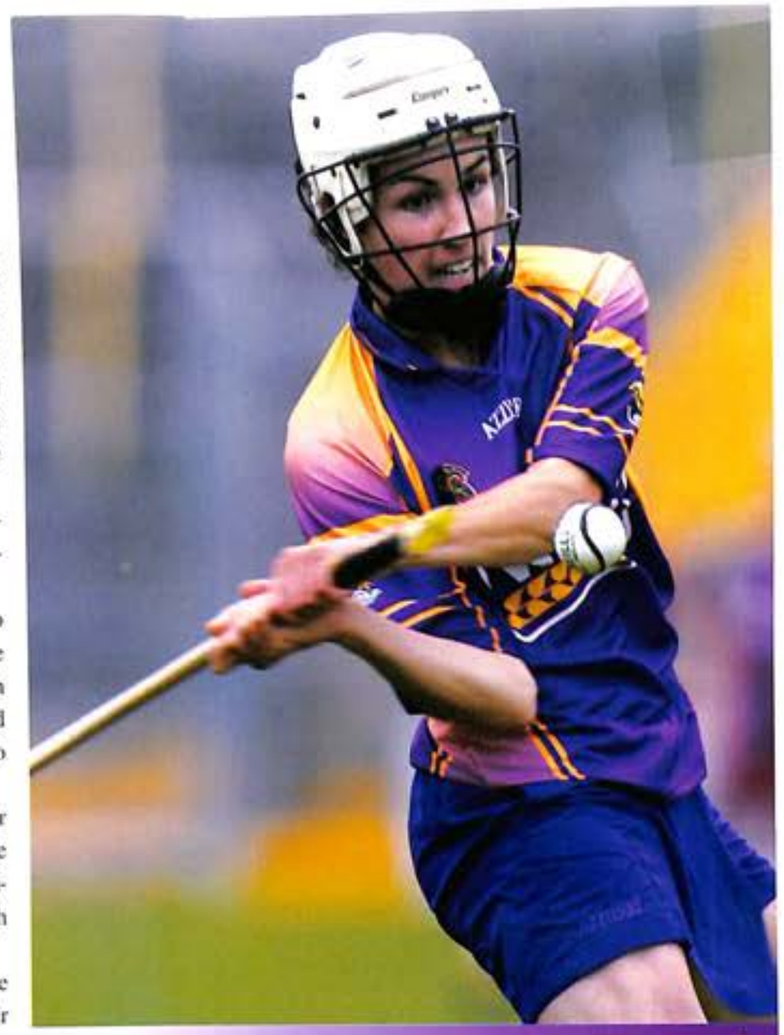
Two goals in an All-Ireland senior final, and in a first appearance at that stage as well is cause of extra special celebration. Una also finished top scorer for both teams in the final

Incidentally, Mary and Una were maintaining a family tradition. Their mother, Mary (nee O'Leary) is a former All-Ireland medal winner, and was selected on the Team of the Century.

Kate Kelly, whose expert finishing must rank as one of the brightest features of the success story, had another fine game at midfield, and not surprisingly was again on the scoresheet in the decider.

What an achievement, too, for team manager Stellah Sinnott, of Buffers Alley!

A former county senior selector, this was her first season in the position, and one cannot reap a greater reward than an All-Ireland senior title. As for camogie, Wexford's triumph after 32 long years has struck an important blow for the game. The win has smashed a barrier and given a new dimension to the sport; why the victory had much of the glamour, the appeal and the atmosphere associated with a first title victory.



Brona Furlong takes a shot.

NEW FACES

Camogie, indeed any sport, needs the stimulus of new faces and new champions if the game is to develop and expand. It is not good in any code if the major title is shared repeatedly by an elite group of teams.

The wider the circle of counties that can entertain genuine hopes of challenging for the Blue Riband the better for any sport.

Wexford's win gives new hope, not only to those who play and support the game in the county, but to the thousands in other counties, who have been striving so valiantly and so long with little tangible reward for their efforts.

So, the mere fact of Wexford regaining the title after such a long time would have been enough on its own to have made this year's final a notable occasion for the game.

But the fact that the final was also a memorable one added to the occasion. ■

KATE KELLY
TOP OF THE NATIONAL SCORING CHART

Scores win games and dashing midfielder Kate Kelly certainly underlined that point with her expert finishing in the march to the O'Duffy Cup. She proved so target conscious throughout the campaign that she finished the leading scorer nationally in the Gala All-Ireland senior championship.

The St. Ibar's-Shelmalier club player scored three points in the final to bring her total to a splendid 1-40 (43 points). She finished three points ahead of her closest challenger in the chart, Claire Grogan, of Tipperary, who scored 2-34.

A proud achievement, then, by Kelly, who backed up her splendid finishing powers by consistently good general play.

Una Lacey finished the goal ace of the championship with six.

THE ROAD TO GLORY

It was a case of fifth final lucky for Wexford since their third All-Ireland title in 1975.

They lost to Kilkenny in three finals—1977, 1990 and 1994. They were beaten by Cork in 1992.

Wexford played seven games on the road to the All-Ireland senior camogie title. They lost once—to Tipperary in round four.

The Model County beat Cork twice—in their opening game and, of course, in the summit.

This is how they returned after such a long absence to the Roll Of Honour:

11th May. Ballincollig:	**SEMI-FINAL**
Wexford 4-12; Cork 0-14.	*10th August:*
26th May. New Ross:	Wexford 2-11; Galway 0-9.
Wexford 2-10; Dublin 0-8.	**FINAL**
30th June. New Ross:	*9th September. Croke Park:*
Wexford 1-20; Kilkenny 4-5.	Wexford 2-7; Cork 1-8.
14th July. Thurles:	Total Scored: 14-94
Wexford 0-11; Tipperary 1-17.	(136 points).
28th July. Buffer's Alley:	Total Conceded: 6-72
Wexford 3-13; Galway 0-11.	(90 points).

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR TITLES RECORD



Top Scorer Kate Kelly

Wexford made a winning debut in an All-Ireland senior final in 1968 when they beat Cork. They retained the title a year later.

Dublin won the first All-Ireland senior final of 1932, beating Galway at the Galway Sportsfield in 1933. The winners of the championship down through the year s have been presented with the O'Duffy Cup.

A new trophy, also known as the O'Duffy Cup, was presented for the first time for this year's final.

This is Wexford's record of All-Ireland senior camogie final wins:

1968: Wexford 4-2; Cork 2-5. Captain: Mary Walsh.
1969: Wexford 4-4;Antrim 4-2. Captain: Bridgid Doyle.
1975: Wexford 4-3; Cork 1-2. Captain: Gretta Kehoe.
2000: Wexford 2-7; Cork 1-8. Captain: Mary Leacy. ■

Oct 2007

Oct. 2007

County semis take centre stage at weekend

by Mary Newman

BUSY weekends ahead at adult level as the Evening Echo Senior county championship semi-finals take centre stage. Down for decision on Saturday at 1pm is the meeting between divisional sides Muskerry who meet Milford the following day at 3.30pm, county champion St Finbarrs meet Cloughduv, two games sure to generate huge interest.

Last year in the championships opening round St Finbarrs recorded a victory over then champions Cloughduv who later in the contest bounced back to reach the semi-finals where they lost out to Imokilly. Twelve months later there is no back door to rely on now, and it's all or nothing at semi-final stage with a place in the county final at stake.

In their path to this year final the Barrs defeated Aghbullogue in their opening round before defeating St Catherines to book their semi-final spot. They are captained by Maria McCarthy and have excellent performers in Cork senior captain Gemma O'Connor, Ellen Clifford and Rachel Myers, and they will fight hard to retain their crown.

Cloughduv, champions on three previous occasions, will be determined to win a place in the county decider. In their first round they had a victory over St Catherines before defeating Inniscarra in their quarter-final clash. They will be hoping that serious leg injuries picked up in that quarter-final back in August to Ora O'Callaghan and Orla McCarthy will have healed up to allow them take their place in the Cloughduv line out. Inter county senior players Aoife Murray, Joanne O'Callaghan, Una O'Donoghue and Briege Corkery will backbone the Cloughduv attempt to dethrone the champions.

Given their huge success at under age level Milford have been favoured to take a senior county title long before now. Two years ago they contested the final, but lost to Carrigdhoun. They have battled long and hard to reach another decider, and one feels it's now or never. This year they have impressed in their path to the semi-finals, defeating Courcey Rovers and Ballygarvan, and now they face a strong challenge from a Muskerry side that have also impressed. Regina Curtin has been one of the county's most impressive performers this year, turning in excellent displays in Cork's path to the Senior Division 1 B final.

Marie and Emer Watson Anna Geary and Julie Sheehy have also impressed with Milford, but they will face huge challenges from Muskerry side who are backboned by players from the Erie Óg, Ballincollig and Rockban clubs. Cork senior player Catriona Foley and Sile Burns are joined by Grenagh's Linda Dorgan, and Ballincollig's Leah Weste and Denise Cronin are joined by Eire Óg's Alanna McKenna and Erin Corkery as the divisional side strive to make it to the decider.

Back to the Saturday and in the Evening Echo Junior C championship final Passage meet Erins Own in Ballinlough at 11am. The junior 13 side semi-finals are also on the agenda for decision on what is a busy Saturday with Ballyhea meeting Dungourney and Greangh in action against Youghal.

On the Sunday, Enniskeane and Brian Dillon's will meet in a section play-off in the Junior B league, while on the same day Mallow and Sliabh Rua will decide who goes forward to the final of the junior B league.

Again with a lot of the above games venues will be announced as they come to hand.

The following weekend Eire Óg and Valley Rovers will meet in the Evening Echo Senior B championship with the Evening Echo Senior County championship final pencilled in for the weekend of November 4, and the Evening Echo Senior B semi-finals the following weekends It has been a long draws out season, but given the huge involvement at inter-county level and the back door system that is in operation it has proved impossible to get the game played to schedule. Let's hope the weather remains kind in the weeks ahead.



Cork's Aisling Thompson gets a shot away despite the challenge of Kilkenny's Katie Power in the All-Ireland Minor A Camogie Championship Final at Clonmel Commercial Park. Kilkenny won 3-12 to 0-7 Picture: Stephen McCarthy/SPORTSFILE

Colleges compete

CORK Colleges are competing in the Kilkenny under 13 Camogie blitz on Monday at Dicksboro GAA, Kilkenny City, throw in 11a.m.

Cork panel: Julie Callanan, Niamh Glavin, Connie Hawkes, Susan O' Leary (Bandon), Roberta Harrington, Emma Madigan, Claire Nagle (Buttevant), Aisling Kiely, Ruan Mcsweeney, Claudia Murray, Tara O' Connor (Carrigaline), Shauna Bricli, Niamh Coleman, Kate Howard, Kate O' Donovan, Marie O' Mahony (Carrignavar), Rachel Long (Carrigtwohill), Christine Watson (Charleville), Shannon Dempsey (Christ King), Lisa Dullea, Kathy Mccarthy, Treasa O' Brien, Aoife O' Neill, Laura O' Regan (Clonakilty), Maria Meehan, Edel O' Sullivan (Coachford), Laura Barry, Emma Coughlan, Laura Moloney, Sinead O' Sullivan (Col Choilm), Jennifer Cahill, Chloe O' Flynn (Fermoy), Sinead Gaffey (Glanmire), Aoife Keating, Chloe Kelleher, Jenny Mcauliffe, Gillian O' Leary, Jennifer Ryan (Kinsale), Sheleen Glynn (Mallow), Shauna Landers, Laura Treacy (Midleton), Alana Barry, Muireann Murphy, Kayleigh Sheahan (Millstreet), Mia Cronin, Grace Kelleher, Amy Murphy (Mount Mercy), Maria Sheehan (North Mon Ag), Nicki Twomey (Passage), Aisling O' Keeffe, Leanne O' Sullivan (St. Aidan's), Cliodhna Byrne, Natasha Dewale (St. Als), Molly Hurley (St. Angela's), Sarah Attridge, Donna Carroll, Karen Henry, Rebecca O' Mahony, Saoirse Roger (St. Patrick's), Nicole Crean (St. Vincent's).

Win is a must for the Éire Óg girls

TOMORROW, Evening Echo Senior B Camogie Championship, Valley Rovers v Éire Óg, Newcestown, 3pm.

THIS is the last game in the section series of the round-robin games in the Evening Echo Senior B Camogie championship ***writes*** **MARY NEWMAN.**

Valley Rovers and Éire Óg meet in Newcestown tomorrow at 3pm in a game of particular importance to Éire Óg.

Valley Rovers are safely through to the semi-final following victories in all their games to date.

It's a do-or-die scenario for Éire Óg.

A victory will ensure the Ovens girls of their place in the semi-final, while a defeat ensures it's Carrigaline who pip them for the semi-final spot.

If the game ends in a draw, Carrigaline and Éire Óg will have to battle it out for the remaining semi-final spot. Meanwhile, Rockbán and Douglas, who are safely through from their section await in the wings.

It been several weeks since either side played championship camogie as four Cork teams contested their respective All-Ireland finals.

There also has been an added distraction for the Éire Óg girls as several of their team have been involved with Muskerry in the senior county championship.

While these games have been good for the players themselves, it certainly could effect Éire Óg's cohesion.

Last year Valley Rovers reached the final where they lost out to St Catherine's. This season they have looked very much the form team. They recorded victories over Carrigaline, Kilbrittain /Timoleague and Ballinhassig.

Éire Óg lost out in their opening game to Kilbrittain / Timoleague and then drew with Ballinhassig before rallying to record a four-point victory over Kilbrittain/ Timoleague.

Despite having just one victory under their belts, results in other games have gone their way.

A win on Saturday will see them through.

They are a determined outfit who will fight to the end to reach the semi-final.

Con Malone has guided the fortunes of his side since underage level with players such as Alanna McKenna, Erin Corkery Siobhan Gleeson, Ellen and Margaret O' Herlihy and Aoife Mc Carthy to the fore.

Despite their semi-final place already being secured, Valley Rovers will want to finish the section as table toppers.

Given that their fellow divisional neighbours Carrigaline are set to benefit from their performance there is a lot at stake.

Throughout the campaign Liz Bugler, Marion Cottrell, Dolores Crowley and Gillian Harrington have been to the fore. They will battle hard with no thoughts in their minds that their semi-final place is already secured.

INCH ROVERS CELEBRATE FIRST SENIOR TITLE



Vice-captain Angela Walsh and injured team captain Mary O'Connor of Inch Rovers raise the Evening Echo Ladies Senior Football Championship cup following the presentation by Tom Luddy, chairman of Cork Ladies Football Board, in Midleton last Sunday. Picture: Larry Cummins

Oct 2007

CAMOGIE » Munster Intermediate Final

Silverware at last for Clare girls

Clare 5-10 - Waterford 4-08 at Ballygunner, Waterford

Orla Considine



CLARE'S determination to secure some much deserved silverware gave them the edge in this decider. In their own back yard, Waterford put up a stern test as they aimed to solidify their development for this year and set up a confidence booster for next year's campaign. However, this Clare team had a different outcome in mind.

Clare were much changed from their All-Ireland final appearance with enforced alterations as well as positional switches.

The Banner, though, continued in the vein that they approached all games this year and their superior work ethic on the day was instrumental in this victory.

Clare had a blistering opening ten minutes which saw them carve up an eight point gap. Sharon O'Loughlin opened the account with a free, after being fouled herself. Aiveen O'Shea had a goal for the Banner on three and a half minutes as good pressure from the Clare forwards paid off.

A minute later, O'Shea had a second goal after a high ball was delivered from Stephanie Moloney and O'Shea doubled in the air, and Moloney pointed herself on the 5th minute to give Clare a 2-2 lead to no score.

Clare's superiority in midfield and the fast delivery of ball to a targeted full forward line continued to pay dividends as Fiona Lafferty pointed in the sixth minute. Waterford opened their account when Aine Lyng pointed a free on the seventh minute. Lyng had a second free on 10 minutes before Stephanie Moloney replied with one on the 11th minute. Clare continued to dominate but hit a number of wides in the next few minutes and as a result failed to pull further away from the Waterford challenge.

Waterford by now were playing an extra midfielder and creating overlaps into the Clare defence, which continued to work hard. Fiona Lafferty and Aoife Ryan switched before Carina Roseingrave pointed from the wing and Sharon O'Loughlin converted a 19th free.

Aine Breathnach pointed for Waterford in the 22nd minute Deirdre Murphy converted a 45 after a good save from Fiona Chadhla in the Waterford goal. Waterford were then awarded a free 20 metres out from goal, Aine Lyng was the striker and missed the ball but pulled on the resulting drop and the ball whizzed to the back of the Clare net.

The goal helped Waterford on their way to dominate the remainder of the half. Breathnach had a second point for Waterford. Siobhan Lafferty on the Clare goal-line saved a powerful free and knocked the ball over the bar and on the stroke of half time Trish Jackman goaled for Waterford reducing the lead to two points.

Clare came out with renewed enthuasim in the second half, Fiona Lafferty had reverted to full-forward and Aoife Ryan resumed at centre-field. Again Clare were on top around the centre and good early ball was supplied to the forwards.

Clare had two wides before Fiona Lafferty goaled inside two minutes. Waterford had a free back on six minutes and Clare again missed chances as Waterford continued to make cutting runs off the ball. Trish Jackman goaled for Waterford in the 41st minute which prompted the Clare management to introduce Chloe Morey for her first taste of adult intercounty fare.

Sharon O'Loughlin kept Clare to the fore when converting a free on the 45th minute. Aoife Griffen was introduced at midfield to provide some fresh legs to the hard working midfield area. Clare continued to work hard, chasing and blocking and on 50 minutes, Fiona Lafferty had her second goal giving Clare some breathing space. Lyng pointed a free for Waterford before Stephaie Moloney looked to have the game put beyond reach with a goal in the 51st minute after help from Fiona Lafferty. Lyng added another Waterford free and Moloney again replied with a point.

Stephanie Moloney pointed again on the 25th minute but Waterford had the last say of the game with a consolation goal from Emma Hannon.

This was a determined Clare performance after a lay-off since the All-Ireland and from Denise Lynch in goal - who pulled off two great saves and again gave great relief from her puck outs - to Aiveen O'Shea at corner forward - who hurled with great confidence and strength - all excelled. This result should be nurtured and the introduction of yet more young players into the Clare fold all bodes well for Clare camogie.

Clare have now won Munster U16 and Intermediate titles, added to the Munster title that Kilnamona won.

And with the U18's yet to play their Munster Final, Clare can come away with Munster titles in all age groups to crown off a good year for the girls of Clare.



Above: The victorious Clare side, who beat Waterford on Sunday.

Left: Davy Fitzgerald congratulates Clare star Catherine O'Loughlin.

Match Details

Clare Denise Lynch, Jane Scanlon, Siobhan Lafferty, Jane O'Leary, Kate Lynch, Deirdre Murphy (0-1,45), Aimee McInerney, Sharon McMahon, Aoife Ryan, Carina Roseingrave(0-1), Catherine O'Loughlin, Stephanie Moloney (1-4), Sharon O'Loughlin (0-3 3f), Fiona Lafferty (2-1), Aiveen O'Shea (2-0) **Subs** Chloe Morey for Aimee McInerney, Aoife Griffin for Sharon McMahon, Shona Enright for Carina Roseingrave, Mary Clune, Ciara Lynch, Aine O'Brien

Player of the Game
Stephanie Moloney (Clare)

Oct 2007

Double minor camogie glory

Glorious under age camogie success continues for Kilkenny

All-Ireland Camogie Minor Final

KILKENNY	3-12
CORK	0-07

KILKENNY minor camogie team put titles back to back in impressive fashion last Sunday when they completely outclassed Cork in the final.

A super start by Kilkenny, which yielded 1 – 3 in the opening ten minutes, propelled the young cats on their way to a comprehensive fourteen point victory.

