

SEAN CASEY
Your Local V.G.Store

Fresh Meat Daily

Petrol and Oils and Tyres

19 LOUGH ROAD, LOUGHGIEL
Telephone 285 Good Luck to the Shamrocks

MCGUCKIAN'S

CORKEY

OFFER YOU KEEN PRICES
GENERAL STORE AND FILLING
STATION.

Best Wishes to Loughgiel

OVER THE BAR

A Friendly Welcome awaits you at

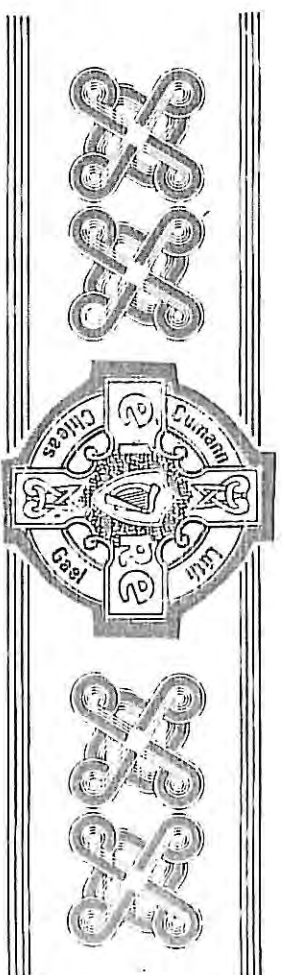
The Pound Lounge Loughgiel

Beer at its best for every guest: Best Wines and Spirits stocked

Wishing the 'Shamrocks' every success

Prop: Liam McGarry. Tel.: Loughgiel 281.

Printed by Impact Printing, Ballycastle



Cumann Lúthchleas Gaeil

Craobh Iomána na gCluab
Cluiche Leath-Cheannais Sinsir

Na Seamróga (Lochgaol)

AONTROIM AGUS ULADH

V.

Má Choice — Buiríos

TIOBRAID ÁRANN AGUS MUMHAN

Healy Park, Loughgiel

Feabhra 13, 1983

Clár Oifigiúil Luach 20p

Fáilte agus Focal

Ba mhaithe liom fáilte a chur romhaibh go leir go Lochgcaol ar an lá stairiúil seo. Tá stíl agam go mbeidh an chluiche seo iontach sportúil agus go mbeidh lá mór ionána againn.

I would like to welcome you to Healey Park for the semi-final of the All-Ireland Club Hurling Championship. I would like especially to welcome our visitors from Moycarkey-Borris in Tipperary and hope that their short stay will be a pleasant one. It is a strange quirk of fate that in 1971 when this competition was introduced we also hosted the Tipperary champions of the previous year, namely Roscrea. On their way to today's game Moycarkey-Borris defeated Roscrea in the Tipperary final.

The Club championship is a competition which gives clubs a chance to meet other clubs from outside their county or province and we in Loughiel are happy to have this opportunity to make new friends and forge new links with our counterparts in the historic hurling province of Munster.

I am sure that we will have a good sporting match and that the winner at the end of the day will be that best loved game of Ireland — hurling. Ar aghaidh leis an iomáint.

Gearoid Mac Bhloscaidh
Cathaoirleach

An Réiteoir

Today's referee is Benedict Crawford from the Ballygalget Club in Co. Down. A former County hurler, Benny, as he is better known, has now turned his attention to refereeing and over the past few years has officiated at many National League and All-Ireland 'B' championship matches. He has also served on various divisional and county boards and for a period was chairman of the Down County Board.

Phone Cloughmills 455

PATTERSON'S Grocers and Provision Merchants
Ergas Supplier :: Newsagents

1 CULCRUM ROAD : CLOUGHMILLS

AN BHFUIL FHIOS AGAT?

Loughiel Shamrocks were founded in 1915. Moycarkey-Borris were founded in 1885.

Moycarkey have won 8 County Championships. Loughiel have won 14. Moycarkey won three in a row in 1932 — 34. Loughiel won three in a row in 1966 — 1968.

Until 1982 Loughiel had not won a County title since 1971. Moycarkey-Borris last won a County title in 1940.

The Tipperary championship is played on a Dividend basis with the early stages being played in a league rather than knock-out competition.

There are five sets of brothers in the Moycarkey-Borris panel, the Bergins, Flanagans, Quigleys, Hacketts and Dempseys. Loughiel have the Lavertys, O'Connells, McKinleys and Careys.