The defending champions were razor sharp throughout the field with the Kilkenny defence completely shutting out the Cork attack over the hour. Player of the match Mullinavat's Leanne Fennelly was an inspirational figure at wing back as the half back line of, Fennelly, Collette Dormer and Kate McDonald supplied the quick – fire forwards with a consistent supply of quality possession throughout the game.

Kilkenny were always in control of this game as they set down an early marker with a goal from Marie Dargan in the 9th minute which was followed by further green flags in the 45th and 46th minutes from corner forward Michelle Quilty. The Noresider's were playing at a different level to Cork and they won as they pleased, emphasising their superiority of two years ago when they overwhelmed the same opposition in the U16 final.

Marie Dargan at full forward was the fulcrum of the Kilkenny attack and the Castlecomer girl landed two points in the opening minutes before Kate McDonald added a long range effort to give Kilkenny an excellent start. Then in the 9th minute, following good work by wing forward Catherine Walsh, Dargan shot first time to the net from close range,

1 – 3 to 0 – 0. Cork equalled Kilkenny on the score board for the remainder of the half as Deirdre Twomey, Sinéad O'Callaghan and Aisling Thompson pointed, while Kilkenny had minor scores from Dargan, Michelle Quilty and Katie Power, to lead 1 – 6 to 0 – 3 at half time.

By the end of the third quarter the champions had opened up a 3 – 9 to 0 – 5 lead, after Quilty's two quick – fire goals and it was only a matter of playing out time before the Kilkenny captain Noreen O'Keeffe went up to accept the cup.

Goalkeeper Emma Staunton and her full back line of Mariga Nolan, Anne Marie Walsh and Paula Butler were excellent behind an outstanding half back line. Midfielders Marie Murphy and Lucinda Gahan were always in control of their patch while Katie Power, Sinéad Long, Catherine Walsh and Noreen O'Keeffe completed a very effective attacking unit with chief scorers Dargan and Quilty.

The management pair of Brendan Williams and Ted Browne along with their back room team of Vincent Shiel, John Quilty, Edel Maher, Pearse Dargan, Martin Quilty, Fiona Phelan and Lizzie Lyng must be congratulated on master minding back – to – back All Ireland Minor titles.

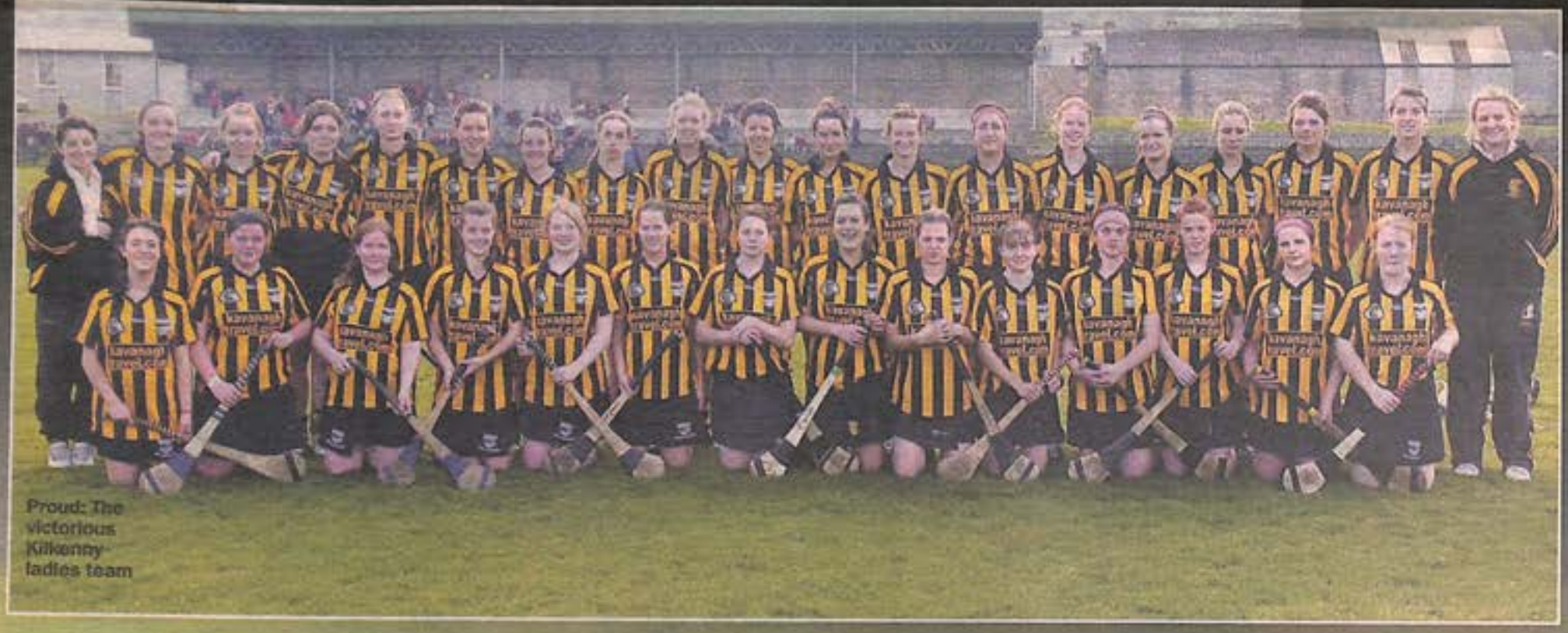
KILKENNY Emma Staunton, Mariga Nolan, Anne Marie Walsh, Paula Butler, Leanne Fennelly, Collette Dormer, Kate McDonald (0 – 1), Maria Murphy, Lucinda Gahan, Sinéad Long, Kate Power (0 – 4), Catherine Walsh, Noreen O'Keeffe (0 – 1), Marie Dargan (1 – 4), Michelle Quilty (2 – 2).

Subs Eilish Cantwell, Aisling Dunphy, Noelle Corrigan, Georgina Culleton, Roisín Byrne.

'A super start by Kilkenny, which yielded 1 – 3 in the opening ten minutes, propelled the young cats on their way to a comprehensive fourteen point victory.'



Tough one: Kate McDonald, Kilkenny, in action against Denise Cronin, Cork
Pictures: SPORTSFILE



Proud: The victorious Kilkenny ladies team



Colette Dormer, Kilkenny, in action against Niamh Dilworth, left, and Denise Cronin





Celebrating victory: Kilkenny's Lydia Phelan, left, Leanne Fennelly, player of the match, right



Noreen O'Keefe, Kilkenny captain, Damien Noble, Referee, and Deidre Twomey, Cork captain, ahead of the game

PLAYER OF THE MATCH

Mullinavat's Leanne Fennelly was outstanding at wing back on the Kilkenny half back line on a day of many great performances.

GOAL OF THE MATCH

Kilkenny's first goal by Marie Dargan following great work by Catherine Walsh, set the tone of the game and they were always in command from there to the finish.

POINT OF THE MATCH

Katie Power's point four minutes into the second half, following a solo run from the middle of the field, was a brilliant individual score.

SAVE OF THE MATCH

Kilkenny's goalkeeper Emma Staunton saved brilliantly from Niamh Dilworth early in the second half to preserve her team's six point advantage.

Oct. 2007

Midfield tussle may decide the finalists

SUNDAY,
Cork County Senior Championship semi-final,
St Finbarr's V Cloughduv,
Brinney, 3.30pm

THE semi-final game between St Finbarr's and Cloughduv in the Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie championship is going to be a humdinger.

It's the 2005 champions against the 2006 champions and it's as exciting a fixture as you'll get.

Cloughduv, champions in 2001, 2002 and 2005 could take their fourth title of the decade this year, making them the most consistent club since Glen Rovers and Bishopstown dominated the '90s.

Arguably one of the most balanced sides, in the competition, Cloughduv have been hugely impressive in their two outings to date.

A 3-14 to 0-10 win over newcomers St Catherine's in the second round and a 0-17 to 2-4 victory over Inniscarra in the quarter-final totals a commendable 3-31 scoring record, with 2-14 against.

St Finbarr's, on the other hand, took their first title 12 months ago amidst joyous scenes.

Their bid for Munster glory failed just six days later when they all but threw the semi-final away against Kilnamona of Clare.

One couldn't really blame a side who possibly hadn't yet come down from the euphoria of the previous week and at the beginning of 2006 the club's goal was the county championship, nothing more.

They achieved that, but with the talent they have, they need to push on from here.

By LINDA MELLERICK
Cork County Senior Championship

Victories over Aghabullogue and St Catherine's saw them notch up 5-16 and concede 2-15.

St Finbarr's possess a much disciplined full-back line in Claire Harrington, Colette Kirby and Maria McCarthy and this trio were one of the many reasons they took the title last year.

Cork Division 1B captain Lynda O'Connell is one of the game's most committed players and alongside centre-back Jenny Duffy, both players are pivotal to the Barrs' defence.

Outside her, Gemma O'Connor is the side's cog in the wheel and the city club need big performances from her each time they play.

She will be opposed in the middle by her intercounty midfield team-mate Breige Corkery.

Both players like to roam in search of action and are not renowned for their marking capabilities. How loose they leave each other or their marker and who inflicts the most damage will be critical to the outcome.

Bernadette Myers ,also lining out at midfield, is a trojan worker and sends in a huge amount of ball. Vivienne Harris is a key player for St Finbarr's and covers huge ground during the course of a match.

We saw her slotted in at full-forward at the beginning of the campaign and such is the success of the switch, Vivienne remains there for the semi-final.

Sinead Corkery is a fine player in at full-back for Cloughduv and the battle here is one to watch.

Colette O'Mahony retired from camogie after last year's victory having given 21 years of excellent service. Scoring power up front was what was needed and Harris has brought this ingredient to a side that, with Rachel Myers and Orla O'Sullivan, look to have got it right.

It's hard to call a winner.

Just two points separated the sides in 2006 when the Barrs claimed victory over Cloughduv in round two; revenge for 2005 when they were on the receiving end of a narrow defeat.

Goals won't come easy to the Barrs with Aoife Murray minding the net. Sinead Corkery, Orna and Joanne O'Callaghan provide a solid defence.

Breige Corkery, as mentioned, has a massive role to play.

Marie Corkery won't stop for the entire hour and up front Una O'Donoghue with her turn of speed could cause problems.

Big names on both sides!

Who would a betting person put their money on?

I'd put it on St Finbarr's. But only after a lot of consideration and with a lot of nerves.



Gemma O'Connor is St Finbarr's cog in the wheel and the city club need a big performance from her. Picture: Larry Cummins

Caherlag hoping to celebrate again

SATURDAY,
Evening Echo Junior C County Championship final,
Erin's Own v Passage,
Ballinlough, 11am.

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie Junior C Championship

THE Caherlag ladies are in the limelight this weekend as they step into the county championship arena seeking their first camogie championship trophy at adult level.

It's much the same story for their opponents, Passage, as they seek adult glory for the first time too.

Both are young clubs. Passage are fielding a team at junior level for the first time this season.

They are pleased to be in the final and trainer Liam O Sullivan is pleased with his side's progress.

"We are looking forward to Saturday, but we know it will be tough, having lost out earlier this year to Erin's Own, but the girls will give it their best shot."

Founded just eight years ago, Passage field teams from U11 up to junior, and with the competition played on round-robin basis, they defeated Ballinascarthy, Millstreet, St Vincent's, Blarney and Ballinora in their section, before losing out to Saturday's opponents.

Qualifying from the group, they defeated Blarney in the semi-final and this time out they are determined to reverse the result of their last meeting with Erin's Own.

Their preparations have been hampered by injuries picked up this week to two of their players.

Definitely out are Amy Costello and Erin Twomey, but they have plenty of experience with Lisa O'Sullivan and Sinéad O'Reilly having lined out with the Cork colleges sides, while Lisa and Natasha O'Sullivan and Sinéad O'Reilly were members of the victorious Seandún U16 side that took inter-division championship honours earlier this year.

Founded almost 25 years ago, this is Erin's Own's first adult camogie final.

The club did enjoy success in their anniversary year when they won the county 13-a-side U16 title, and with the team made up mostly with the same players, coach Martin O' Callaghan is confident in his side's ability.

"We are taking nothing for granted. We met them earlier in the series, but Saturday will be a different game, but we will give it our best shot."

Erin's Own also have players, who have graced the Cork colleges scene. Chloe Smith, Marissa O'Callaghan, Niamh O'Keeffe and Caoimhe O'Callaghan have vast experience at that level. O'Keeffe was a member of the Cork U16 panel that lost the All-Ireland final to Kilkenny this year.

On route to the final, Erin's Own beat Passage, Blarney and Ballinora, before defeating Millstreet in the semi-final.

Again, similar to their opponents, this is a young Erin's Own team, also participating at this level for the first time in over 20 years.

Its a big day for several of the Erin's Own girls as they strive to emulate the feats of their club brothers.

Mary Fenton lines out in the same defensive position as her brother Paul, who won a county senior medal last weekend, as did Kate and Edel O'Connell's brother Ronan.

Despite coming from different catchment areas, there are many links between the two clubs.

Erin's Own selector and the driving force behind the club for almost 20 years is Passage native Hilda Keohane.

She lined out with the Ovens sides Éire Óg and also wore the Cork colours with distinction, as did her brother John Horgan.

Passage selector Liam O'Reilly lined out with the Barrs at underage level, as did Erin's Own's Martin O'Callaghan.

Erin's Own look that bit more experienced, but Passage will have plenty of determination. It promises to be an exciting contest.

Grenagh are hoping to go one step better

TOMORROW
Evening Echo Junior 13-a-side Championship final,
Grenagh v Ballyhea,
Buttevant, 2.30pm

LAST season's defeated finalists Grenagh will be hoping to go a step further this year when they contest the 13-aside junior championship final against Ballyhea in Buttevant tomorrow *writes* MARY NEWMAN.

Two years ago, Ballyhea were crowned junior B champions, but on promotion to the A grade they struggled to such an extent that there were fears the club would not be participating this year.

A lot of hard work and discussions with the county board helped the club regroup and having got permission to participate in the 13-a-side competition they have blossomed.

In their semi-final outing they had far to much strength for Dungourney and they ran out easy winners.

They have excellent players in Frances Killeen, Cork minor star Maria Walsh, Sarah Douglas and Stephanie McInerney and their panel is further strengthened by the return from America of Mary Coleman, who lined out three years ago with the Cork U16 squad.

Grenagh are working hard at underage level and they may not be long more participating in the 13-a-side competition, which is confined to clubs, who may be struggling for numbers.

They have a core of adult junior players and as the times moves on they will be hoping that their underage players will begin to progress and make the grade, thus allowing the club move up a step at adult level.

In their semi-final outing they had to much in the tank for Youghal.

Cork senior B player and Muskerry senior player Linda Dorgan is their main player.

She is joined on the side by Lynda Corkery, Karen Barry and Theresa Coughlan who are all experienced performers.

Last year, Greangh lost out to Enniskeane in the final and they will be determined to go one better in this year's decider.

Both sides will look to last season's 13-a-side winners Enniskeane, who have progressed to take the junior B championship crown this year.

They now will participate in the Junior A grade next year.

This fact is surely a huge incentive for both Grenagh and Ballyhea as they strive to continue the great work being carried out at both clubs.

SATURDAY,
Evening Echo senior camogie, Championship semi-final, Milford v Muskerry, Buttevant, 12.30pm.

FOR Milford the dream of taking their first senior county championship title is still very much alive.

Action resumes for them tomorrow morning following two months of intercounty activities.

From the word go they have been pencilled in as potential champions.

The club has enjoyed huge success at underage level since their formation in 1997.

The North Cork club has been knocking on the door at senior level for several years, but still that elusive first senior county title evades them.

Two years ago they reached the final and went into the game as raging favourites, but on the day lost out to Carrigdhoun in one of the best finals seen in years.

Since then they have battled hard to reach another decider and with time ticking along for some of their more senior players, one feels it may just be now or never.

On Sunday they face a huge hurdle when they meet divisional side Muskerry, who came ever so close last season to reaching the final before losing out narrowly to eventual champions St Finbarr's at the semi-final stage.

This year both sides have impressed in their path to the semi-final.

We look forward to an exciting hour's camogie.

Muskerry are one of the county's best organised divisional senior sides, backboned by players from the Éire Óg, Ballincollig, Rockbán and Grenagh clubs.

They are a strong close-knit unit. They boast several players with intercounty experience.

Cork senior players Catriona Foley and Síle Burns are joined by senior B player Linda Dorgan, while Leah Weste, Denise Cronin, Siobhan Gleeson, Erin Corkery and Sarah Coleman were member so of the Cork minor side that contested the All-Ireland decider last weekend.

They have continued since last season to blend well as a team.

They are a strong outfit and with victories over Seandún, Carbery and Barryroe behind them, they are going all out to reach their first county final since 1974.

Ellen O'Herlihy, Linda Dorgan and Erin Corkery will pose a threat up front to the Milford aspirations, while Síle Burns and Catriona Foley have been hugely influential throughout their campaign.

In their opening round clash against Seandún, they recorded a 3-9 to 0-9 victory, before notching up 2-14 against Carbery.

They went on to defeat Barryroe in their quarter-final outing, scoring an impressive 5-11 in their victory.

Síle Burns operates effectively in their forward line and she is one who Milford will have to keep a close eye on.

In defence, captain Cationa Foley is the dominant force.

She commands a strong defence, where Catriona McKenna, Siobhan Gleeson and Leah Weste will need to be at their best to contain the Milford attack.

Milford will have other ideas as they battle to reach the decider.

Regina Curtin has without doubt been one of the county's most impressive performers this year, turning in excellent displays in Cork's path to the senior division 1B All-Ireland final.

Now fully recovered from a serious hand injuries, which saw her sidelined for most of last season, she is hugely influential in the heart of the Milford defence, where she is joined by the impressive Aoife Dillon, Deirdre O'Reilly and Christine O'Gorman.

Milford also have their intercounty stars.

Cork senior Anna Geary is joined by Maria and Eimear Watson, Deirdre Hayes, Rebecca Finn, and Aisling Thompson, who have all lined out at different levels on the intercounty stage this year.

On their way to the semi-final, they had eight points to spare in their opening game where they defeated Courcey Rovers.

They got over the challenge posed by Ballygarvan in a high scoring quarter-final, where Sarah Sexton grabbed the all-important goal with four minutes remaining.

Up front, they have the potential match winners in the Watsons, Sarah Sexton, Anna Geary and Julie Sheehy.