LOUGHIEL CAPTAIN



Niall Patterson

MOYCARKEY CAPTAIN



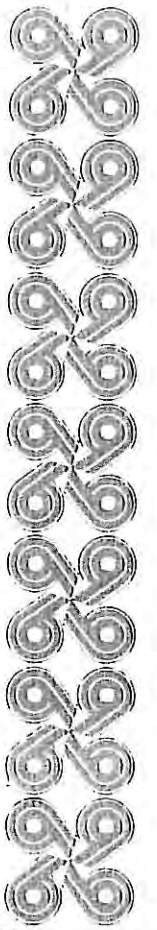
Jack Bergin

Good Luck to Loughiel.

Brian McAvoy

THE CORNER SHOP

Grocer and Confectioner : Cigarettes and Ices



Na Seamróga (Lochgaol)



Má Choice — Buiríos

(1) Niall Patterson

(2) Martin Carey

(3) P. J. O'Mullan

(4) Sean Carey

(5) Eamon Connolly

(6) Paddy McIlhatton

(7) Aidan McNaughton

(8) Gerard McKinley

(9) Mick O'Connell

(10) Aidan McGarry

(11) Brendan Laverty

(12) Dominic McKinley

(13) Martin Coyle

(14) Brendan McGarry

(15) Seamus McNaughton

Substitutes: (16) Dominic McMullan; (17) Paddy Carey; (18) Paddy O'Connell; (19) Sean Laverty; (20) Liam Laverty; (21) Paddy Carey; (22) Harry Carey; (23) Paddy McIntyre; (24) Joe McGurk; (25) Seamus Richmond; (26) Robin Clarke; (27) Eugene Patterson.
Selectors: N. Patterson, L. McGarry, D. Casey
Trainer: D. McMullan

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaf	65 m	Saor-Pucarna
1ú Leath					
2ú Leath					
Iomlán					

(1) Tom Doran

(2) John Hackett

(3) Willie Ryan

(4) Robert Hayes

(5) Eamon Darmody

(6) Jack Bergin

(7) Tom Mullins

(8) Jim Flanagan

(9) Liam Bergin

(10) Jack Ceasar

(11) John McCormick

(12) David Fogarty

(13) Tom Quigley

(14) Dick Quigley

(15) John Flanagan

Substitutes: (16) L. Dempsey; (17) M. Bourke; (18) N. Bergin; (19) J. Leahy; (20) M. Clohissey; (21) L. Hackett (22) B. Gooney; (23) M. Dempsey; (24) P. Flanagan.
Selectors: - Sean Barry, Paddy Connan, Jimmy Fogarty, Gus Ryan, Larry Ryan. Trainer: L. Gaynor

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaf	65 m	Saor-Pucarna
1ú Leath					
2ú Leath					
Iomlán					

PEN PICTURES OF LOUGHGIEL PANEL

NIALL PATTERSON: Age 21, Factory Worker. Has played for county at minor U-21 and senior level. Goalkeeper with a strong puck-out.

P. J. O'MULLAN: Age 31, Joiner. Has played at minor and senior for club and has also played at County level.

PADDY McILHATTON: Age 36, Mechanic. Long serving half-back who has represented Antrim and Ulster.

AIDAN McNAUGHTON: Age 20, Student. Another from the juvenile ranks. He has played at minor and senior for the county and is a former captain of the County minor team.

GERARD McKINLEY: Age 26, Electrician. Has played for the Club at minor, intermediate and senior level.

BRENDAN LAVERTY: Age 26, Haulier. One of the most skilful players who has also represented his county at U-21 and Senior Level.

SEAMUS McNAUGHTON: Age 21, Joiner. Another player to come through the juvenile ranks and played on the Antrim minor team which narrowly lost in Leinster final a few years ago.

MARTIN COYLE: Age 19, Storeman. Has played for the club from U-12 through to senior.

PADDY McINTYRE: Age 18, Student. Player just out of minor team. Was on county minor team for past two years.

PADDY O'CONNELL: Age 23, Bricklayer. He has also played for County teams at minor and U-21 level.

LIAM LAVERTY: Age 32, Haulier. Twin brother of Sean and like him has given long service to the club over past decade.

DOMINIC McMULLAN: Age 19, Farmer. Another of the youngsters with a promising future. Missed County Final due to injury. Has played minor for the county.

JOE McGURK: Age 31, Teacher. Has played for Derry County team on many occasions and comes from strong G.A.A. tradition.