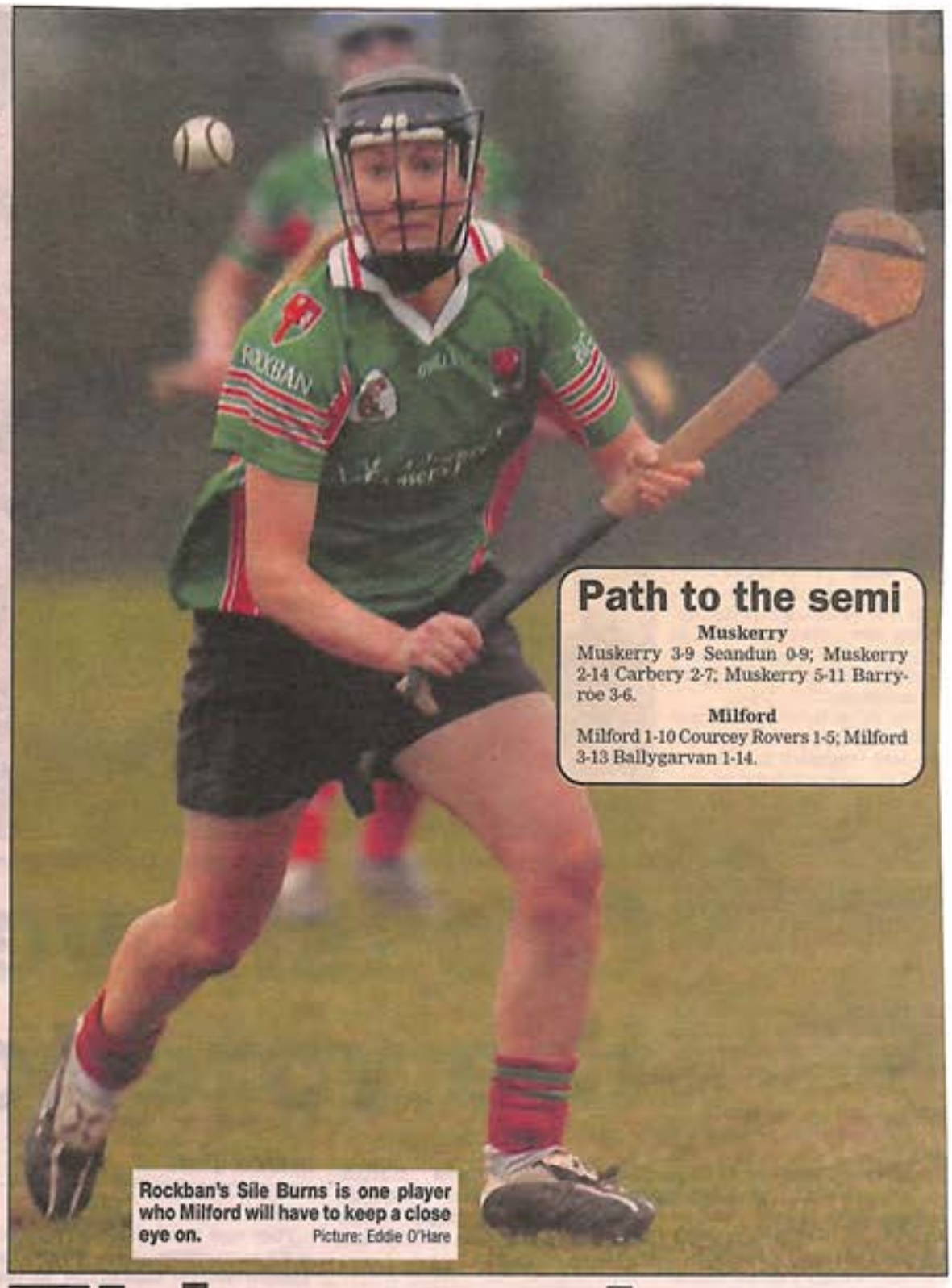
Their bench has been further strengthened by the return of Elaine O' Riordan, who spent the summer in America.

It will come as no surprise to see her resume her role in the Milford defence where she will prove a huge asset.

A tough game to call, but the desire and hunger of the club side should be enough to see them through to the final hour.

MILFORD PANEL: Aoife Dillon, Deirdre Hayes, Deirdre O' Reilly, Rebecca Finn, Cliona Glavin, Regina Curtin, Christine O' Gorman, Aisling Thompson, Eimear O' Friel, Maria Watson, Anna Geary, Aine Watson, Sarah Sexton, Emer Watson, Julie Sheehy, Elaine O' Riordan, Lisa Healy, Emer Conroy, Clara Curtin, Noelle O' Riordan, Mairead Geary, Orla O' Mahony, Triona O' Mahony, Sinead O' Flynn, Emma Browne, Niamh O' Brien, Cliona Mullane, Sarah Fitzgibbon.

MUSKERRY PANEL: Tina O'Donnell (Ballincollig), Catriona McKenna (Eire Og), Siobhan Gleeson (Eire Og), Leah West (Ballincollig), Lorraine Murphy (Eire Og), Catriona Foley (Rockbán), Marie O'Donoghue (Ballincollig), Linda Dorgan (Grenagh), Ciara McKenna (Eire Og), Ellen O' Herlihy (Eire Og), Síle Burns (Rockban), Margaret O'Herlihy (Eire Og), Erin Corkery (Eire Og), Denise Cronin (Ballincollig), Alanna McKenna (Eire Og), Sarah Coleman (Rockban), Ella Kelleher (Eire Og), Aoife McCarthy (Eire Og), Clionadh McCarthy (Eire Og), Ashley Lovett (Ballincollig), Edel Kiely (Ballincollig), Aisling Duff (Ballincollig), Claire Ryan (Ballincollig), Catharina O'Leary (Eire Og), Katie McCarthy (Eire Og), Kate O'Donogue (Ballincollig).



Rockban's Síle Burns is one player who Milford will have to keep a close eye on. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Path to the semi

Muskerry

Muskerry 3-9 Seandun 0-9; Muskerry 2-14 Carbery 2-7; Muskerry 5-11 Barryroe 3-6.

Milford

Milford 1-10 Courcey Rovers 1-5; Milford 3-13 Ballygarvan 1-14.

This can be Milford's year

By MARY NEWMAN
Evening Echo SCC

Oct. 2007

Catriona leads the way for Own girls

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

Erin's Own	4-4
Passage	0-2

A FIRST adult camogie title for Erin's Own with the ladies proving it's not just not the men in Caherlag who take county titles as they defeated Passage to take the *Evening Echo* Junior C camogie championship title on Saturday.

Goals win games and this was certainly the case as Erin's Own laid the foundations for victory with three first half strikes, captain Catriona Keohane leading the way four minutes into the contest when she finished a rebound to the net after a good save from Passage keeper Emma Lydon.

Natasha O'Sullivan replied for Passage from the puck out as she sailed past the Erin's Own defence to strike a sweet point but this was just a momentary lapse by an otherwise outstanding Erin's Own rearguard.

Time out of number they battled against the strong Erin's Own defence but could make little headway Ciara Murphy at full back was outstanding. Chloe Smith and Gillian Foley traded points as Erin's Own held their lead and when Niamh O'Keeffe pointed the Caherlag girls were three to the good.

Erin's Own always looked more dangerous in front of goal and their perseverance paid off when Smith struck for two goals between the 25th and 28th minute confidently slotting home the first from a 20-metre free before her long-range effort deceived the Passage defence to finish in the net to give the Caherlag girls a 3-2 to 0-2 interval lead.

Passage had a mountain to climb in the second half but to their credit they upped the pace and, matching Erin's Own stride for stride, held them scoreless until the three-quarter stage.

But weakness in front of goal proved costly as they failed to avail of scoring chances that presented.

Erin's Own, for their part, were content to sit back and absorb the pressure, adding two points from Niamh O'Keeffe they finished the game in style with two minutes remaining as O'Keeffe grabbed their fourth goal to give them their first adult camogie title since the club's foundation.

Scorers for Erin's Own: C Smith 2-1 f, N O'Keeffe 1-3, C Keohane 1-0.

Passage: G Foley, N O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

PASSAGE: E Lydon; C Murphy, C Mullane (c), J Haynes; E Twomey, L O'Sullivan, C O'Brien; S Jordan, K Twomey; A Costello, G Foley, L Murphy; C Doyle, G Burke, N O'Sullivan.

Subs: T Mc Mahon for C Doyle (ht), Laura McCarthy for E Lydon (ht), L McCarthy for G Burke (52), E McMahon for A Costello (57).

ERIN'S OWN: A Carey; M Fenton, C Murphy, E Coughlan; E O'Carroll, M Donnellife, M Scanlon; F Smiddy, M O'Callaghan; N O'Keeffe, C Smith, S Opperman; C Power, C O'Callaghan, C Keohane.

Subs: K O'Carroll for C Power (39), K Sheehan for E Coughlan (56), R Barry for S Opperman (56).

Referee: C O'Mahony (St Finbarr's).

Doyle's goal puts champs back in control

St Finbarr's	2-9
Cloughduv	1-6

By MARY NEWMAN

Evening Echo Cork Co SCC

CHAMPIONS St Finbarr's had to withstand a stern test from Cloughduv before advancing to the final of the Evening Echo County Senior Camogie Championship at Brinny yesterday.

It was a tough encounter with play held up on several occasions as players went down injured, which resulted in a stop-start second-half but it did not take from the game as a spectacle as both sides battled for the right to meet Muskerry in the final.

In the end it was the better balanced champions who won the day.

They played as a unit and were stronger and fitter when the need was greatest.

Defensively, Jenny Duffy and Lynda O'Connell were superb for the Barrs.

Time after time they broke up attack after attack.

In midfield, Cork captain Gemma O'Connor was a tower of strength.

She urged her side forward, while up front Vivienne Harris was excellent notching up all but three of her side's scores and ending with a tally of 1-6 to her credit.

Cloughduv made all the early running and led at the interval by a goal, but a momentary lapse in their concentration saw the game, when delicately poised, turn in the champions' favour.

Ten minutes into the second-half Barrs substitute and former Bishopstown player Trisha Doyle, lining out in the blue jersey for the first time, grabbed the vital goal that got the champions back on level terms.

From here on they applied the pressure adding three points without reply, before a goal from Vivienne Harris finally broke Cloughduv's resistance.

Cloughduv, playing with the aid of the gale force wind, were the better side in the opening 30 minutes and led 1-4 to 0-4 at the interval.

A goal from Clare O'Donoghue after 12 minutes edged them four points ahead after she got in behind the 'Barrs defence to finish Joanne O'Callaghan's long-range clearance past Ellen Clifford in the 'Barrs goal.

Gemma O'Connor and Jean Lucey traded points and it was Vivienne Harris who had the final say on 30 minutes striking a long-range effort over the bar to put just the goal between the sides.

Una O'Donoghue stretched the Cloughduv lead to four points within a minute of the restart, but that was to be their only score until the 20th minute.

From here on the Barrs gained the upper hand.

Twice Cloughduv shot wide from scoreable chances and one sensed a new urgency in the Barrs as they raised their game.

Vivienne Harris pointed a free, before setting up her former club-mate Trisha Doyle with a superb pass and Doyle shot to the corner of the net to bring the champions level.

Cloughduv worked hard to get something back, but over elaboration and sloppy passing instead of direct play proved costly as they gave the Barrs defence plenty of time to close them down.

Lynda O'Connell led the way as the champions took the lead for the first time since the eighth minute when she shot a spectacular long range effort between the posts.

Vivienne Harris and Gemma O'Connor stretched the lead further before Harris effectively finished the game with an excellent goal as she broke away from the Cloughduv defence to drill the ball past Aoife Murray from close range.

Una O'Donoghue pointed to put five between the sides and from here to the full-time whistle Cloughduv tried in vain to get the vital goal, but try as they might, the Barrs defence stood firm aided superbly by midfielder Gemma O'Connor, who worked tirelessly to break up Cloughduv attacks to telling effect.

In the finish it was Harris who pointed with three minutes remaining to stretch the champion's advantage to six as they advanced safely to defend their crown against divisional side Muskerry.

The champions duly serving notice that they will not be relinquishing their title easily and on yesterday's display it would be foolish to bet against them, but Muskerry will have other ideas, it has the makings of a cracker on November 4.

Scorers for St Finbarr's: V Harris 1-6 (0-2 f, 0-1 45), T Doyle 1-0, G O'Connor 0-2 (0-1 f, 0-1 p), L O'Connell 0-1.

Cloughduv: C O'Donoghue 1-0, U O'Donoghue 0-3, B Corkery, J Lucey, K Corkery (45) 0-1 each.

ST FINBARR'S: E Clifford; C Harrington, Colette Kirby, M McCarthy; L O'Connell, J Duffy, Clare Kirby; G O'Connor, B Maher; R Myers, C Barrett, E Crowley; V Maher, V Harris, O O'Sullivan.

Sub: T Doyle for V Maher (27).

CLOUGHDUV: A Murray; S Corkery, J O'Callaghan, E Dunne; A Buckley, B Corkery, J Lucey; M Corkery, E Dunne; U O'Donoghue, C O' Donoghue; K Corkery, S Buckley, L Holland.

Subs: AB Murphy for M Lucey (ht), M Vaughan for L Holland (42).

Referee: J O'Leary (Mallow).



Katherine Corkery of Cloughduv tries in vain to break past St Finbarr's Bernadine Maher and Jenny Duffy during their Evening Echo County Senior camogie championship semi-final at Brinny. Picture: Kieran Boyde

Second-half surges sees Fermoy advance

Fermoy	0-10
Macroom	1- 4

FERMOY, with a good second-half display edged out Macroom in the County Premier U16 FC quarter-final at Fermoy on Saturday, *writes PAT RYAN.*

The mid-Cork side looked to be in a good position at the break when leading by three points, but it was Fermoy who came out with all guns blazing in the second half.

They outscored their opponents by seven points to one.

The opening stages saw both sides slow to settle and after 17 minutes the game was deadlocked at 0-1 each.

The North Cork side took the lead soon after when Barry O'Keeffe set up David Clancy for a well taken point. As the half progressed Macroom began to gain the upper hand with Tony Dineen and Brendan Lynch very commanding at midfield.

The Mid Cork side struck for the only goal of the game in the 25th minute from Andrew Hegarty and a brace of points from Darren Burns opened up a 1-3 to 0-2 lead. Fermoy pulled a point back through Jack Hutchings to leave a goal between the sides at the interval.

In the second half, the Avondhu side dominated for long periods. Early pressure yielded points from Jack Hutchings, who scored a brace, and Michael Pyne to force level by the 36th minute. Fermoy moved into a two-point lead with two more Jack Hutchings had points from a free and a 45 0-8 to 1-3.

In a close finish Macroom pulled a point back through Andrew Hegarty.

The winners added two late points from Ian Brennan and Jack Hutchings to ensure victory for the North Cork lads.

Scorers for Fermoy: J Hutchings 0-6 (0-5 f, 0-1 45), D Clancy 0-2, M Pyne, I Brennan 0-1 each.

Macroom: A Hegarty 1-1 (0-1 f), D Burns 0-3 (0-1 f).

FERMOY: B O'Flynn, K Dorgan, D O'Carroll, K Morrisson, M Flynn, N Redmond, G Burke, J Hutchings, S Shanahan, R Gubbins, I Brennan, M Pyne, B O'Keeffe, M Bartley, D Clancy.

Subs: D Coleman for R Gubbins, P Noonan for M Bartley.

MACROOM: J Cotter, W Godsil, J O'Connor, A Sheehan, D McSweeney, T Horgan, D Cotter, T Dineen, B Lynch, D Quinlan, C Casey, D Burns, D Crowley, D Creed, A Hegarty. Sub R O'Dwyer for D Creed.

Referee: Killian Looney, (Ballincurra).

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Aisling Thompson of Cork in action against Katie Power, Kilkenny. All-Ireland Minor A Camogie Championship Final, Kilkenny v Cork, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
Picture: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE

Camogie chat
with Mary Newman

No joy for minors

DISAPPOINTMENT for the minor team as they failed to halt Kilkenny's bid for back to back All Ireland title on Sunday last

From the was always going to be a huge task and to their credit the Cork girls matched Kilkenny in the opening half and were in the game at the half time whistle having played against the strong wind trailed by six points at the break.

Cork failed to avail of two goal chances at the start of the second half and as Kilkenny upper the pace Cork failed to match them in vital areas and at the finish Kilkenny ran out winners.

BUSY WEEKEND AHEAD

IT'S A busy weekends with the *Evening Echo* Senior County Championship semi-finals down for decision as well as plenty of adult and under age games to be decided.

On Saturday at 12.30 Muskerry and Milford meet in the first senior semi-final in Buttevant the following day at 3.30pm county champions St Finbarrs meet Cloughduv in Brinney.

In the Junior C championship Passage and Erins Own meet on Saturday in Ballinlough at 11am while Killeagh and Watergrashill meet on Sunday in Dungourney at 3.30pm in the Junior A Championship semi-final.

The junior 13 side semi-finals are also on the agenda for decision with Ballyhea meeting Dungourney on Saturday in Rathpeacon at 12 noon Grenagh are in action against Youghal on Sunday while Enniskeane and Brian Dillon's meet in a section play off in the Junior B league.

At under age level on Saturday Bishopstown meet Glen Rovers 2 in the Under 16 D league semi-final in Bishopstown at 2pm. On Sunday Rockban and Brian Dillon's meet in the Under 16 C Championship final .

Also over the weekend the Gael Linn inter-provincial competitions take place in Dublin on Sunday.

ST FINBARRS AND MUSKERRY REACH SENIOR FINAL

COUNTY champions St Finbarrs will meet divisional side Muskerry in the Evening Echo senior championship final to be played on November 4 after both came through tough semi final encounters last weekend.

First into the arena were Milford and Muskerry and they played out an exciting battle in Buttevant before the divisional side held out for a one point victory in a contest where the lead changes hands on number of occasions.

With Linda Dorgan Catriona Foley and sile Burns leading the way Muskerry turned in splendid performance against a fancied Milford and were full value for their victory.

Cloughduv made all the early running against the champions in the opening thirty minutes but a goal by substitute Trisha Doyle lining out in her first senior game with the Barrs helped get them on level and from here to the full time whistle with Vivienne Harris leading the way they ran out winners with six points to spare.

Sunday week promises to be another top class encounter as the curtain finally falls on this year's senior county championship.

Results round up

KILLEAGH advanced to the final of the Evening Echo Junior A championship when they had a victory over Watergrasshill, just a point separated the sides at the break but the Killeagh girls ran out winners with four points to spare.

In the Junior B league semi final Mallow defeated Sliabh Rua to reach the final while Douglas defeated st Catherines in the Junior Shield semi final. Ballyhea and Grenagh reached the final of the thirteen a side junior championship with victories over Dungourney and Youghal.

At under age level Brian Dillon's and Rockban finished all square in the Under 16 C championship final while Glen Rovers 2 defeated Bishopstown in the semi final of the Under 16 D league.

Title for Erins Own

ERINS Own took their first adult trophy as they defeated Passage in the Junior C championship final on Saturday last.

Excellent displays form Catriona Keohane, Niamh O'Keeffe and Ciara Murphy gave the Caherlag girls the title.



The victorious Millstreet U10 Camogie team pictured at the May O'Connor Perpetual Memorial Cup Tournament held at Na Piarsaighs on Saturday. Millstreet overcame Na Piarsaigh, Enniskeane and Sarfields to win.
Picture: Páraic English

Busy weekend

ANOTHER busy weekend Ballincollig and Clonakilty meeting in Cloughduv on Friday at 7.30 in a Junior Championship section play off game. On Saturday Valley Rovers and Erie Og meet in Newcestown in the last game of their section in the Evening Echo Senior B championship Valleys already through to the semi final but Eire Og need a win otherwise Carrigaline go through. Also on Saturday in the Evening Echo junior thirteen a side championship final Ballyhea meet Grenagh at 2.30 in Buttevant while in a league Junior B section play off Brian Dillon's meet county champions Enniskeane at Brian Dillon's at 4pm.

Lachtain's ladies rule on in Leinster

Leinster Camogie Club Final

ST LACHTAINS	2-06
OULART-THE BALLAGH	0-10

ST Lachtain's of Freshford, All-Ireland senior club camogie champions of the past three years have emerged from Leinster again following this slender win over Oulart-The Ballagh of Wexford at the latter's grounds on Sunday, writes Charlie Keegan.

It was a goal in the middle of each half from Lachtain's Ann Dalton and Marie O'Connor which enabled the Freshford ladies to keep hold of their Leinster crown.

Lachtain's knew they would be in for a battle considering that Oulart, who had completed the five-in-a-row of Wexford county titles this year, fielded three of last month's All-Ireland senior camogie team in Mary Lacey, Una Lacey and Ursula Jacob.

The home side played with the advantage of the slope in the opening half but Ann Dalton's goal midway through the half kept the Kilkenny ladies very much in the hunt and they were not too perturbed to trail 0-7 to 1-3 at the break.

In the second half Lachtain's knew their titles were very much on the line but they responded positively to the challenge. Holding a physical advantage over the Wexford side they made their experience of tight situations tell.

And in Imelda Kennedy they had an outstanding player on the day. Although nominally playing at right half forward Imelda was all over the place and allied to her outstanding general play she also made an important scoring contribution of 0-3 from placed balls.