EUGENE PATTERSON: Age 24, Bricklayer. Has come up through the juvenile ranks.

SEAN CAREY: Age 28, Lorry Driver. Has played for the club at all levels.

MARTIN CAREY: Age 22, Bricklayer. Another player who has come up through the juvenile ranks and has represented County at U-21 and Senior level.

EAMONN CONNOLLY: Age 25, Joiner. Has come up from juvenile ranks to stake his claim for a place on senior team.

MICK O'CONNELL: Age 28, Joiner. He has represented his county and Ulster on many occasions.

AIDAN MCCARRRY: Age 21, Joiner. Has again come up through the nursery stages to establish himself on senior panel. Played for Antrim U-21's.

DOMINIC McKINLEY: Age 23, Factory Worker. Has represented county at U-21 and Senior level.

BRENDAN MCGARRY: Age 37, P.E. Teacher. One of the clubs best known "sons" who won an All-Ireland Intermediate Medal in 1970.

HARRY CAREY: Age 25, Machine Operator. One of four brothers in panel who has played at all levels for the club.

ROBIN CLARKE: Age 21, Plumber. Has graduated through juvenile teams to stake a place in senior panel.

SEAMUS RICHMOND: Age 38, Like Brendan McGarry was a member of All-Ireland team of 1970. Has given long service to club and county.

SEAN LAVERTY: Age 32, Haulier. Brother of Liam and Brendan and long serving corner back.

PADDY CAREY: Age 30, Teacher. Was also on the team which last won championship in 1971.

PADDY CAREY: Age 21, Plumber. The youngest of the four brothers on the panel. Has also played for county.

THE MEN OF MOYCARKEY-BORRIS

TOM DORAN: Age 25. One of the outstanding goalkeepers playing in the county at the moment. Won Munster Minor and u-14 medals with Tipperary. Also represented the county at u-21 level. Winner of divisional medals in minor, senior hurling and junior football. Lorry Driver.

EDDIE CLANCY: Age 33. Played minor football with Tipperary. The only member of the team to previously hold a county senior hurling medal which he won with Sarfields in 1974. Holder of three Mid senior hurling medals also won divisional honours in junior and intermediate football and one county intermediate football trophy. Electrical Contractor.

JOHN HACKETT: Age 30. Former club secretary. Holder of two Mid senior and one Mid minor hurling medals. Creamery Manager.

WILLIE RYAN: Age 31. One of the club's great hearted defenders of modern times. Played with Tipperary senior team in Oireachtas and league competitions. Holds three Mid senior, three u-21 and two minor hurling medals and one county minor hurling award. Like most of his team mates holds numerous under age honours also winner of three divisional junior football trophies. C.S.E. Téo employee.

ROBERT HAYES: Age 23. Captained Pallas-kenny to win All Ireland Agricultural Colleges championship. Holder of Leinster Colleges "B" medal. Winner of Mid senior hurling medals in 1982 and 1981, junior hurling in 1978 and junior football. Farmer.

EAMONN DARMODY: Age 28. Member of Tipperary N.H. panel this year. Played minor hurling with Tipperary in 1972. Holder of Mid and county under age c'ships. Also winner of two Mid S.H. trophies and Mid and County football medals. Bord na Mona employee.

JIMMY LEAHY: Age 19. Substitute on winning Tipperary All Ireland minor hurling team of 1980. One of the club's most promising young hurlers. A leading member of the club's winning under age teams in hurling and football in recent years. Student.

JACK BERGIN: Age 27. Captain of today's Moycarkey-Borris side. A great motivator of his team on and off the field. Captain of the Tipperary u-21 team in 1975 and hurled with his county in the 1975 league campaign. Winner of two Mid senior hurling medals and one county minor championship. Farmer.

TOM WULLINS: Age 23. Holds two mid senior hurling medals and one Munster u-21 medal. Clerk with C.S.E. Téo.

BILL GOONEY: Age 30. Holds two Mid senior hurling trophies and one county minor hurling award. Played with London county team in provincial and All Ireland championships. Plasterer.

MATTY BOURKE: Age 31. Winner of Mid Tipp medals in senior, u-21, u-17 and minor hurling, junior and intermediate football. Also holds u-17 and county minor hurling and intermediate football trophies. Lorry driver.

LIAM BERGIN: Age 19. Brother of the sides captain. Holds two Mid senior hurling medals and Rice Cup won with Thurles C.B.S. C.I.E. employee.

TOMMY QUIGLEY: Age 24. Winner of under age medals at both county and Mid level, also Mid minor hurling winner '76. Mid and Co. Intermediate football medal holder 1980, and Mid S.H. medals 1981 and 1982. Bord na Mona employee.

JOHN MCCORMACK: Age 29. Played senior hurling with the Kildare county team. Won senior and junior football league medals while there. Winner of Mid u-17 and senior hurling trophies. Car sales Manager.

DAVID FOGARTY: Age 19. Another fine product from under age competitions in which he won Mid and county honours. Also holds two Mid senior hurling and one intermediate football awards. and All Ireland minor hurling medal with Tipperary in 1980. Played colleges hurling with Thurles C.B.S. winning Rice and Fitzgerald Cup medals. Student.

JACK CAESAR: Age 26. Was honoured by the Combined Universities in 1979, 1980 and 1981 and also played with Maynooth College. Holds two Mid Tipp senior and one u-21 hurling medals. Secondary teacher.

DICK QUIGLEY: Age 28. Winner of Mid senior hurling medals in 1981 and 1982, and Mid and County minor hurling medals in 1972. Played with Thurles C.B.S. winning Rice Cup medal in 1967. Assurance Representative.

JOHN FLANAGAN: Age 35. Only member of team to win an All-Ireland Medal with Tipperary in 1971. Represented Munster in Railway Cup. Foreman with Erin Foods.



P. Carey flicks right to Seamus McNaughton as P. J. Carey reaches to catch

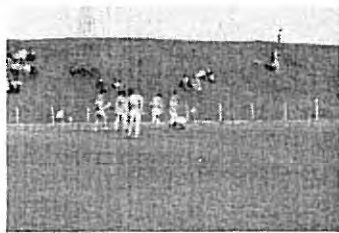
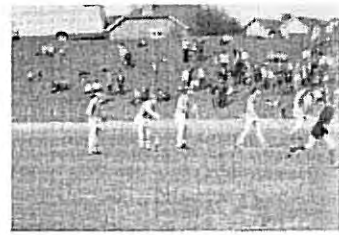
A crowd of fans at the Loughgiel game



Loughgiel H.C., Co. Antrim : All Ireland Club Hurling Champions, 1982

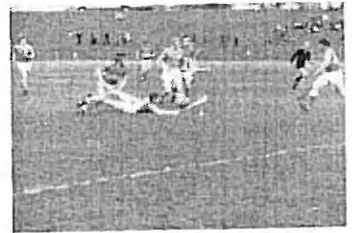
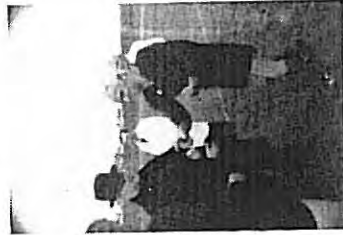
Back row: Aidan McNaughton, Brendan Laverty, Martin Coyle, Aidan McCarry, Aidan Connelly, Seamus McNaughton, Dominic McKinley, Gerald McKinley, Brendan Laverty, Pat -McIntyre, Martin Gillen, Pat O'Connell. Front row: Paddy Corey, Martin Corey, P. J. O'Mullan, Mick O'Connell, Paddy McIlhätton, Niall Patterson (captain), Sean Carey, Paddy Carey, Robin Clarke, Harry Carey, Liam Laverty, Dominic McMullan.

ACTION PACKED



CLUB HURLING

ALL IRELAND



With thanks to the
Loughgiel Club
Committee for the
use of these photos.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Danny McMullan



How We Won the All Ireland Club Hurling Championship

By DANNY McMULLAN

Loughgiel's journey to the All Ireland Final began in earnest in the summer of 1982 with success in the early rounds of the Championship setting the whole parish buzzing with expectation. The team was fired with enthusiasm and just a little confidence. Preparation for the county final was thorough and the training was severe. Attendance was excellent, and the spirit of the team soared as they really enjoyed the work in those fine summer evenings. In the county final itself, the team showed plenty of ability, speed and determination, and surprised everyone including the opposition by the ease with which they took the title.

ULSTER FINAL

The Ulster final brought everybody back to earth with a bang because Loughgiel had just scraped through against a very good and determined Ballygalget team.

A 'home' semi-final against Moycarkey-Borris, Tipperary was a great incentive to the team to train even harder. Roscrea had beaten Loughgiel at home in the '71 final, a game which Loughgiel led at half-time and which a fit team would have won. But to their regret, the team at that time did not have any preparation and watched Roscrea go on to win the All Ireland. That was a hard lesson and it was not forgotten.