Great work by corner back Fiona Dowling was instrumental in setting up the second Lachtain's goal which proved to be the winning score. The ball was worked well upfield by St Lachtain's and Maria O'Connor applied the finish.

Although they held a precarious two point lead in the late stages, the visitors were not in the mood to concede a goal and at the end were on the right side of a result which keeps their remarkable run of success going.

SCORERS: ST LACHTAIN'S Marie O'Connor 1-2, Imelda Kennedy 0-3, 0-2 '45s, 0-1 free, Ann Dalton 1-1. Wexford: Ursula Jacob 0-7, 0-4 frees, 0-1 '45, Ciara Storey, Kerry Dunne and Stacey Redmond 0-1 each.



LINDA MELLERICK

Muskerry	2-9
Milford	1-11

HEARTBREAK for Milford once more as underdogs Muskerry reached the final of this year's Evening Echo Cork County senior Camogie championship after a pulsating game in Buttervant on Saturday.

It was a game which Milford began in style despite playing against a strong breeze. Elaine O'Riordan, having returned from the United States, lined out at midfield and alongside Regina Curtin and Christine O'Gorman they dominated the first seven or eight minutes, leading 0-2 to no score after just two.

Muskerry began harassing the Milford defence, dispossessing them and winning frees. Síle Burns converted two within the space of a minute to draw the sides level.

Despite Rebecca Finn winning the first ball well from Burns, the Cork senior and Rockbán player won the battle thereafter scoring 1-5 from Muskerry's first half total of 1-6.

Leah West, after a shaky start, settled well. Catriona and Ciara McKenna were dogged and tenacious and slowly the tide began to turn in the divisional side's favour. Burns added a point from play as the divisional side now led by one.

But the game began to turn into a scoring stalemate at this stage.

Milford hit the target for the first time in 16 minutes through an Emer Watson free. Eimear O'Friel added her second as O'Riordan continued to win good ball around the middle of the field. Once more Burns equalised with an excellent point.

Catríona Foley, at centre back, grew stronger and the strength of Ellen O'Herlihy and Denise Cronin up front was causing problems for



Muskerry's Linda Dorgan gets away from Milford's Christine O'Gorman during their Evening Echo Cork senior camogie semi-final at Buttervant.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Síle Burns a hole in Milford bid

Milford. Still, after Thompson scored with 20 minutes gone, they could be happy with their 0-5 to 0-4 advantage against the wind.

The next six minutes changed the half. Firstly Burns equalised, then she found the net and when Margaret O'Herlihy pointed, Muskerry led 1-6 to 0-5 at the break.

Milford responded in style straight after the interval, rattling off 1-2 in the space of a minutes, the goal coming from an Emer Watson penalty.

Watson followed up with a point and Geary again hit over as scores came fast and furious.

Milford were camped in Muskerry's half of the pitch and the divisional side were shell shocked. Burns settled things a little, converting a '45 and play calmed again for the next nine minutes as neither side increased their score.

While the Muskerry defence played extremely well, their one failing throughout was their persistent clearances to a free Milford player and O'Riordan capitalised as she edged Milford's lead to two with 14 minutes left.

A Marie Watson free and Cronin point kept that distance between the sides before O'Herlihy grabbed the all-important goal. It looked as if she had missed the opportunity only to kick the ball over the line to give Muskerry a one-point lead.

Christine O'Gorman levelled it with three minutes left, but Burns hit over a free to separate them again.

Milford threw everything at Muskerry in search of an equaliser, but Foley was magnificent at centre back and with Linda Dorgan's experience at midfield ensured that Muskerry hung on in what must surely be one of their sweetest victories ever.

Scorers for Muskerry: S Burns 1-7 (0-3f, 0-1 45), M O'Herlihy 1-1, D Cronin 0-1.

Milford: E Watson 1-3 (1-0p, 0-2f), E O'Friel 0-2, M Watson 0-1(f), A Geary 0-2, E O'Riordan, A Thompson and C O'Gorman 0-1 each.

MUSKERRY: T O'Donnell; Catriona McKenna, S Gleeson, L West; L Murphy, C Foley, Ciara McKenna; M O'Donoghue, L Dorgan; D Cronin, A McKenna, E O'Herlihy; S Burns, E Corkery, M O'Herlihy.

Subs: S Coleman for A McKenna (37), A McKenna for E Corkery (49).

MILFORD: A Dillon; D Hayes, O O'Reilly, R Finn; C Galvin, R Curtin, C O'Gorman; A Thompson, E O'Riordan; E O'Friel, A Geary, E Connery; S Sexton, E Watson, M Watson.

Subs: C Curtin for E Connery (h/t), J Sheehy for S Sexton (50).

Referee: J Birmingham (Bride Rovers).

The Cork team which defeated Antrim in 1973 All-Ireland Camogie final. Back: Maura Coleman, Cally Riordan, Sheila Dunne, Hannah Dineen, Mary Whelton, Deirdre Sutton, Rosie Hennessey, Pat Moloney and Marion McCarthy. Front: Betty Sugrue, Marion Sweeney, Mary Costine, Anne Keane, Anne Phelan and Nuala Guilly. Reference: 165/38

Oct 2007

Killeagh strike late for the victory

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

Killeagh	**1-5**
Valley Rovers	**0-5**

AN INJURY-time goal gave Killeagh the lead for the first time in an exciting U16 B championship semi-final played in Brinny last weekend.

Valleys, aided by the very strong wind, made all the early running. They led 0-5 to 0-3 at the interval thanks to points from Mary Ann Hawkes and Orla Lehane.

Killeagh worked hard and stayed in touch thanks to Kate Murphy, Clare Keohane and Stephanie Beausang.

From the restart, the Killeagh defence was excellent as they held a tight rein on the Valley Rovers' attack.

Applying the pressure, Killeagh were back on level terms with time running out, Shauna Keniry and Sandra Smiddy both on target.

With Killeagh gaining the upper hand, Valley Rovers were under enormous pressure as both sets of players worked to a standstill.

It was Killeagh's Kate Murphy who got the vital goal to separate the sides in injury time.

Heartbreak for Valley Rovers, but credit must go to the Killeagh girls, who fought with determination and battled well to get back into an exciting contest.

Killeagh now meet Carrigaline in the county final.

KILLEAGH: Lisa O'Sullivan; Anne Rohan, Clare O'Connor, Karen Rohan; Eanna O'Neill (capt.), Aileen Murphy, Stephanie Beausang; Caitriona Scully, Rachel Cronin; Abbie Collins, Aislinn Fitzgerald, Samantha Swayne; Jessica O'Shea, Kate Murphy, Laura O' Connor.

Subs: Clare Fennelly, Clare Keohane, Shauna Keniry, Sandra Smiddy.

VALLEY ROVERS: Tessa Hawkes; Elaine Forde, Julie O'Mahony, Edel Looney; Jessica Hawkes, Sinéad O'Shea, Ena Coughlan; Marie Forde, Eimear O'Regan; Katie Richardson, Mary Ann Hawkes, Claire Duggan; Aisling Glavin, Nora Murphy, Orla Lehane.

Subs: Rebecca O'Regan for Elaine Forde, Meabh Lynch for Lehane.



The Rockán team which will contest the U16 C county final this weekend.

Rockbán reach all their goals

Rockbán	**4-2**
Na Piarsaigh	**0-1**

THERE was no disputing the result of this one as Rockbán advanced to the final of the U16 C camogie championship following victory over Na Piarsaigh at Caherlag last weekend.

Na Piarsaigh started the game well, with their midfield pairing of Diane O'Regan and Orla Burke putting the Rockbán defence under early pressure.

The Rockbán defence held firm under the guiding influence of Colleen Foley, who played a pivotal role at the heart of their backline.

Rockbán opened the scoring when Kate Howard finished Foley's free to the Piarsaigh net. Na Piarsaigh didn't panic and battled back, with Orla Bourke converting a free to settle her side.

A Sinéad Dilworth goal for Rockbán twenty-two minutes into the game gave her side an interval advantage of 2-0 to 0-1.

Na Piarsaigh again applied early second-half pressure, but Sinéad Dilworth stretched Rockbán's advantage three minutes after the restart with another goal.

At the other end of the field, the Rockbán defence were now on top.

Midway through the half, Rockbán hit goal number four as Shauna Brickley was quickest to the rebound after Laura Ryan's shot hit the crossbar.

From the puck-out, Shauna Brickley set up Laura Ryan, who pointed as Rockbán enjoyed all the advantages.

Na Piarsaigh battled hard but could find no way through the strong Rockbán defence, and a pointed free from Sinéad Dilworth with four minutes remaining saw Rockbán run out deserving winners.

They now meet Brian Dillon's in the final.

Scorers for Rockbán: Sinéad Dilworth 2-1, Shauna Brickley, Kate Howard 1-0 each, Laura Ryan 0-1.

Na Piarsaigh: Orla Burke 0-1.

ROCKBÁN Katie Grace; Aisling Furlong, Muireann, McSweeney, Sarah Carey; Eve O'Mahony, Colleen Foley, Megan Brickley; Ciara Coleman, Laura Ryan; Ann Marie O'Sullivan, Samantha Scanlon, Gemma Cahill; Shauna Brickley, Sinéad Dilworth, Kate Howard. **Subs:** Niamh Coleman, Lorraine O'Riordan

NA PIARSAIGH: Amy O'Connor; Vanessa O'Connor, Ciara Allen, Natalie Kelly; Danielle Kelly, Jessica Cronin, Nikki Aherne; Diane O'Regan, Orla Burke; Daniella Moynihan, Clodagh Scannell, Rebecca O'Rourke; Laura Aherne, Kate Delay, Aoife Moynihan. **Subs:** Denise O'Regan, Kelly O'Regan, Emer Kelly, Niamh O'Donovan, Jessica Dunlea.

CAMOGIE FIXTURES:

TODAY

Evening Echo JC Championship final: Passage v Erins Own, Ballinlough 11 am.
Evening Echo Senior Championship semi-final: Milford V Muskerry, 12.30.
Junior 13 aside semi final: Ballyhea v Dungourney Rathpeacon noon.
U16D league semi final: Bishopstown v Glen Rovers Bishopstown 2pm.

SUNDAY

Evening Echo Senior Championship semi-final: St Finbarr's v Cloughduv, Brinny 3.30pm.
Evening Echo JAC semi-final: Killeagh v Watergrasshill, Dungourney, 3.30pm.
JBL semi-final: Mallow v Sliabh Rua Delanys 11am.
Junior 13 aside semi-final: Youghal v Grenagh Castleyons 11.45.
U16 C County Final Brian Dillon's v Rockban Ballinlough 3.45pm.

Maebh is the talk of the Town

Bishopstown	**4-10**
Barryroe	**1-0**

BISHOPSTOWN took the U16 D Championship title when they proved far too strong for Barryroe on Saturday last.

With senior player Maebh Scannell in superb form, the Bishopstown girls notched up the scores.

Scannell was very much to the fore as Bishopstown set the pace of the game, coming from behind early on to take a lead they held until the full-time whistle.

It was Barryroe who made the better start, with Aoife Murphy giving them an early lead.

Bishopstown soon settled and began to pick off their scores.

Olivia Lane, Sarah O'Sullivan, Lee Flood and Ciara Kilbane all added to their tally with points.

Maebh Scannell was very much to the fore at this stage for Bishopstown.

Barryroe battled to get back into the contest, but found the going hard against a strong Bishopstown defence where captain Niamh Byrne and Aimee Corcoran held the Barryroe attack at bay.

The Barryroe defence worked hard but found the Bishopstown girls too much to handle on the day.

Such was the influence which Maebh Scannell had on proceedings she finishing the game with a personal tally of 1-8, which earned her the player of the match award.

BISHOPSTOWN: L O'Riordan, P Finn, R Nunan, H Donaldson, N Byrne (Capt), A Corcoran, O O'Connor, M Scannell, M Kane, L Flood, Aisling Corcoran, D Anderson, C Kilbane, S O'Sullivan, O Lane, E Donnelly-Murphy, G O' Riordan, T Horgan, C Mansfield.

BARRYROE: J Madden, A O'Donovan, N Madden, L Dullea, D Sexton, K O'Sullivan, J White (c), T Mc Carthy, R McCarthy, D O'Sullivan, C O' Dwyer, A Weldon, P O' Donovan, A Murphy, C Lordan, AM O' Brien, S O' Leary, S Winfield, M O' Regan, O O' Regan, O O' Donovan, R Hurley, K Moloney, S Crowley, O McCarthy, E Deasy, F O' Regan, C Tyndall.

Dillon's barely shade it

Brian Dillon's	**4-8**
St Catherine's	**6-1**

Brian Dillon's booked their place in the U16 C camogie championship final in an exciting game.

It was nip-and-tuck throughout the opening half, two goals from Orla Ni Shúilleabháin and points from Claire and Jane Dooley had Dillon's ahead 2-3 to 2-1 at the half-time whistle.

St Catherine's battled hard, and were on level terms thanks to excellent play from Finola Neville, Rachel O'Callaghan and Katie Murphy.

Catherine's began to dominate the play and ten minutes into the second half they were six points ahead thanks to Finola Neville, who grabbed vital goals.

But Brian Dillon's worked hard, with Claire Dooley and Michelle Ring leading the way.

Finola Neville struck for a goal with four minutes remaining to restore Catherine's lead. However Dillon's held their nerve and had the last say with two pointed frees sealing their place in the final, where they will meet Rockbán.

BRIAN DILLON'S: S Attridge; L Bradfield, S K Brosnan (capt.), E Burns; D Carroll, S Cotter, C Dooley; O Ni Shúilleabháin, R Myers; E Kelly, D O'Flynn, R O' Mahony; M Ring, J Dooley, S Rodgers. **Subs:** K O'Brien for Myers, N Gleeson for O'Flynn

ST CATHERINE'S: L Bumster; N O'Donoghue, C Clancy, A Ahern; R O'Callaghan, A. O 'Keeffe(c), J Mangan; K Hannon, F Cotter; S Barry, K Murphy, S. Gallagher; C Kearney, F Neville, E Neville.

Oct. 2007

Brian Dillons U-16s in final

Brian Dillons	**4-8**
St Catherines	**6-1**

by Mary Newman

BRIAN DILLON's booked their place in the Under 16 C championship decider after an exciting contest which yielded 10 goals and nine points before it went down to the wire with a point separating the teams at the full-time whistle.

hrough the opening half the sides exchanged scores, two goals from Orla Ni Shuilleabhain and points from Clair Dooley and Jane Dooley had Brian Dillon's ahead 2-3 to 2-1 at the half time whistle.

St Catherines were level thanks to excellent play from Finola Neville Rachel O'Callaghan and Katie Murphy. St Catherines began to dominate and 10 minutes into the second half were six points ahead thanks to Finola Neville who grabbed vital goals.

Brian Dillon's worked hard and began to dominate, Claire Dooley and Michelle Ring leading the way as they sides slowly cut the St. Catherine's lead.

Finola Neville hit a St. Catherines goal with four minutes remaining to restore her side's lead. but holding their nerve Brian Dillon's had the last say with two pointed frees sealing their place in the final where they will meet Rockban.



Brian Dillon's Under 16 team who meet Rockban in the Under 16C County Final.

BRIAN DILLONS S Attridge L Bradfield S K Brosnan © E Burns D Carroll S Cotter C Dooley O Ni Shuilleabhain R Myers E Kelly D O'Flynn R O'Mahony M Ring J Dooley S Rodgers Subs: K O'Brien for R Myers, N Gleeson for D O'Flynn

ST CATHERINES L. Bumster, N.O'Donoghue, C Clancy, A. Ahern, R. O'Callaghan, A. O Keeffe (c), J. Mangan, K .Hannon, F. Cotter, S. Barry, K. Murphy, S. Gallagher, C. Kearney, F Neville, E Neville

Bishopstown champions

Bishopstown	**4-10**
Barryroe	**1-0**

Bishopstown proved too strong for Barryroe as they captured the Under 16 D championship title recently.

Maebh Scannell was the star for the Bishopstown girls as her side set the pace of the game after Barryroe had made the better start. Aoife Murphy gave Barryroe an early lead when she found the net. Bishopstown began to get into the game as they picked off their scores, Olivia Lane, Sarah O'Sullivan Lee Flood and Ciara Kilbane all adding to their tally with Maebh Scannell very much to the fore.

Barryroe battled to get into the contest, but found the going hard against a strong Bishoptwon defence where captain Niamh Byrne, Aimee Corcoran held the Barryroe attack.

Such was the influence which Maebh Scannell had on proceedings that she finishing the game with a personal tally of 1-8, which earned her the player of the match award as Bishopstown coasted to victory

Bishopstown: L O' Riordan, P. Finn, R. Nunan, H Donaldson, N Byrne (Capt), Aimee Corcoran, O O'Connor, M Scannell, M Kane, L Flood, Aisling Corcoran, D Anderson, C. Kilbane, S O'Sullivan, O Lane E Donnelly-Murphy, G O' Riordan, T Horgan, C Mansfield.

BARRYROE: J Madden A O'Donovan N Madden L Dullea D. Sexton, K O'Sullivan J White (c) T Mc Carthy R Mc Carthy D O'Sullivan C O' Dwyer A. Weldon, P O Donovan, A Murphy C Lordan A M O Brien S O Leary S Winfield M O Regan Orla O Regan O.O Donovan R Hurley K Moloney S Crowley O Mc Carthy E Deasy F O Regan C Tyndall

Noonan gives Glen the edge in league final

Glen Rovers	**1-3**
Bishopstown	**1-0**

A GOAL three minutes from full time booked Glen Rovers second string under 16 side their place in the Under 16 D league final.

Two first half points from Alison Dowling and Leeann O'Sullivan gave the Glen girls an early lead they held to the interval. Bishopstown applied severe pressure from the start of the second half and their perseverance paid off when Dawn Anderson grabbed a goal to give them the lead.

With both sides battling to gain the upper hand the Glen girls worked to get level, but time out of number the Bishoptown defence held their lines. Glen failed to convert two frees, but they got on level thanks to a Leeann O'Sullivan pointed free, with a place in the final up for grabs Aisling Noonan struck for a goal to put the Glen girls into the final.

GLEN ROVERS M. Sheehan, A Murphy, N O'Sullivan, S O'Sullivan, A Noonan(1-0), C O'Sullivan, S Busteed, A O'Keeffe, L O'Sullivan (0-2) E O'Connell, L Sheehy, A Dowling (0-1), L Callanan, S Hill, K Arnold Subs: C McCarthy for E O'Connell, D Noonan for K Arnold E O'Sullivan for L Sheehy

BISHOPSTOWN L O'Riordan, P Finn, R Nunan H Donaldson O. O'Connor, Amy Corcoran S O'Sullivan M Scannell, D Anderson(1-0), O Lane, Aisling Corcoran C Kilbane, C Mansfield G O'Riordan,

REF: G Sheehan Douglas.

Killeagh goal proves vital

Killeagh	**1-5**
Valley Rovers	**0-5**

AN injury-time goal saw Killeagh take the lead for the first time in an exciting under16 B championship semi-final. From the throw Valley Rovers picked off their points and they led 0 -5 to 0-3 at the half time whistle thanks to points from Mary Ann Hawkes with four and one from Orla Lehane.

Killeagh kept pace with points from Kate Murphy Clare Keohane and Stephanie Beausang, and through the second half the Killeagh defence was excellent. Killeagh were back on level terms with time running out Shauna Keniry and Sandra Smiddy on target.

Valley Rovers were under enormous pressure as Killeagh continued to press and it was Kate Murphy who got the vital touch to grab the goal that separated the sides in injury time

Killeagh now meet Carrigaline in the county final.

KILLEAGH: Lisa O'Sullivan, Anne Rohan, Clare O'Connor, Karen Rohan, Eanna O'Neill (c), Aileen Murphy, Stephanie Beausang, Caitriona Scully, Rachel Cronin, Abbey Collins, Aislinn Fitzgerald, Samantha Swayne, Jessica O'Shea, Kate Murphy, Laura O' Connor, Clare Fennelly, Clare Keohane, Shauna Keniry, Sandra Smiddy

VALLEY ROVERS: Tessa Hawkes, Elaine Forde, Julie o Mahony Edel Looney Jessica Hawkes, Sinead o Shea Ena Coughlan Marie Forde Eimear o Regan, Katie Richardson, marry Ann Hawkes, Claire Duggan Aisling Glavin Nora Murphy, and Orla Lehane

Subs Rebecca o Regan for Elaine Forde, Maebh lynch for Orla Lehane

Rocban well on top in U-16C camogie clash

Rockban	**4-2**
Na Pairsaig	**0-1**

ROCKBAN advanced to the final of the under 16C camogie championship following their victory over Na Piarsaigh Rockban took the lead as Kate Howard finished to the Na Piarsaigh net, but Na Piarsaigh battled back, Orla Bourke converting a free to settle her side. Solid defending saw Rockban hold their lines and a Sinead Dilworth goal gave them an interval advantage of 2-0 to 0-1. Sinead Dilworth stretched her side's advantage and with the Rockban's defence on top they grew in confidence. Shauna Brickley scored a goal, and from the puck out Shauna Brickley set up Laura Ryan who pointed as Rockban stretched their lead. Na Piarsaig battled hard but could find no way through the Rockban defence. A pointed free from Sinead Dilworth saw Rockbán run out deserving winners to set up a final meeting with Brian Dillon's.

NA PIARSAIG Amy O Conner. Vanessa O Conner. Ciara Allen. Natalie Kelly Danielle Kelly Jessica Cronin Nikki Aherne Diane O Regan Orla Bourke (0-1) Danielle Moynihan Clodagh Scannell Rebecca O Rourke Laura Aherne Kate Delay Aoife Moynihan Denise O Regan Kelly O Regan, Emer Kelly Niamh O Donovan Jessica Dunlea

ROCKBAN Katie Grace Aisling Furlong Muireann Mc Sweeney Sarah Carey Eve O Mahony Colleen Foley Megan Brickley Ciara Coleman Laura Ryan(0-1) Ann Marie O'Sullivan Samantha Scanlon Gemma Cahill Shauna Brickley(1-0) Sinead Dilworth(2-1) Kate Howard(1-0) Subs: Niamh Coleman Lorraine O' Riordan





Left: action from the final of the May O'Connor Perpetual Memorial Cup U10 Camogie Tournament between Na Piarsaigh and Millstreet
Right: Donal O'Connor presents the May O'Connor Memorial Cup to victorious Millstreet captain Kate O'Keeffe.

Picture: Páraic English

Oct. 2007

Ballyhea	2-10
Grenagh	1-4



Ballyhea's Karen O'Leary is put under pressure by Grenagh's Theresa Coughlan and Eleanor Barry, in the Evening Echo 13-a-side final in Buttevant.
Picture: Cillian Kelly

Ballyhea in total control

By MARY NEWMAN
Evening Echo junior camogie final

THE scoreline was somewhat flattering to Ballyhea and in truth does not do justice to the effort put in by a spirited Grenagh side.

On the day had they could not match the strength of a physically stronger Ballyhea in an energy-sapping *Evening Echo* junior 13-a-side camogie final in Buttevant on Saturday.

It's a good end to a season which was in danger of not working out for Ballyhea as they struggled to maintain the interest and field the numbers they got permission to participate in the 13-a-side competition to help them regroup. Through the competition the interest grew to such a level that on Saturday they had 26 players on their panel.

From the throw-in they showed their strength from experienced goalkeeper Frances Killeen down to Rachel Waters, they held the upper hand and aided by the strong wind they led by seven points at the interval.

Grenagh gave it their all and indeed enjoyed plenty of possession but with Ballyhea keeper Killeen in superb form they failed to grab the goal they needed to make an impact on proceeding. Eventually the goal arrived but it was too late to make a real impact on the result and so a season that threatened not to begin, ends with a county title for Ballyhea.

Inside the opening minute, Kate Keane gave Ballyhea the lead with a point. They piled on more. Cork minor Maria Walsh dictated matters at midfield, helping herself to three while Sarah Douglas with two frees and Rachel Waters got her hurley to a long-range dropping free to get her name on the scoresheet.

Through the opening half, as they battled against the wind, Grenagh struggled to get the ball to their inside line and when they did they found no way past a strong Ballyhea defence where Michelle Walsh, Stephanie McInerney and Megan McCarthy were excellent.

They got on the scoreboard three minutes into first-half injury-time with Aileen Sheehan converting a free as Ballyhea led 0-8 to 0-1 at the break.

Grenagh opened the second half with an early point from Sheehan to which Walsh replied but, aided by the strong wind, Grenagh were now beginning to win more possession. They were rocked on their heels when a long Ballyhea clearance found half-time substitute Mary Coleman free and she made no mistake from close range to grab the game's opening goal.

Ten points in arrears, Grenagh suddenly sprung to life and laid siege to the Ballyhea goal but twice Frances Killeen denied them a certain goal before they shot narrowly wide from close range.

Douglas pointed a Ballyhea free to maintain her side's lead but an ever improving Grenagh were now beginning to make inroads into the Ballyhea lead. Boosted by the switching of their intercounty player Lynda Dorgan to midfield, they won a close in free when Dorgan was impeded on her way to goal and she duly dispatched the resulting free to the net and now just eight points separated the sides. Driven on by the excellent Dorgan, Grenagh mounted attack after attack but again the Ballyhea defence were at their best denying them the goal they needed badly as the clock ticked towards injury time.

Norma Hurley and Dorgan pointed as they maintained the pressure but time ran out when Douglas finished the ball to the Grenagh net. The resulting puck-out brought the sound of the full-time whistle.

All credit to both sides as they battled hard on the full-size pitch but on the day there was no disputing the result which will no doubt spur on the Ballyhea girls to participate on a higher level next season.

● Ballyhea's Cork minor Maria Walsh was named as player of the match following on her superb contribution to their victory.

Scorers for Ballyhea: S Douglas 1-3 (0-3f), Maria Walsh 0-4, M Coleman 1-0, R Waters, O Carroll, K Keane 0-1 each.

Grenagh: L Dorgan 1-1 (1-1f), A Sheehan 0-2(0-1f), N Hurley 0-1

BALLYHEA: F Killeen; V Hennessy A Morrissey; M McCarthy, S McInerney, Michelle Walsh (C); Maria Walsh, S Douglas; O Carroll, M O'Brien, C O'Doherty; K Keane, R Waters. **Subs:** M Coleman for C O'Doherty (ht), K O'Leary for K Keane (36)

GRENAGH: A Murphy; S Dorgan, T O'Sullivan (c); R Jones, L Dorgan, S O'Mahony; A Sheehan, E McSweeney; T Coughlan Barry, Y O'Keeffe; L Corkery, N Hurley. **Subs:** N Downing for T Coughlan (53) M Barry for S O'Mahony (58)

Referee: Willie Barrett (Aghabullogue).

O'Herlihy leads the way as Éire Óg win

Éire Óg	3-3
Valley Rovers	0-1

By JOHN MURPHY
Evening Echo Senior B camogie

INSPIRED by an unyielding defence and buoyed by two cracking goals from Margaret O'Herlihy during the opening half, Éire Óg duly fashioned an emphatic victory over Valley Rovers at Newcestown on Saturday.

Unbeaten Valley could afford the luxury of a reversal in this *Evening Echo* senior B championship camogie tie having already qualified for the penultimate stage in a competition played on a round-robin basis, but defeat would have signalled the end of the road for the Mid Cork side.

However, the latter scenario was never threatened as Éire Óg with eight players from U18 level, took the lead in the second minute courtesy of an O'Herlihy 45 and were never subsequently led.

O'Herlihy, together with sister Ellen and Erin Corkery, Ciara O'Keeffe and captain Alana McKenna, caused chaos in Valley's rearguard during the first moiety. There was an element of good fortune about their first goal, which arrived in the 13th minute as an in-swinger by Margaret O'Herlihy from some 30 metres flew through the outstretched fingers of Valley keeper Gillian Harrington.

With incessant pressure being exerted by a now rampant Éire Óg, only fantastic defending by the Valleys goalie and hard grafting from Laura Davis, Aoife O'Callaghan, Clodagh Deasy and Lucy Hawkes kept them at bay.

But the Valley defence was eventually breached for a second time in the 24th minute as a 45 from O'Herlihy ended up in the rigging, via the angle of upright and crossbar,. Two sledgehammer blows, leaving Valley with an Everest to climb, 2-3 to nil adrift at the break.

In fairness, Cork senior Elaine Burke, Eliz Bugler, Orla Deasy and substitute Cora McSweeney all upped the ante, but they just could not find a way through a rock-solid Éire Óg defence, with Katie McCarthy, Lorraine Murphy and Catriona McKenna unbeatable.

In fact, Valley's only reply and solitary score over the hour came from a free by Elaine Burke in the 35th minute. Éire Óg duly applied the coup-de-grace and copper-fastened their place in the semi-final with four minutes left on the clock. A fabulous move spearheaded by Margaret O'Herlihy and Ciara O'Keeffe saw full-forward Erin Corkery billow the net, signalling lights out at the Valley.

Scorers for Éire Óg: M O'Herlihy 2-2 (1-2 from 45's), E Corkery 1-0, E O'Herlihy 0-1.

Valley Rovers: E Burke 0-1 from free.

ÉIRE ÓG: L O'Mahony, Catriona McKenna, S Gleeson, K McCarthy, Ciara McKenna, L Murphy, E Kelleher, C McCarthy, E O'Herlihy, C Crowley, A McKenna, C O'Keeffe, M Gleeson, E Corkery, M O'Herlihy. **Sub:** C O'Connor for M Gleeson (half-time).

VALLEY ROVERS: G Harrington, L Davis, M Hurley, A O'Callaghan, C Deasy, L Hawkes, AM Murphy, M McCarthy, MA Hawkes, E Burke, M Cottrell, O Deasy, E Foley, E Bugler, E O'Mahony. **Subs:** C McSweeney for AM Murphy(39), E Coughlan for M Cottrell(41), N Murphy for A O'Callaghan(48), B Shields for E Foley(52), A Coughlan for L Hawkes(53).

Referee: John Bermingham (Bride Rovers)

Brian Dillon's ready to rock for replay

Oct. 2007

THE GIRLS of Brian Dillon's were preparing this past week for a second chance at taking the U16 camogie county final title.

The Brian Dillon's side had an exciting and closely contested path to the final and gave a great performance in the semi final against a tough St Catherine's side.

First half goals by Orla Ni Shúilleabháin and points by Claire Dooley and Jane Dooley had Dillon's leading by two points at half-time in that game.

The second-half was a hard-fought affair with Dillon's working bravely to cut the deficit.

With Claire Dooley scoring 1-5 and Michelle Ring scoring 1-0, there was only a point between the two teams when the whistle blew.

Saoirse Rodgers, operating between the sticks, saved her side on more than one occasion with some magnificent shot-stopping as the Dillon's girls kept fighting until the bitter end to secure a spot in the final against Rockbán on Sunday, October 21.

And what a final it proved to be. The game proved very tense and exciting, a fact illustrated by the low score line at half-time.

Both teams went tit-for-tat in the first half and it was difficult to see how they could be separated. Indeed, the score-line belies the fact that both sides produced some wonderful skill on occasions.

The second half promised more of the same for the enthralled crowd. After the break, Sara Attridge emerged as a strong presence in the half-back line and Susan-Kate Brosnan did Trojan work at midfield, lashing the ball into the forward line.

Rockbán seemed to gain the upper hand for a while until Michelle Ring levelled proceedings with two goals in five minutes. Both teams now have the opportunity for another crack at it in the replay.

Well done to the girls who will doubtlessly put it up to Rockbán once more in the rematch.



County Final U16 Brian Dillons team with coaches Therese Drummond and Claire O'Mahony.



MAYFIELD NEWS
WITH CLAIRE SUTTON

CAMOGIE
The nominations for the Energise Sport 2007 Allstar awards, were announced yesterday
Goalkeepers: E Butler (Dublin), M D'Arcy (Wexford), P Ryan (Tipperary).
Backs: E Brannigan (Dublin), R Buckley (Cork), F Carr (Down), R Collins (Limerick), A Codd (Wexford), D Codd (Wexford), C Doherty (Derry), A Donnelly (Meath), C Foley (Cork), A Geary (Cork), S Kelly (Tipperary), N Kilkenny Galway), M Leacy (Wexford), D Murphy (Clare), S O'Grady (Waterford), C O'Loughlin (Wexford), A O'Regan (Cork), A Sheehan (Limerick).
Midfield: P Fogarty (Tipperary), A Marie Hayes (Galway), L Mahony (Laois), C Murphy (Wexford), G McGoldrick (Derry), G O'Connor (Cork).
Forwards: C Commane (Clare), O Cotter (Cork), B Corkery (Cork), V Curtin (Galway), M Dargan (Kilkenny), A Diamond (Derry), B Furlong (Wexford), C Grogan (Tipperary), B Hanney (Galway), M Heame (Wexford) U Jacob (Wexford), A Jordan (Dublin), K Kelly (Wexford), U Leacy (Wexford), A Lyng (Waterford), E O'Brien (Limerick), J O'Leary (Cork), J Ryan (Tipperary).



The Erin's Own historic junior camogie team with Catriona Keohane, (captain), holding the Betty Mohally Cup after they won Evening Echo Junior 'C' camogie final for the first time in the history of the club.

Trio in running for top manager's award

CAMOGIE: The nominees for the O'Neill's Camogie Manager and Young Player of the Year Awards were announced yesterday with Stellah Sinnott (Wexford), Paul Lyng (Waterford) and Ciarán Carey (Limerick) in line for the Manager of the Year Award.

In the Young Camogie Player of the Year Award Jessica Gill (Galway), Leanne Fennelly (Kilkenny), Niamh Mulcahy (Limerick) and Racquel McCarry (Antrim) were announced as the nominees.

There will be stiff competition for the Manager award. Stellah Sinnott guided Wexford to the county's first All-Ireland title in 32 years when they prevented Cork from completing an historic three All-Irelands in a row.

Three-time Allstar and former Limerick hurling captain Ciarán Carey only took over the Limerick camogie team a few weeks into the national league but still guided them to a league title and to the Gala Senior 'B' All-Ireland title when they overcame old rivals Cork.

Waterford and their manager Paul Lyng had a very successful 2007. The Déise County defeated Down in the final of the Division 2 National Camogie League having just been promoted from Division 3.

The winners will be announced at the Energise Sport Camogie All-Stars in CityWest Hotel on November 10.

— Bob Lester

Erin's Own take silverware again

FOLLOWING Erin's Own senior hurlers' back-to-back win in the Evening Echo county finals, the ladies camogie team have proven to be just as successful.

The team wrote themselves into the history books when the Junior camogie team won the club's first adult county camogie title by defeating Passage in the *Evening Echo* Junior camogie county final.

The Erin's Own side got off to a great start when Catriona Keohane (captain) found the back of the Passage net after just four minutes.

The Erin's Own back line withstood severe pressure from Passage in the first-half where Ciara Murphy was defiant at full-back, giving an outstanding display which earned her Player of the Final award.

They say goals win matches; well this was certainly the case in this match when Chloe Smith found the back of the Passage net twice in the last five minutes of the first-half with Niamh O'Keeffe scoring two points.

Even though Passage went up a gear and increased the pressure on Erin's Own, they failed to score in the second-half.

Erin's Own showed fierce determination to win the Cup and following points from Chloe Smith and Niamh O'Keeffe, scoring her side's fourth goal, it was celebration time for Erin's Own camogie team.

Team members Mary Fenton and the O'Carroll sisters, Edel and Kay, collected *Evening Echo* county medals the same week as their respective brothers Paul and Ronan.

Catriona Keohane, captain, has a particularly strong camogie pedigree.

Her mother Hilda is a selector and founder member of the reformed camogie club in 1992 along with Phylis Geasley and Anne Marie O'Keeffe.

She is a holder of two junior, two Intermediate and two senior county medals with Éire Óg and wore the county colours with pride at junior level.

Catriona's uncle, John Horgan, wore the Blackrock and county colours with distinction.

The Carroll sisters Edel and Kay also have a strong sporting pedigree as their father Mossy is the legendary Limerick hurler.

In accepting the Betty Mohally Cup, Catriona thanked all their supporters, the 18-strong panel, with special thanks to the backroom team of coach and selectors Martin and Bernie O'Callaghan, Tony Smiddy and Hilda Keohane.

Wexford should top All-Star team

THE much awaited nominees for the 2007 All-Star selection has been announced.

As expected Wexford top the list with an impressive 11 nominations. Cork has eight, Tipperary five, Galway four and Dublin three.

Senior B All-Ireland champions Limerick and Junior champions Derry each have three and for the first time Meath are represented with defender Aileen Donnelly.

Clare and Waterford both have two listed while Down, Laois, Kilkenny have one.

The All-Star nominations are chosen from Senior A, Senior B and Junior categories. It certainly makes the awards more inclusive and to a certain point I agree with honouring top players in all counties and all levels.

But another part of me finds it difficult to take that a fine senior player in a weak county will never receive an All-Star while the association try to give something to everyone in the audience.

Derry won the All-Ireland Junior title and Clare the defeated finalists. Do players from these counties deserve an All-Star? Most certainly, yes, but within their own category.

There are many very good players throughout the country playing at senior level but are in the shadow of the greats.

Of the Wexford players listed most should win a position. Mags D'arcy should take the number one slot, if for nothing else but her last minute save from Orla Cotter in the All-Ireland final. In a year when the Wexford defence were absolutely magnificent Áine and Deirdre Codd, Mary Leacy and Catherine O'Loughlin are certainties. While a total of 18 defenders are nominated I'd give my last two positions to Cork's Catriona Foley and Rena Buckley. Both players get stronger and stronger with Foley in particular having come on leaps and bounds in the past twelve months.

I admire Tipperary's Philly Fogarty a lot. I felt throughout



The victorious Millstreet U10 camogie team pictured at the May O'Connor Perpetual Memorial Cup Tournament held at Na Piarsaigh's on Saturday. Millstreet overcame Na Piarsaigh, Enniskeane and Sarfields to win. Picture: Páraic English

Kate stars in Millstreet's victory

By RUTH WHITE
Camogie

MILLSTREET'S Kate O'Keeffe was the star of the show as her side captured the May O'Connor Perpetual Memorial Cup.

O'Keeffe led her team to victory, beating host club Na Piarsaigh in the final of this prestigious competition.

The four teams that competed were from Millstreet, Na Piarsaigh, Enniskeane and Sars.

All of the teams played with tremendous skill and didn't give up easily with little or nothing between the sides.

The cup was put up in memory of the late May O'Connor who was on the first Na Piarsaigh ladies camogie committee back in the 1950s and she was also the chairperson of the camogie committee for many years.

Donal O'Connor, son of May, and secretary of the City Division GAA board presented the cup to the winning team.

"It was a great day. All the teams played very well and they all showed determination," O'Connor said.

"I would like to thank Millstreet, Enniskeane, Sarsfield's, and also Na Piarsaigh camogie club for hosting the event.

"The superb facilities here added a great occasion for the kids and my family."



the year that her best position would have been at centre-back. She missed the National League semi-final / Munster final play off against Cork through injury and Tipp opted more often than not to play at centrefield. For this reason I don't think we saw the best of this player in 2007.

My midfield positions go to Cork's Gemma O'Connor who did trojan work on the field of play throughout the year and Wexford's Caroline Murphy.

As with most All-Star selections it's a case of trying to fit great players into positions .

The forward line is difficult to call. There is a lot of talent listed here.