The game against Moycarkey was regarded by many casual observers as a poor semi-final. But, in fact it was so tight that, on a heavy ground, there were few scoring opportunities. It was by far the best display that Loughgiel's defence has given, and that includes the finals. Moycarkey scored a goal in the first minute but Loughgiel fought back, and it was stalemate until the last ten when Loughgiel took over.

"ON OFF SAGA"

The 'on - off' saga of the final meant that training was prolonged and difficult, but the determination of the players never waned. They trained outdoors in all weathers, at first two nights per week and later four and five. On the plus

side was the fact that the recently completed changing rooms enabled the team to use the lights, heat, and showers which made training just bearable. Moreover, postponements meant that by April, there was "hurling weather" again in which the players were able to sharpen their skills and improve their speedwork with a dry ball. This was a decisive factor in winning the final. At that level players do not get a lot of time to perform their skills, and there is no second chance.

ALL AT THE REPLAY

The drawn match in Croke Park was a great occasion with practically everyone from Loughgiel present. (They were ALL at the replay). Nerves,

some bunching of forwards, and missed chances on both sides made a draw a fair result. But Loughgiel now knew they could win the replay, especially if it was in Casement Park, and there would be plenty of support. No serious injuries were reported after the drawn game. The replay was a great match and Loughgiel won more convincingly than a one goal margin might suggest - St. Rynagh's scored a goal in the last minute. Speed, fitness, a fanatical determination and more accurate shooting this time were allied to a brand of all-round hurling skills seldom bettered anywhere in Ireland. St. Rynagh's were unfortunate to meet Loughgiel in this mood for they too were a great team. They proved themselves great sportsmen, and gained a lot of respect in Loughgiel for the way in which they played and then accepted defeat from this unknown team from Antrim. Just to show that their win was no fluke, Loughgiel defeated Kiltormer at Rasharkin three months later to complete a unique treble of the scalps of the three provincial champions.

No credit should be taken from the magnificent work of the players in winning the All Ireland Final, but I am sure they would wish me to thank the Chairman, Gerard McCloskey, and his Committee; the selectors, Neil Patterson, Liam McGarry and Dominic Casey; our physio, Tommy Quinn; Father McBrearty; and last but not least our Parish Priest, Father Barrett, and all our supporters from Loughgiel and well-wishers from Antrim to Cork.

ANTRIM INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONS 1970

J. Coyle (Loughgiel), Chris Elliot (Dunloy), K. Donnelly (Ballycastle), Eamon Hamill (Rossa), Niall Wheeler (Glenariffe), Tony Connolly (Loughgiel), Aidan McCamphill (Dunloy), Sean Burns (capt., St. John's), Sean Collins (Rossa), Aidan Hamill (Rossa), Eddie Donnelly (Ballycastle), Seamus Richmond (Loughgiel), Brendan McGarry (Loughgiel), Patrick McShane (Ballycastle), Andy McCallion (St. John's)
Subs: Bernard Campbell, J.P. McFadden, Aidan Connolly (all Loughgiel), Joe McCallion, Len Vernon, Martin McGranaghan (all St. John's) Willie Richmond (Dunloy).

LOUGHGIEL'S ALL IRELAND TEAM

Niall Patterson, Martin Carey, P. J. O'Mullan, Sean Carey, Eamon Connolly, Paddy McIlhatton, Aidan McNaughton, Mick O'Connell, Gerard McKinley, Aidan McCarr, Brendan Laverty, Dominic McKinley, Paddy Carey, Paddy J. Carey, Seamus McNaughton.
Subs: Brendan McGarry, Dominic McMullan, Martin Coyle, Robin Clarke, Seamus Richmond, Liam Laverty, Sean Laverty, Harry Carey, Paddy O'Connell, Paddy McIntyre, Martin Gillan, Joe McGurk.



Loughgiel Shamrocks

ALL-IRELAND CLUB CHAMPIONS 1983

"What a day for Ulster hurling! All-Ireland Club championship final replay: Loughgiel Shamrocks, Antrim, two goals twelve points; Saint Rynagh's, Offaly, one goal twelve points." So Jimmy Magee announced the result on R.T.E. and thus the quiet country parish of Loughgiel, Co. Antrim, was firmly established on the hurling map of Ireland. On that Sunday afternoon of the 24th April, 1983 the Shamrocks had won the All-Ireland Club Championship and brought the title north of the border for the first time.