My front six goes to Kate Kelly (Wexford), C Grogan (Tipp), Jennifer O'Leary (Cork), U Leacy (Wexford), Ursula Jacob (Wexford), Eileen O'Brien (Limerick).

You have to take in the player's entire year performances and not just their displays in the All Ireland semi-final and final.

Incidentally my player of the year goes to Wexford's Kate Kelly. An exceptional player! Her semi-final performance against Galway was one of the best individual performances I think I have ever seen.

We await the outcome.

NOMINATIONS

Goalkeepers: E Butler (Dublin), M D'arcy (Wexford), P Ryan (Tipperary)
Defenders: E Brannigan (Dublin), R Buckley (Cork), C Foley (do), A Geary (do), A O'Regan (do), F Carr (Down), R Collins (Limerick), A Sheehan (do), A Codd (Wexford), D Codd (do), M Leacy (do), C O'Loughlin (do), C Doherty (Derry), A Donnelly (Meath), S Kelly (Tipperary), N Kilkenny (Galway), D Murphy (Clare), S O'Grady (Waterford).
Midfield: P Fogarty (Tipperary), A M Hayes (Galway), L Mahony (Laois), C Murphy (Wexford), G McGoldrick (Derry), G O'Connor (Cork).
Forwards: O Cotter (Cork), B Corkery (do), J O'Leary (do), C Commane (Clare), V Curtin (Galway), B Hanney (do), M Dargan (Kilkenny), A Diamond (Derry), B Furlong (Wexford), M Hearne (do), U Jacob (do), K Kelly (do), U Leacy (do), C Crogan (Tipperary), J Ryan (do), A Jordan (Dublin), A Lyng (Waterford), E O'Brien (Limerick).

Noonan leads by example for Glen

Glen Rovers	**1-3**
Bishopstown	**1-0**

GLEN ROVERS captain Aisling Noonan grabbed a vital goal three minutes from full-time to book Glen Rovers second string's place in the U16 D league final as they defeated a Bishopstown side who took the championship title last week.

The Glen girls took an early lead thanks to points from Alison Dowling and Leeann O'Sullivan and with play swinging form end to end, scores were hard to come by as both defences were on top. From the start of the second-half Bishopstown applied severe pressure and a Dawn Anderson goal put them into the lead 12 minutes into the half.

With both sides battling to gain the upper hand, Aisling O'Keeffe and Maebh Scannell enjoyed a battle for supremacy at mid field as the Glen girls worked to get on level terms but the Bishopstown defence held their lines.

Glen failed to convert two frees but were on level thanks to a Leeann O'Sullivan pointed free and with a place in the final up for grabs, Aisling Noonan struck for a goal to put the Glen girls into the final.

Scorers for Glen Rovers: A Noonan 1-0, L O'Sullivan 0-2 (0-1f), A. Dowling 0-1.
Bishopstown: D Anderson 1-0.
GLEN ROVERS: M Sheehan; A Murphy, N O'Sullivan, S O'Sullivan; A Noonan (c), C O'Sullivan, S Busteed; A O'Keeffe, L O'Sullivan ; E O'Connell, L Sheehy, A Dowling; L Callanan, S Hill, K Arnold. **Subs:** C McCarthy for E O'Connell, D Noonan for K Arnold, E O'Sullivan for L Sheehy.
BISHOPSTOWN: L O'Riordan; P Finn, R Nunan, H Donaldson, O O'Connor, Amy Corcoran; S O'Sullivan M Scannell; D Anderson, O Lane, Aisling Corcoran, C Kilbane, C Mansfield, G O'Riordan.
Referee: Ger Sheehan, (Douglas).

Killeagh prove too strong in semi

Killeagh	**3-4**
Watergrasshill	**1-6**

By MARY NEWMAN
Junior A Championship

KILLEAGH booked their place in the *Evening Echo* Junior A Championship final after they withstood the challenge from Watergrasshill in a tough encounter in Dungourney.

The opening half was low scoring as both defences held their respective forwards under close scrutiny. Watergrasshill settled quickly and two points from Marie O'Neill inside the opening four minutes gave them an early lead.

The lead was short-lived as Angela Walsh struck for a Killeagh goal. Killeagh added two points to their tally thanks to Claire Keohane before Marie O'Neill and Lydia Bracken pointed as Watergrasshill finished the half stronger to trail by a just a point 1-3 to 0-4 at the break.

The opening quarter of the second half was close, a Stephanie Beausang point stretched their lead before a goal from Gillian Cunningham put five points between the sides. The Watergrasshill defence was under pressure and two further Killeagh points from Angela and Claire Walsh gave them a mountain to climb. Marie O'Neill led the 'Hill revival when she pointed in the 17th minute but Noelle O'Donovan's finish to the net swung the pendulum back in Killeagh's favour.

Carmel Deane proved outstanding in the Killeagh last line of defence denying Watergrasshill with a double save to hold her line.

Marion Lynch narrowed the gap with a point before Marie O'Neill found a way past Deane when she sent a free to the Killeagh net.

Now just four points separated the sides but despite strong Watergrasshill pressure, Killeagh were not to be denied their place in the final as they held firm to advance after a good contest.

KILLEAGH: C Deane; C Walsh, C Meade, S Smiddy; A M Walsh, E O'Neill, K Kelleher; M Smiddy, L O'Connor; A Walsh C Keohane S Beausang; G Cunningham, S Harnedy, N O'Donovan. **Sub:** K Walsh for C Harnedy

WATERGRASSHILL: V O'Neill; E Bracken, S Moroney C O'Connell; M O'Keeffe, M Dorgan, L O'Reilly; M Buckley, L Cronin; A O'Connell, M O'Neill, L Bracken; E Murphy, M Lynch, S Foley. **Subs:** S Mc Enery for S Foley (25), B O'Regan for A O'Connell (45).

Ring's brace earns Dillon's a replay

Rockbán	**1-5**
Brian Dillon's	**2-2**

IT MAY have been a low scoring game, but this U16 C Championship final was an outstanding contest in which both sides gave it their all, ***writes MARY NEWMAN.***

At the finish two late goals gave Brian Dillon's a second bite of the cherry.

Both defences were outstanding as they came under severe pressure.

Rockbán's Muireann McSweeney and Colleen Foley were pivotal in defence with Donna Carroll and Jane Dooley likewise for Brian Dillon's.

Trailing 0-2 to no score, Rockbán were denied a goal when Brian Dillon's keeper Saoirse Rodgers saved well from Gemma Cahill but Rockbán got on the score board as Sinead Dilworth pointed a free.

Dilworth had the final say in a low-scoring first half as she pointed to level the scores at 0-2 each on the stroke of half-time and she opened the second half by pointing another free as her side took the lead for the first time.

Brian Dillon's, driven on by captain Susan Kate Brosnan, gave it their all as they worked hard to keep pace with Rockbán.

Colleen Foley struck the game's opening goal and Rockbán were in the driving seat with as they opened up a four-point advantage.

Rockbán stretched their lead to six through Dilworth and Colleen Foley with eight minutes left.

Dillon's battled hard to get back into the game and worked themselves to a standstill. They won two close-in frees with minutes remaining, both of which were saved and cleared.

But they continued to apply the pressure and it paid off with two goals from Michelle Ring, the second with virtually the last puck of the game to level it and ensure a replay after an enthralling contest. Credit to both sides for a splendid display.

ROCKBÁN: K Grace; A Furlong, M McSweeney, S Carey; E O'Mahony, C Foley M Brickley; C Coleman, L Ryan; A M O'Sullivan S Scanlon, G Cahill; S Brickley, S Dilworth, K Howard.
Subs: N Coleman for G Cahill, L O' Riordan for E O' Mahony.
BRIAN DILLON'S: S Rodgers; E Kelly, S Cotter, K O'Brien; E Burns, L Bradfield, S Attridge; SK Brosnan, J Dooley; D Carroll, C Dooley, M Ring; O Ni Shuilleabhain, R O' Mahony, N Gleeson.

Oct. 2007

Mary happy with underdogs' tag heading into final

By LINDA MELLERICK
Muskerry view

BALLINCOLLIG'S Mary Weste will be that bit more emotionally involved than most selectors when Muskerry take on the might of St Finbarr's in Sunday's *Evening Echo* Cork County Senior Camogie championship final.

Her daughter Leah lines out at left corner back and the 17 year-old, who celebrates her 18th birthday this weekend, hopes to have a double reason to celebrate.

It's been something of a fairytale journey for Muskerry.

As with the majority of divisional sides, it's difficult when predicting potential winners at the beginning of a season to know just how strong they will be or how far their campaign will run.

Eight months down the line we now know.

Muskerry are in the county final for the first time since 1974, when they lost out to Imokilly and they are most certainly there on merit.

Did they themselves believe they would find themselves in the position they are now?

Mary says no.

"It's just fabulous and totally unexpected," she said.

Reaching a senior county final is something that players such as Grenagh's Linda Dorgan and Ballincollig's Leah or Catriona McKenna never thought they would experience this year.

Mary feels that having divisional sides involved in the championship can only be good for camogie and the players involved.

"It's tremendous that players who may never play in a senior championship or reach a county final with their clubs have this opportunity.

"For the past number of years now, divisional sides have reached the final and that can only be good for camogie as it's bringing players on."

Carrigdhoun were the first in 2003, when they took the title in sensational style.

Imokilly were last year's defeated finalists and now it's the turn of Muskerry.

Mary has been involved with Ballincollig camogie club "since forever," she says.

They went through a lull for a period of time but are actively back on track for the past 10 years or so, and considered one of the county's strongest underage clubs.

Local school Colaiste Choilm, where Cork senior camogie coach Fiona O'Driscoll previously taught and where former Cork player Hilda O'Mahony (Kenneally) now teaches, has also become a strong force and with both school and club complimenting each other the talent is coming through.

Ballincollig, Eire Óg, Rockban and Grenagh form the backbone of the divisional side, and while they boost big names, their semi-final opponents Milford boasted even bigger ones, and Muskerry went in as underdogs.

Mary felt that her side showed exceptional determination in the second-half when the going got tough and that the victory was exhilarating.

"Milford were favourites I suppose, as they had some really big names.

"But we were very dogged in the second-half and I thought we showed great composure after they converted their penalty just after half time."

Indeed, Muskerry led by four points at the break, 1-6 to 0-5.

Within five minutes of the restart Milford had gone two points in front after scoring a blistering 1-3 without reply.

Most divisional sides would have cracked, but displaying a spirit more renowned for club sides in rural towns having played together from underage, Muskerry dug deep and a pulsating second-half saw them take the game by a single point.

Where did this spirit come from?

"Well, a lot of the girls would have played with each under when Muskerry won the U16 championship three years ago," Mary says.

"I suppose they know each other well and have built up friendships."

Unsurprisingly, training has proved difficult, making Muskerry's championship displays all the more commendable.

With so many club fixtures, it's a case of training when they can.

"We don't have any set training schedule, as it's difficult to plan ahead.

"We toyed originally with Wednesday and Friday nights, but that didn't always suit so we take each week as it comes, see what's on and plan from there."

How is Mary viewing the final?

Surely they go in as underdogs again?

"We haven't a hope," Mary laughingly states.

"No seriously, St Finbarr's must be favourites and they've Trish Doyle now as well.

"They've a very strong half-back line and have strong players all over the field.

"Having said that, we could have maybe beaten them 12 months ago in the semi-final in Caherlag.

"We were a point up and then hit two wides, which had we scored would have pushed us to three.

"They then went up and scored two and beat us by one."

Sile Burns has been Muskerry's top scorer by a mile all year.

Is that a worry for Muskerry?

With the Barrs' strong defence, Burns will be a marked women.

"Well, I suppose you could say the same about the Barrs," Mary asserts.

"Vivienne Harris is getting the majority of their scores.

"They've lost Collette O'Mahony as well."

Denise Cronin and Margaret and Ellen O'Herlihy are good strong forwards and should they hit form, then the Barrs would be unwise to put all their efforts into Burns.

It's all to play for and one which Mary is looking forward to.

"We're all up for it. I'd have to say that Catriona Foley is a great captain and fantastic for the younger players.

"Yes, we're underdogs but we'll give it our best shot and see where that takes us.

"We are quietly confident."

EVENING ECHO CORK COUNTY SENIOR CAMOGIE

Muskerry's self-belief will see them through final



Catriona Foley: The Muskerry captain may be moved to cover the threat posed by Vivienne Harris.

St Finbarr's won't give up title easily



LINDA MELLERICK

IT'S A county final not too many predicted at the beginning of 2007.

St Finbarr's may have been on the tip of supporters' tongues but not Muskerry and that's where we find ourselves after favourites Cloughduv and Milford bowed out at the semi-final stage.

From the outset, Muskerry's intentions were evident. With only divisional sides taking part in round one, they had a three-goal victory over Seandún.

Early indications were that senior inter-county players Catriona Foley and Síle Burns would play major roles in Muskerry's bid for victory that day and they have continued to be the backbone of the team throughout the championship.

While the Rockbán duo drive this Muskerry team forward, it would be wrong to attribute this side's remarkable progress to two players.

Éire Óg's Catriona McKenna, Siobhan Gleeson and Lorraine Murphy alongside Ballincollig's Leah Weste and Marie O'Donoghue have proved solid and dogged in a disciplined defence.

Grenagh and Cork senior B player Linda Dorgan and Éire Óg's Ciara McKenna provide a strong midfield and up front McKenna's team mates Erin Corkery, and Ellen and Margaret O'Herlihy won't be found wanting.

Ballincollig's Denise Cronin is strong and capable of picking off scores.

Moving on to round three Muskerry took another divisional scalp Carbery.

Ahead of the quarter final predications were that Muskerry would just pip Barryroe.

In fact, they demolished them by a whopping 11 points (2-5). Síle Burns plundered a massive 5-7 and goals were habit-forming. A poor Barryroe display made it difficult to determine

Paths to the final

MUSKERRY			ST FINBARR'S		
First round:	Muskerry	3-9	**Second round:**	St Finbarr's	2-8
Seandún		0-9	Aghabullogue		2-7
Third round:	Muskerry	2-14	**Quarter-final:**	St Finbarr's	3-08
Carbery		2-7	St Catherine's		0-8
Quarter-final:	Muskerry	5-11	**Semi-final**	St Finbarr's	2-9
Barryroe		3-6	Cloughduv		1-6.
Semi-final:	Muskerry	2-9	Milford		1-11

Oct. 2007

FINAL, ST FINBARR'S V MUSKERRY, PÁIRC UÍ RINN, NOON





St Finbarr's (top) who will take on Muskerry (above) in the Evening Echo Cork Co Senior Camogie Championship final on Sunday.

Barrs' quiet man Jerry praises girls' efforts

By MARY NEWMAN

St Finbarr's view

THE quiet man of St Finbarr's Camogie Club, senior team selector Jerry Murphy, is slow to hog the limelight in the lead-up to his club's big day on Sunday.

"It's all about the girls and their efforts," Jerry Murphy says.

"I am just one of the selectors and I am happy to be able to lend a hand and hopefully, help the club retain the title."

Murphy has been lending a hand to camogie in the Barr's since 1997 when, in his own words, club member Janice Duffy "caught him on the hop" and asked him to give a helping hand to the camogie club.

"To be honest, I was involved with the boy's street leagues training in the hall and one evening Janice asked me to help them out.

"Without giving it much thought I said yes and here we are nearly 11 years on and I am still here.

"I have enjoyed every minute of it and yes we have had our share of heartaches and adventures.

"These girls have learned the hard way and I suppose we had a lot of knocks along the way before taking our first senior title last year.

"We had a lot of hard lessons losing two senior B finals in-a-row, before taking that title in 2001.

"We then lost the senior final the following year to Cloughduv, but we stuck at it and last year the girls got their reward."

Down through the years Jerry has served with many selectors and he readily acknowledged all their efforts.

"Every selector starts out the year in January believing their team are potential winners.

"In the Barrs we have had wonderful selectors down through the years and I have learned something from every one of them."

Looking ahead to Sunday's final he is under no illusions as to the task facing his side.

"I saw Muskerry against Milford and I was very impressed.

"They are a strong side and it's always hard against a divisional team.

"There is a tradition that divisional sides when organised properly are strong.

"That goes for all codes, be it hurling, football or camogie. They can always pick the best player in any position and that is a huge thing for a club side to be up against.

"We will be up against it on Sunday, but we will give it our best shot."

Never one to get excited, he has a great family network of support from his wife Geraldine, who comes from a strong St Finbarr's background.

Her father Bawnie served the club for many a year, while his daughter, Lydia and son Kenneth are 100% behind his involvement.

As always he will patrol the side line and observe proceedings with a sharp eye, as will fellow selectors Ivan O'Mahony , Marian McCarthy, Claire Barry and physical trainer Bill O'Connell.

"We work as a team and get on very well together. We will take it as it comes and if we are good enough on the day we will hopefully get the right result.

"The girls have put in a huge effort and hopefully they will be rewarded.

"As I have said it is all about the players, not me or anyone else."

With Jerry Murphy and company in their backroom, Barrs have all the ingredients to make a successful defence of their title.

just how good Muskerry were and in truth they still weren't receiving the respect, in now turns out, they deserve.

All in all you have a well balanced team. Inexperience is the only factor they lack as a unit but you would never have thought this on their semi-final display.

Displaying with incredible spirit, Muskerry gave one of their best ever performances and hung on to win by the narrowest of margins in a nail-biting finish.

Most divisional sides would have hung their heads after taking a four point lead into the break and finding themselves two behind within five minutes of the re-start.

But manager Con Malone must have instilled a real self-belief into this team as they dug deep to pull on reserves no one thought they had.

While Muskerry were impressive in their semi-final they very nearly threw the game away with their consistent clearances to unmarked Milford players. It comes with inexperience as players panic when in possession and clear the ball aimlessly as they rush to get rid of it.

Outfield stars such as Gemma O'Connor will hover around the half forward line/centre field waiting for such breaks and will punish a team each time.

Linda Dorgan will have a crucial role at centre field. She is a talented player, good enough on her day to dominate the middle of the park. Her experience came to the fore in the latter stages of the semi-final when Muskerry needed her most. They need her for the entire hour on Sunday. Dorgan, Foley and Burns need to bring the younger members along in terms of confidence. But in terms of attitude, heart and hurling ability these players can stand on their own two feet.

St Finbarr's have an abundance of experience throughout the field. With inter-county players lining out at almost every line they most certainly go into the final as favourites.

Heading for back-to-back titles it is Muskerry who will find the build up to the final most daunting.

The Barrs first round victory over Aghabullogue did little to enhance their tag as favourites for this year's title. While they had a three-goal victory over St Catherine's they had yet to play one of the 'big guns'.

The real test came in the semi-final against Cloughduv and they answered the call.

Like Burns, Vivienne Harris is the key player up front for their respective teams. Both need only a moment of weakness by the opposition to display their strengths.

Lynda O'Connell and Jenny Duffy lead a strong defence. It will be interesting to see if O'Connell switches wings to mark Burns. The Barrs defence will close out the supply more effectively than Milford and scores will come at a premium.

Gemma O'Connor moves back regularly but will also drive forward and pick off vital scores. Both O'Connor and Ber Maher will cover huge ground.



St Finbarr's captain Maria McCarthy will be hoping to make it two in-a-row this year for the Southside club.

Former Bishopstown player Trish Doyle came on in the semi-final after 27 minutes wearing the blue colours for the first time and got a crucial goal. She has provided the selectors with options up front. She replaced Orla O'Sullivan who should start the final.

Harris is the main tormentor at full forward. Will Muskerry switch dynamic centre back Catriona Foley back to contain her? Harris isn't the only forward capable of scoring for St Finbarr's

The Barrs have to go in as favourites, but if Muskerry believe they can win their first county title in 74 years and this belief transforms itself onto the field of play, then don't be surprised if there's an upset.

Verdict: Muskerry.

OCT. 2007

Muskerry on brink of glory

CAMOGIE FINAL PREVIEW

by Peter Ledwith

MUSKERRY go into Sunday's Cork Senior Camogie final at Páirc Uí Rinn confident that this is their year. Opponents St Finbarr's are defending champions and firm favourites – but the divisional side are relishing the challenge.

The Muskerry team, which is made up of players from Ballincollig, Eire Óg, Grenagh and Rockbán have shown impressive form on the way to Sunday's showdown.

Comprehensive victories over Seandun, Carbery and Barryroe, was followed by a nail biting semi final win over Milford.

Along the way the Muskerry girls have gelled into a formidable outfit, whose team spirit matches that of any club side. The team is captained by Rockbán's Catriona Foley and includes fellow inter county star and club mate Síle Burns.

Cork senior B player Linda Dorgan from Grenagh lines out at midfield - while Leah Weste, Denise Cronin, Siobhan Gleeson, Erin Corkery and Sarah Coleman all figured in the rebel's minor team, which contested the recent All Ireland Minor decider.

Muskerry's main scoring threat is likely to come from the prolific Síle Burns – but she has a willing accomplice in Eire Óg's Ellen O'Herlihy, and Erin Corkery and Denise Cronin can be relied on to put on a score or two.

In defence Catriona Foley is a tower of strength and she is ably backed by the Eire Óg duo of Catriona McKenna and Lorraine Murphy as well as Ballincollig 'keeper Tina O'Donnell.

However, the Muskerry girls will need to be at the top of their game if they are to contain the multi talented St Finbarr's team led by Cork captain Gemma O'Connor.

The Barr's attack includes the free scoring Vivienne Harris whose contribution of 1-6 in the semi final win over Cloughduv proved to be the difference between the teams.

The champions also have a solid defence and are strong in the middle of the park.

It all adds up to a mouth-watering encounter. The odds may favour the St. Finbarr's but passion and hunger could give Muskerry their first county title since 1933.

*Throw In for Sunday's final at Páirc Uí Rinn is at noon.

How Muskerry reached the final:
Muskerry 3-9 Seandun 0-9
Muskerry 2-14 Carbery 2-7
Muskerry 5-11 Barryroe 3-6
Muskerry 2-9 Milford 1-11

MUSKERRY PANEL: Tina O'Driscoll (Ballincollig), Catriona McKenna (Eire Óg), Siobhan Gleeson (Eire Óg), Leah West (Ballincollig), Lorraine Murphy (Eire Óg), Catriona Foley (Rockbán) (cap), Maria O'Donoghue (Ballincollig, Linda Dorgan Grenagh, Ciara McKenna (Eire Óg),Ellen O'Herlihy (Eire Óg), Síle Burns (Rockbán) Margaret O'Herlihy (Eire Óg), Erin Corkery (Eire Óg). Denise Cronin (Ballincollig), Alanna McKenna (Eire Óg). Sarah Coleman (Rockbán), Ella Kelleher (Eire Óg), Aoife McCarthy (Eire Óg), Clionadh McCarthy (Eire Óg), Ashley Lovett (Ballincollig), Edel Kiely (Ballincollig), Aisling Duff (Ballincollig) Claire Ryan (Ballincollig), Catherine O'Leary (Eire Óg), Katie McCarthy (Eire Óg), Katie O'Donoghue (Ballincollig).

Barrs hope to keep title in the family



SISTER ACT: Eight of the Barrs team that face Muskerry on Sunday in the Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship final are sisters. STANDING (left to right): Catriona Myers, Linda O'Connell, Valerie Maher and Colette Kirby. SITTING (left to right): Rachel Myers, Susan O'Connell, Ber Maher and Claire Kirby. See Pages 32-33 for more.

County final thriller in store

COUNTY champions St Finbarrs put their title on the line on Sunday next when they face the challenge of Muskerry in this season's Evening Echo Senior camogie championship decider.

It's the second year in a row that a divisional team will participate in Cork camogie's biggest day. Last year Barrs took their first title defeating Imokilly in a thrilling contest, now they face what will be a stiff challenge with Muskerry providing the opposition.

Barr's are going all out to make it back-to-back titles, while Muskerry took the honours way back in 1933. Previous to this year they contested the finals in 1973 and 74, but failed on both occasions to Imokilly.

Favourites Milford lost out to a determined Muskerry side in an exciting semi-final In a contest where the lead changed hands on a number of occasions as Muskerry, with Linda Dorgan Catriona Foley and Sile Burns leading the way, turned in splendid performances and were full value for their victory. The Barrs had too much strength for Cloughduv in their semi-final. Cloughduv made all the early running against the champions in the opening 30 minutes, but a goal by substitute Trisha Doyle helped get them on level and from here to the full-time whistle, with Vivienne Harris leading the way, they ran out winners with six points to spare.



Barrs and Muskerry captains, Maria McCarthy and Catriona Foley respectively, go head-to-head in Sunday's Evening Echo Senior Camogie County Final.

Muskerry are determined to reverse that result and reach their first final in 33 years. Barrs have strengthened their panel. Trish Doyle, who recently joined the club, proving an invaluable acquisition, striking for the goal that brought them back into the contest against Cloughduv.

Both sides have talented performers, none more so than Cork senior captain Gemma O'Connor, Lynda O'Connell, Claire and Colette Kirby and Ber Maher of the club side Catriona and Alanna McKenna Leah Weste and Cork inter county players Sile Burns Catriona Foley and Lynda Dorgan are bi players for th divisional side.

It's late in th season bu weather condi tions to dat have been extremely favourable.

Despite the lateness of the year expect a close encounter as the champions battle to hold their crown and Muskerry battle to become the first divisional side since Carrigdhoun in 2004 to lift the title.

Cork senior Catriona Foley from Rockban captains the Muskerry side, while Maria McCarthy will lead the Blues in their quest for back-to-back titles, with a venue and time to be announced.

Muskerry look to continue dream season

by Therese O'Callaghan

ULTIMATELY the winning and losing of tomorrow's Evening Echo Cork county senior camogie final rests with the players, but St Finbarr's might do well to pay particular heed to their opposition Muskerry, because any team Con Malone has connections with rarely comes up short.

Malone — a name synonymous with Éire Óg — got involved with their camogie side in 1972, and every team he has coached has won from U12 to adult level.

Muskerry are enjoying a whirlwind season and divisional secretary Rose Malone says while other years their form may have been unpredictable, this year things couldn't be going better.

"The girls are playing a great brand of camogie. They are the best of friends and are very unified. It is sort of a dream come through for Muskerry to be in the final. We last won a county in 1933 and partook in 1973 and 1974. We know it will be difficult to dethrone the Barrs, but the girls have shown great heart and are a very determined bunch."



St Finbarr's captain Maria McCarthy and Muskerry's Alanna McKenna: Cork county camogie final rivals.

Clubs from Éire Óg, Ballincollig, Rockbán and Grenagh form the nucleus of the side — with the McKenna family from Éire Óg having a bigger say than most. Twins Catriona and Ciara play in the back line while Alanna should spearhead attack.

Former stalwart Rosie Hennessy's niece Maria O'Donoghue will be part of the Ballincollig representation, along with Claire Ryan whose uncle is Tomás Mulcahy.

With no back door option for divisional teams, Muskerry enjoyed some very good wins — particularly against Seandún, Barryroe and Milford in the semi-final.

Catriona Foley is captain, and along with Síle Burns, Denise Cronin, Leah Weste and Linda Dorgan, they will be hoping to bridge the 74-year gap.

Meanwhile, St Finbarr's have plenty talent at their disposal too.

Look no further than captain Maria McCarthy whose father Jerry also won senior football honours with the club.

Cork senior captain Gemma O'Connor, Cork senior B skipper Lynda O'Connell, Colette and Claire Kirby, Vivienne Harris and Ber Maher are just some other components of a formidable outfit.

And with Ivan O'Mahony taking over at the helm from Gerald McCarthy, along with Jerry Murphy, Claire Barry and Marion McCarthy, there is certain to be no stone left unturned.

Marion McCarthy, who is also chairperson of the Cork County Board, says to achieve back-to-back titles, would be immense.

She said: "Firstly, it is great to be back in the county final. A lot of people would have fancied Cloughduv, but we overcame them in the semi-final. It was tremendous to win our first final last year, but if we were to put two together it would be huge.

"Ivan (O'Mahony) came on board when Gerald (McCarthy) took over the Cork senior hurlers this year. And together with Jerry Murphy they form an impressive team and have worked very hard to get the girls ready for tomorrow."

Evening Echo

Senior Camogie Championship

Nov. 2007

Muskerry

v

St. Finbarr's

Sunday 4th November, 2007 at 12.00 noon
in Páirc Uí Rinn. €2

Muskerry



1. Tina O'Donnell (Ballincollig)
2. Catriona McKenna (Eire Og)
3. Siobhan Gleeson (Eire Og)
4. Leah Weste (Ballincollig)
5. Lorraine Murphy (Eire Og)
6. Cathriona Foley(Capt) (Rockbawn)
7. Maria O'Donoghue (Ballincollig)
8. Linda Dorgan (Grenagh)
9. Ciara McKenna (Eire Og)
10. Ellen O'Herligh (Eire Og)
11. Sile Burns (Rockbawn)
12. Margaret O'Herlihy (Eire Og)
13. Erin Corkery (Eire Og)
14. Denise Cronin (Ballincollig)
15. Alanna McKenna (Eire Og)
16. Marie Gleeson (Eire Og)
17. Sarah Coleman (Rockbawn)
18. Ella Kelleher (Eire Og)
19. Ashley Lovett (Ballincollig)
20. Aoife McCarthy (Eire Og)
21. Clionadh McCarthy (Eire Og)
22. Adele Kiely (Ballincollig)
23. Claire Ryan (Ballincollig)
24. Catharina O'Leary (Eire Og)
25. Katie McCarthy (Eire Og)
26. Kate O'Donoghue (Ballincollig)
27. Aisling Duff (Ballincollig)



Cathriona Foley (Capt)

Coach/Selector - Con Malone
Selector - Mary Weste, Dan Joe Foley

St. Finbarr's



1. Ellen Clifford
2. Clare Harrington
3. Colette Kirby
4. Maria McCarthy (Capt)
5. Lynda O'Connell (Capt)
6. Jenny Duffy
7. Clare Kirby
8. Gemma O'Connor
9. Bernadine Maher
10. Rachel Myers
11. Catherine Barrett
12. Ellen Crowley
13. Valerie Maher
14. Vivienne Harris
15. Orla O'Sullivan
16. Barbara Ann Corcoran
17. Susan O'Connell
18. Ciara Sargent
19. Valerie Hosford
20. Caitriona Myers
21. Niamh Cooke
22. Mary Collins
23. Aoife McCarthy
24. Susan Kennefick
25. Trish Doyle
26. Natasha Varian
27. Clare Spellman



Maria McCarthy (Capt)

Coach/Selector - Jerry Murphy
Selectors - Ivan O'Mahony, Claire Barry, Marian McCarthy

Nov. 2007

Focussed Maria will be so proud if she lifts crown

SHE is Barrs to the core and a true blue, therefore it's hardly surprising that the honour of leading the club to possibly their second Cork senior title is something defender Maria McCarthy is hugely focused on, ***writes MARY NEWMAN.***

"I am very proud to be captain of the Barrs and to be honest, if we win on Sunday I will be the proudest player on the field, I was totally shocked when I was asked to be captain this year."

The Barrs tradition is flowing through every vein in her body. Born and raised in the shadows of Neenan Park in Togher, Maria was brought up on a diet of Barrs' games. Her uncle Denis better known in Maria's words as "Barrelo", and her dad Jerry both gave years of loyal service to the club.

With dad Jerry the holder of senior hurling and football county championship medals as well as U21 and minor honours, it no surprise that Maria is following in his footsteps.

"From as far back as I can remember, we always had a hurley in our hands. We were always out on the green in front of our house hurling, and it came as second nature to go down and join the camogie club in the Barrs.

"My brother Paul played minor hurling and football and won a Féile medal with the club. My sisters played for a bit, but I was the only one to stick it out."

It has been a long haul since primary school days in Togher girls' school, where the school team lost out in many a Sciath na Scol final. Undeterred, Maria kept going and eventually success came when she led the club to the county U16 B league title 12 years ago. Among her team mates were Bernadine Maher and Barbara Ann Corcoran, who are now on the current senior panel.

"To be honest, we didn't win much at underage level. I am on the senior panel since I was 16 and we kept going and in 2001 we won the senior B championship. Since then we have worked hard and last year was a dream come true to finally reach the top.

"Several of us had been there for years trying, when Vivienne Harris joined us she brought a huge amount of experience with her.

"I suppose for years we were trying to win a county title and now everybody wants to beat us. It will be tough against Muskerry, they had a good win over Milford and last year it was a close game when we met, but we are determined to hold onto our title."

Looking back on their campaign to date, the Barrs captain feels her side have improved as the year progresses

"Against Aghabullogue we were lucky to win but it was our first game and we knew it would be hard, again St Catherine's were tough and in the semi final we had a bit of luck and our second-half fighting spirit saw us pull away to win. We are well up for the challenge on Sunday"

Employed as a legal secretary with Fitzgerald's on Lapps Quay, Maria has huge praise for the mentors in the club and she is leading by example by helping out at underage level herself.

"There is a huge amount of work going on to keep camogie to the fore. When I started playing underage, people such as Marion McCarthy, Marie Antoinette Santry and Joan Doolan were doing great work and they are still putting in the hours.

"This year I am helping out with the U12 team with Ellen Clifford and Ger O'Connor and, to be honest, it is the least I can do to put something back into the club where I have got so much."

A win on Sunday would round off the season nicely for Maria: "If we win it would mean everything to me personally and my family."

She has huge support from an extended family, which includes her partner Stephen Browne, who is a Dub through and through.

The leader of the Barrs has huge words of praise for Jerry Murphy, who stuck with the camogie team through thick and thin.

"Jerry has given huge commitment to camogie in the club and he always had faith in us, we owe him a huge debt of gratitude. This year Ivan O'Mahony has come on board and he has been a great help also."

While Maria may be nervous on Sunday, one cannot but sense the love of her club that comes shining through so strong. No doubt the Muskerry forwards will need to be in top form to get past one of St Finbarr's most dedicated on Sunday next.

Clubs bid for



St Finbarr's defence has been well marshalled by Lynda O'Connell. It's an area where Muskerry need to dominate if they are to land the title.

Muskerry bid to end long wait while Barrs bid for two in-a-row

By MARY NEWMAN

Senior camogie final

SUNDAY
Evening Echo Cork Co Senior Camogie final
St Finbarr's v Muskerry
Páirc Uí Rinn, noon.

FOR the second year in-a-row, a divisional team has made it to the county final and again it is city versus county as champions St Finbarr's face the challenge of Muskerry.

Both sides have one title each to their credit. The Barrs are striving to make it back-to-back titles while Muskerry's one and only success came way back in 1933. They also contested the finals in 1973 and 74, but failed on both occasions to Imokilly.

From early in the season, predictions were that Milford would do the business, but they fell by the wayside to a determined Muskerry team.

St Finbarr's, having engraved their name on the county's most prestigious trophy last year, have grown in stature.

In their semi-final meeting with Cloughduv, when the need was greatest, they rose to the occasion.

The sheer determination of their team shone through, they were focused and knew the job they had to do.

With Jerry Murphy and Ivan O'Mahony taking over the coaching duties this season from Gerald McCarthy, they are well prepared and determined to retain their crown.

They got their campaign off to the best possible start, defeating Aghabullogue in the opening round before overcoming St Catherine's to book their semi-final spot.

Against Cloughduv they turned in a superb hour to confidently continue their march to the decider. All over the field they possess strength.

Their defence is marshalled superbly by Lynda O'Connell and she has plenty of support from team captain Maria McCarthy, Claire Harrington and Colette Kirby.

At midfield, Cork senior captain Gemma O'Connor ran the show last day out, coming forward in attack and dropping back in a sweeping role late in the contest to help her under-pressure defence.

Last season, the Barrs got their stiffest test at the semi-final stage when they accounted for a strong Muskerry side who led for a lot of the game, forcing the Barrs to come from behind to book their place in the final.

In recent years the champions have built up a strong panel and they were boosted for their semi-final clash with Cloughduv by the availability of former Bishopstown senior player Trisha Doyle.

It was Doyle's goal within five minutes of being introduced as a substitute that helped turn the game in the champions' favour. It remains to be seen if she will be handed a place

Camogie fixtures

TODAY

Junior B League semi-final: Buttevant v Brian Dillon's, 3pm, Buttevant.

TOMORROW

Evening Echo County Senior Championship final: St Finbarr's v Muskerry, Páirc Uí Rinn, 12 noon.

U16 B Championship final: Killeagh v Carrigaline, Rathcormac 1pm.

U16 A League semi-final: Douglas v Ballincollig, Douglas, 10.30pm.

U16 D League semi-final: St Vincent's v Youghal, St Vincent's, 12 noon.

second title



Síle Burns, right, was one of the stars of Muskerry's win over Milford in the county semi-final. The divisional side will be looking to her again for inspiration tomorrow. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

in the starting 15 or if the Barrs decide to hold her in reserve.

Muskerry are a strong side, backboned by players from senior B clubs Éire Óg and Rockbán, while junior clubs Ballincollig and Grenagh provide plenty of experienced players to the side.

Captain Catriona Foley and Síle Burns are Cork senior players, while Leah Weste, Lynda Dorgan and Denise Cronin are players capable of holding their own with the best, and all have worn the county colours this season. They will provide stiff opposition to St Finbarrs' aspirations of retaining their crown.

Both sides have the potential to win the title, as both have a good blend of youth and experience.

Seasoned players such as the Kirby twins, Claire and Colette, Ellen Clifford, Vivienne Harris and Rachel Myers have been to the fore for St Finbarr's, while Ellen O'Herlihy, Alanna McKenna, Tina O'Donnell, Leah Weste, Erin Corkery and Lorraine Murphy have done likewise for Muskerry.

The Barrs have performed well and have come through with flying colours, especially coming out of close corners against Aghabullogue and Cloughduv in previous rounds.

Muskerry have also looked very impressive to date, dealing with the challenge posed by Milford in a thrilling semi-final, where just one point separated the sides at the full-time whistle and having come so close last season, losing out narrowly to St Finbarr's, they will have little fear.

They are one of the county's best-organised divisional teams and they are backboned by players who would grace any club senior sides with distinction.

Since last year's semi-final defeat they have continued to worked hard to maintain their closeness and they have succeeded in blending well as a team.

Victories over Seandún, Carbery and Barryroe gave them the confidence to face the challenge posed by Milford and they stood up and were counted when the need arose.

Síle Burns, Ellen O'Herlihy, Linda Dorgan and Erin Corkery will pose a threat up front to the Barrs' aspirations, as they have been hugely influential through the campaign for the divisional side to date.

Their ability to notch up the scores has been one very noticeable aspect in all of their games.

In their opening round clash against Seandun they recorded a 3-9 to 0-9 victory, before notching up 2-14 against Carbery. They went on to defeat Barryroe in their quarter-final outing, scoring an impressive 5-11 to 3-6 victory, before hitting Milford with 2-9.

Síle Burns operates effectively in their forward line, she helped herself to 1-5 against Milford and the Barrs' defence will need to keep a close eye on her.

In defence, captain Catriona Foley is the dominant force and she commands a strong backline where Catriona McKenna, Siobhán Gleeson and Leah Weste will need to be at their best to contain the Barrs attack, led by the impressive Vivienne Harris, who has been their leading scorer to date. If Muskerry can succeed in closing her down then the Barrs could be in trouble.

County finals are hard to call and this one is no exception. Since last year Muskerry have steadily improved, but the champions won't give up the crown without a fight. The Barrs look to be slightly better balanced and a lot may depend on the big names and how they perform.

It will be ever so close and a point either way could decide the destination of the title, but a tentative vote goes to St Finbarr's.

Big match for Barrs' bride to be Rachel

WITH eight weeks to go to her New Year's Eve wedding day, bride-to-be Rachel Myers has another pressing engagement tomorrow as she bids to win her second county senior camogie championship when the Barrs face Muskerry, ***writes MARY NEWMAN***.

"Right now, even though I will be killed for saying it, the county final is priority number one and when that's over I will think about the wedding," she says.

Hardly surprising that tomorrow is top priority at the moment when one considers the sporting backgrounds of Rachel and husband-to-be, Fionán Murray, another Barrs stalwart. The daughter former Cork Celtic star Gerry Myers, she is looking ahead to lining out in her third senior county final.

"Last year was a dream come true. For many years we battled to win the senior B. When we finally did in 2001, we gained promotion and reached the final in our first year, only to lose to Cloughduv by a point.

"We hung in there and worked away and eventually the win finally came and it was great for us."

The Barrs had a shaky this year and narrowly avoided a backdoor route when beating Aghabullogue by a point in the first round.

"We didn't play well at all, but to be fair to Aghabullogue they turned in a great performance. That was the wake-up call we needed.

"After last year's win, I suppose, we celebrated until March or April and then it was back training and it was hard get stuck in. Last year Gerald McCarthy was a huge influence and he was a great help again this year.

"Jerry Murphy is doing great work and when Ivan O'Mahony fell in and joined Jerry, Marion McCarthy and Claire Barry, we settled down and set about retaining our title.

Three points separated Muskerry and the Barrs when they met in last year's semi and Rachel is aware of the challenge they will pose.

"They are a strong team. Last year it took a huge effort from us to beat them. I think we underestimated them and nearly paid the price. We could easily have been beaten.

"I know several of the girls from playing on the Cork 1B team and they have excellent players in Lynda Dorgan, Leah Weste, Denise Cronin and Ellen O'Herlihy and they had a good win over Milford," she says.

Mention Milford and their failure to reach the final prompted a determined Myers to issue a word of caution to Sunday's opponents.

"All year the word around was that Milford were the team to beat and to be honest I think a lot of people didn't expect us to reach another final. I know an awful lot of people said we were lucky and that it was a one-off, but we are determined to prove them wrong."

Lining out with the Barrs since underage days, Rachel started playing camogie alongside Lynda O'Connell and Bernadine Maher and the three are still soldering on.

"We made the senior panel when we were 15 and have been playing together ever since. I suppose the three of us and the Kirby twins, Colette and Claire, and Maria McCarthy are the longest serving on the panel."

Rachel was delighted to welcome back Claire Kirby to the panel following the birth of a baby son in April.

"It' great to see Claire returning and playing so well, she is hugely experienced and a huge asset.

It's also a relief to Rachel to no longer hold the title of being the only mammy on the team. "Yes the banter is great and the girls used to give me a bit of a ribbing calling me the mammy, but now I have some company."

Rachel's son, eight-year old Killian, is already following in the footsteps of his parents, lining out with the Barrs.

"He looks forward to Saturday mornings in the Barrs though he's more into football than hurling."

The disappointment of losing out in the senior division 1B national league and All-Ireland final replay this year to Limerick is something that still hurts.

"We had it won the first day and we never got going in the replay, it was so disappointing to lose."

Now living in Carrigaline, where she is employed as a receptionist in the Carrigaline Court Leisure Centre, the Togher native has huge family support.

She is joined on the Barrs' panel by younger sister Catriona, while sister Sarah and brother Lloyd are a huge support to Rachel, as are parents Gerry and Annette.

Tomorrow, she hopes to make the trek up the steps to collect her second senior county medal before getting down to the work of planning another big day in 2007.

Nov. 2007

Cashel too strong for Rossa in semi-final

By Seamus McAleenan

A SCORING blitz in the opening 10 minutes ended Rossa's challenge for All-Ireland honours in Pairc Esler on Saturday afternoon as they went down 2-13 to 1-3 to Cashel in the senior semi-final.

The Tipperary and Munster champions had three points on the board after just two minutes. Although Mairiosa McGourty replied with Rossa's opener from that third puck-out, Cashel resumed the scoring and had posted seven points before Claire Grogan grabbed the opening goal on 10 minutes.

Those 10 minutes proved devastating for the Ulster champions. But they did settle down for the rest of the half and tried to play their way back into the game only for Claire Grogan to find the net once more in the 21st minute.

Jane Adams, already scorer of two points, broke through for a 25th minute goal, but Grogan finished the first half scoring with her fourth point for a 2-10 to 1-3 interval lead.

Both defences really got on top for the second half and restricted the scoring substantially.

Rossa narrowed the gap slightly with substitute Mairead Rainey scoring a goal in the 42nd minute, but they never looked like eating into the lead and the Grogan sisters and Alison Lonergan saw Cashel through to the decider.

The weekend after next they will renew their rivalry with Athenry after minor Jessica Gill ended St Lachtain's three-year reign as All-Ireland champions on a 3-11 to 3-6 scoreline in Ballinasloe.

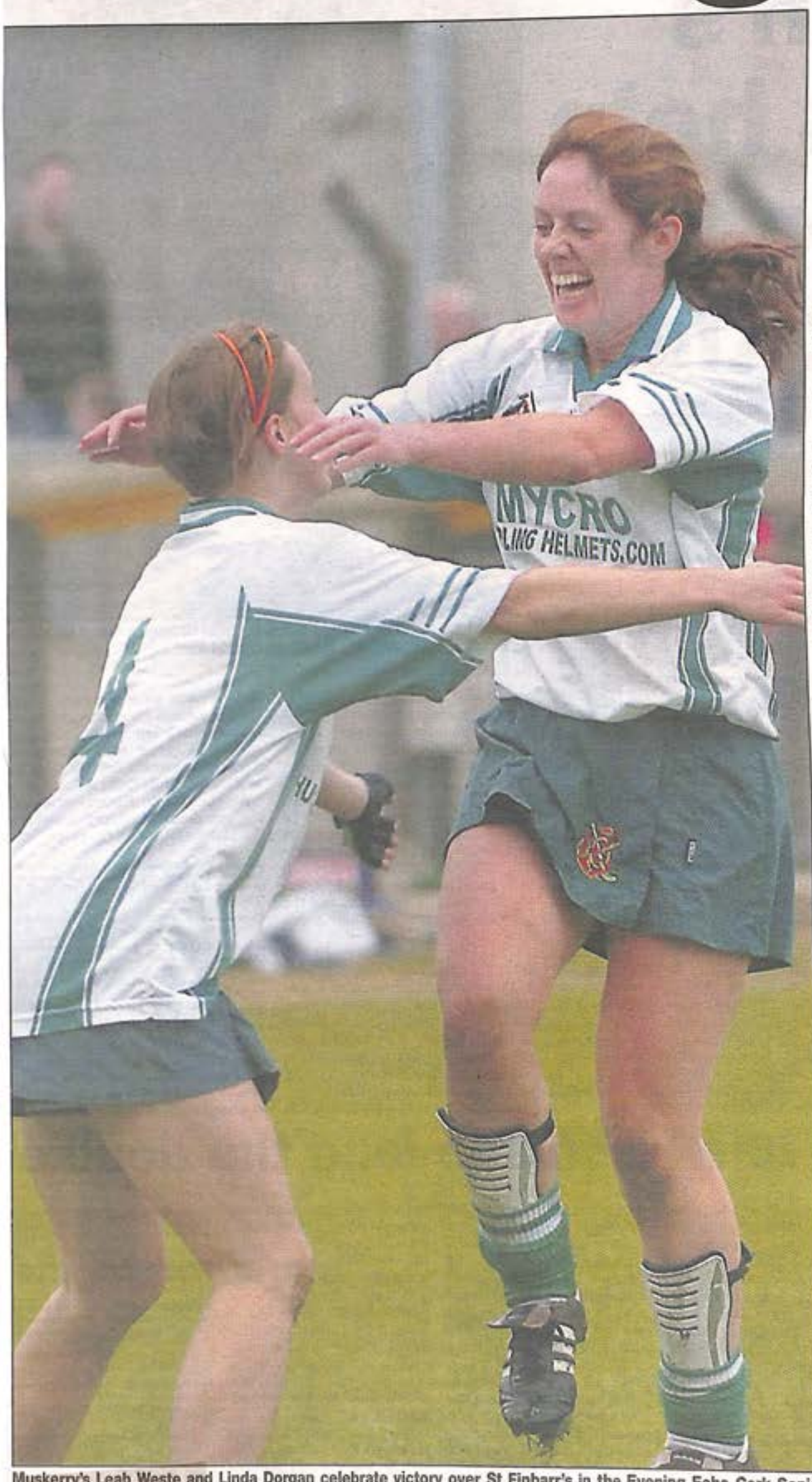
The Connacht side were the hungrier and Gill made a vital contribution with 2-6. Athenry hit the front with two goals in the closing stages of the opening half from Sharon Quirke and Jessica Gill giving them a 2-6 to 0-4 interval advantage.

St Lachtain's cut the deficit on the restart thanks to a Marie O'Connor goal in the 41st minute but this was quickly cancelled out by a spectacular effort from Gill.

Two goals from Ann Dalton, the second in injury time, cut the deficit to three points but Jessica Gill settled her side's nerves with two very late points.

Cashel scorers: C Grogan (2-5, 0-1 free), L Grogan (0-3), C Hennessy (0-2, 0-1 free), P Fogarty, A Lonergan, J Horan (0-1).
Rossa scorers: J Adams (1-2), M Rainey 1-0, M McGourty (0-1).
Athenry scorers: J Gill (2-6, 0-2 frees, 0-1 sideline), L Linnane (0-3, 0-2 frees), S Quirke (1-0), N Coen (0-2).
St Lachtain's scorers: A Dalton (2-0), I Kennedy (0-5 frees), M O'Connor (1-1).

The mighty



Muskerry's Leah Weste and Linda Dorgan celebrate victory over St Finbarr's in the Evening Echo Cork Senior Camogie Championship final at Páirc Ui Rinn yesterday.
Picture: Larry Cummins

Division hold on for historic win



LINDA MELLERICK

Muskerry	0-8
St Finbarr's	0-5

CORK has new county camogie champions!

For the first time in 74 years Muskerry have been crowned kingpins on Leeside after they dethroned holders St Finbarr's in Páirc Ui Rinn yesterday afternoon.

In a game which failed to reach the heights of previous finals, the dying minutes were nevertheless tension filled as the Barrs sought that elusive goal which would have given them another bite at the cherry. They'd have gladly settled for a draw but Muskerry weren't having it and a defence which can be very proud of their performance held out amidst joyous scenes.

The talk before the game was the threat posed by Sile Burns and Vivienne Harris in their respective forward lines. But on a day when both players were well marshalled it fell to less experienced players to answer the call.

Step up Margaret O'Herlihy who delivered three excellent points for Muskerry at critical stages of the game.

It was for the most part scrappy, with little fluency. While this is to be more or less expected in the early stages of a county final, the game failed to open up.

Muskerry received a blow after just a minute when Siobhán Gleeson looked to be in trouble after going over on her ankle. She had coped well with the first ball hit in between her and Harris.

While resuming play, she lasted only another five minutes before eventually being replaced with Ella Kelleher. Catriona McKenna moved into full-back to pick up Vivienne. Lorraine Murphy stepped back into the corner. Maria O'Donoghue switched wings and Kelleher slotted into left half-back.

Four moves to fill one position but it worked.

Once again the tenacity of the Muskerry defence came to the fore. Linda Dorgan played deep and alongside Catriona Foley mopped up a lot of ball.

With Gemma O'Connor doing trojan work the Barrs were getting a plentiful supply and midway through the half the possession stats were tipped in their favour. But each time the Barrs were closed down inside and were either dispossessed or fired wide under immense pressure.

At this point their full-forward line was making little or no head-

Nov. 2007

Muskerry



Leah Weste (Ballincollig) with her mum Mary Weste, selector; sister Louise (left) and (right) cousin Sarah Buckley celebrate Muskerry's victory over St Finbarr's in the Evening Echo Cork Senior Camogie Championship final at Páirc Uí Rinn on Sunday

Picture: Larry Cummins

THREE REASONS MUSKERRY WON

1 DEFENCE

THE Muskerry defence has been excellent throughout this championship. Catriona McKenna, Ciara McKenna, Leah Weste, Lorraine Murphy and Siobhán Gleeson, (albeit injured yesterday) have grown in stature. Ella Kelleher was an able substitute. Alongside Catriona Foley they repeatedly denied the Barrs.

2 INSIDE FORWARDS

MUSKERRY had the better inside forwards. St Finbarr's full back line was instrumental in their success last year. Margaret O'Herlihy made point scoring look effortless. Ellen O'Herlihy and Síle Burns also managed to prise their way through and score crucial points, something the Barrs weren't able to do at the other end.

3 DENISE CRONIN

SHE wore her heart on her sleeve yesterday in what was probably one of her best every displays. She stood head and shoulders above the others around the middle of the park, despite lining out at centre-forward.

Her work-rate was highly commendable and she was a very serious contender for player of the match.

TOP PLAYER

THERE were three major contenders.

Denise Cronin, magnificent throughout, broke up so many Barrs' attacks, scored a point and set up another.

Catriona Foley turned in another mature display, reading the game well and producing superb long clearances under pressure.

However, after much consideration the accolade goes to Margaret O'Herlihy. Her three points were out of the top drawer at crucial stages.

TURNING POINT

THERE was no score which effectively sealed this game but Gemma O'Connor's 21-yard free, with seven minutes left, had a big bearing on the outcome.

The Barrs' ace went for goal, but failed to connect properly and the miss gave Muskerry a huge physiological boost right through to the finish.

TOP SCORE

DENISE CRONIN won possession in defence, broke out and delivered a long high clearance.

O'Herlihy made a superb catch, turned and struck sweetly to give Muskerry a four point advantage — the biggest lead they held throughout the game.

REF WATCH

NOT a great performance by Ken Healy. He punished Muskerry harshly on occasions, yet failed to penalise St Finbarr's for similar sins.

Had Muskerry lost this county final they would have felt hard done by.

way.

After nine minutes Muskerry led by 0-2 to 0-0, Burn's hitting both a free and a beauty from play.

Harris hit a free on 15 after the Barrs had first struck a succession of wides. Ellen O'Herlihy and Harris (free) swapped points.

Síle Burns had a chance of a goal at one end and with the speed of the game increasing substitute Trish Doyle, who had only ran onto the field had a similar chance moments later but it ran wide.

As the clock ticked towards half-time the ball fell three times to corner forward Margaret O'Herlihy. She struck two magnificent points, with seemingly minimum effort though the third sailed wide. The new danger woman, she had given Muskerry a two point lead entering the break; 0-5 to 0-3.

A goal would have determined this low scoring game for either side but it never came.

The Barrs upped their performance. Once again they came across a dogged Muskerry defence. Leah Weste in the corner was playing well as was McKenna and eventually the Barrs mentors took Harris out of full-forward and placed her at right half in an effort to utilise her ability.

Certainly it caused problems for Muskerry as Harris got stuck in almost immediately.

Denise Cronin was absolutely magnificent for Muskerry, particularly during this period, dropping deep from the half-forward line, breaking up numerous attacks and launching her own.

Síle Burns pushed the gap to three with a well-taken free. Harris replied after referee Ken Healy had harshly penalised Muskerry for a foul on Gemma O'Connor.

Muskerry mistakenly cleared out to Harris' wing on a couple of occasions and it could have proved costly. She passed well to Rachel Myers who hit wide bringing the Barrs' wides tally to eight.

Denise Cronin then hit a good point. A great move involving Cronin again saw her long ball caught by O'Herlihy who struck sweetly for her third point, a crucial one as Muskerry now enjoyed a four point advantage.

The Barrs threw everything they had at the game. As they attacked furiously with seven minutes remaining Foley picked the ball directly off the ground and St Finbarr's were awarded a 21-yard free.

Up stepped O'Connor. She had to go for goal. You'd have put your money on her converting even though Muskerry had the goal mouth packed to capacity. She failed to strike however and in the resultant melee Muskerry frantically cleared.

One sensed victory for the divisional side.

Linda Dorgan did great work in the second half. Denise Cronin was magnificent and Catriona Foley lorded it once more with her intelligent play and long clearances.

The Barrs hit their only score from play through O'Connor with four minutes remaining and they will be the first to admit that just isn't good enough.

The dying minutes was nail biting but Muskerry deservedly held on to win in what must surely be their greatest moment in history.

Scorers for Muskerry: M O'Herlihy, S Burns (0-2f) 0-3 each, D Cronin, E O'Herlihy 0-1 each.

St Finbarr's: V Harris 0-4 f, G O'Connor 0-1.

MUSKERRY: T O'Connell; C McKenna, S Gleeson, L Weste; L Murphy, C Foley (c), C McKenna; L Dorgan, M O'Donoghue; E O'Herlihy, D Cronin, M O'Herlihy; S Burns, E Corkery, A McKenna.

Subs: E Kelleher for S Gleeson (inj 6), V Mulcahy for E Corkery (40).

ST FINBARR'S: E Clifford; C Harrington, Colette Kirby, M McCarthy (c); L O'Connell, J Duffy, Clare Kirby; G O'Connor, B Maher, R Myers, C Barrett, E Crowley; V Maher, V Harris, O O'Sullivan.

Subs: T Doyle for V Maher (27), C Spellman for C Barrett (h-t), C Sargent for E Crowley (53).

Referee: Ken Healy (Sliabh Rua/Ballymartle).

Controlled Keady set up junior final repeat

By Seamus McAleenan

THERE will be repeat of last year's All-Ireland club junior final the weekend after next with both champions Harps of Laois and Keady making it through their respective semi-finals on Saturday.

Keady beat Clare champions Kilnamona 5-6 to 3-7, while Harps were beat Roscommon's Athleague 3-19 to 1-3.

There was little between Keady and Kilnamona in the opening half in Pairc Esler.

Mairead Doyle's long free in the 14th minute didn't look to have any assistance in ending up in the net. Collette McKeever was under it, as she was for a similar effort in the 24th minute and this time the full-forward tipped it in.

That put Keady 2-2 to 0-3 up, but Jacinta O'Grady managed to pull a goal back before the break.

Things looked to be going against the Armagh side when they were forced into their third substitution shortly after the break, but the team stepped up to the challenge thanks to a 41st minute goal from Collette McKeever and five minutes later one of the subs, Michelle Murphy found the net to put Keady 4-3 to 1-5 up.

Catherine O'Loughlin hit back with a goal for Kilnamona immediately, but Keady steadied up with three points, two of them from Claire Kinsella, and McKeever handpassed her third goal as the game slipped towards injury time.

From the puck-out, Fiona Lafferty cancelled it out, but it was a mere consolation effort and Keady survived to take on Harps who had a much easier outing in Ballinasloe.

Allstar nominee Louise Mahony was top scorer as the reigning All-Ireland champions stayed on track for a repeat of 2006 with a 3-19 to 1-3 win over Athleague.

Two goals in the opening five minutes from Elaine Mahony and Erinne Dunne paved the way for the Midlanders' 2-10 to 0-2 lead at the break.

Although corner-forward Kelley Hopkins did manage to get a goal back for Athleague in the second half, Harps were much stronger and will pose a real problem for Keady later in the month.

Keady scorers: C McKeever (3-0), C Kinsella (0-5), M Doyle (1-0); M Murphy (1-0), M Murray (0-1).

Kilnamona scorers: F Lafferty (1-3), AM McMahon (0-1), J O'Grady (1-0), C O'Loughlin (1-3).

Harps scorers: L Mahony (0-8), E Mahony (1-3), T Bennett (1-1), E Dunne (1-0), A Hanlon (0-3), J Prior, A Mahony (0-2 each).

Athleague scorers: K Hopkins (1-1), R Fallon (0-1), A McGeeney (0-1).