Hurling Traditions

Although this is the first time the hurling title has come north, the game of hurling has been a way of life in the Glens of Antrim right from the beginning of this century. Indeed Loughgiel had two hurling teams as far back as 1904. The parish was much too small to support two teams and soon both clubs folded.

The present Shamrocks was founded in 1915 due mainly to the efforts of the late Eddie Connolly. Eddie died

only last year and how proud he would have been, had he lived to see the All-Ireland title come to Loughgiel.

Success in Antrim competitions soon followed when the Shamrocks won their first County title in 1920. Further successes followed in 1924, 1925, 1929, 1938, 1943. However, the golden era in Loughgiel hurling must surely have been the late Fifties and Sixties when they won seven County titles. Indeed St. John's of Belfast just prevented six titles in a row when they took the title from Shamrocks in 1969.

Early Struggles

Success did not come easily, and Shamrocks, along with the other clubs in the Glens of Antrim, had to struggle hard in the early years, not only to establish the game but to keep it alive in difficult circumstances. Playing pitches posed a big problem for all the clubs. Indeed the Shamrocks played at 18 different venues before they obtained their own pitch in 1955. The venue for home matches changed so much that visiting teams often had quite a problem knowing where to go. The pitch in those days consisted of a field lent to the club by a sympathetic farmer. Often the club had only the use of the field to play matches; practice sessions were excluded. The quality of

By Dan Gillan

the pitches often left a lot to be desired. The field was often far from level and the grass far too long. The farmer had to graze his cattle in the same field and obviously did not want his grass cut.

Proper Pitches and Travel

Gradually, however, the clubs in North Antrim began to realise that if the standard of hurling was to improve they



Dr Cahal B. Daly meets the team.

would have to provide proper playing pitches. Progress in this direction was slow, mainly due to lack of finance, and it was not until 1952 that the provision of a playing pitch was taken up seriously in Loughgiel. In that year a small farm was purchased and after much hard work, most of it voluntarily, the pitch was opened in 1955. It was called Fr. Healy Park after Fr. John Healy, a parish priest in Loughgiel in the 1920s. He had a keen interest in hurling and his support did much to ensure the survival of hurling in Loughgiel.

Two other stumbling blocks were finance and travel. Teams had to travel to matches as far apart as Ballycastle and Belfast, a distance of over 50 miles. In those days cars were few and far between and it was quite common to see the team cycle up to twenty miles to play. Only when they had to travel to Belfast could they afford to hire a bus. To save money each player was expected to provide his own hurley stick and a common practice was for a player to "dress" a stick for himself between Mass time and match time.

The Social Aspect

Although times were hard and travelling difficult, hurling in the Glens of Antrim provided perhaps the only

means of social contact between neighbouring parishes and many inter-parish relationships can be traced to the contact people thus made with each other.

When we think of all the difficulties that faced our forefathers we cannot but admire their interest and dedication to the game of hurling in the Glens of Antrim. This is evidenced by the fact that hurling has flourished here whereas in many other parts of the north it is practically non-existent. Through the efforts of our forefathers almost every parish in the North Antrim area has a hurling team and every club its own playing pitch and modern dressing rooms.

Improved Standard

In Loughgiel, as elsewhere in the Glens, the standard of hurling has greatly improved since the clubs got their own playing facilities. The Loughgiel pitch was opened in 1955 and the Shamrocks won the County title the following year by defeating Belfast O'Donovan Rossa at Casement Park, Belfast. Over the next few years there were many epic struggles between these two clubs. The Rossa team was at its peak in those years but in the early Sixties its power waned



Niall Patterson, captain, himself a Pioneer gives the victory salute.

somewhat and the Shamrocks began to take over, winning five titles from 1966 to 1971. During these years there were many other good teams in North Antrim: Dunloy, Carey, Glenariffe and, more recently, Cushendall, were all worthy of County titles but the dominance of Shamrocks prevented Dunloy and Glenariffe in particular

Continued on page 18

DE LA SALLE BROTHERS

Founded 1681

St. John Baptist De La Salle LIVES to-day in the hearts and memories of his Brothers scattered world-wide, through 80 countries.

- working with young people
- transmitting Christ's message of Salvation
- through their teaching
- through the witness of their dedicated lives as religious laymen
- pointing out to youth the true path to happiness, to reality.
- to the Kingdom of God

'The harvest is Great'

Good young men who wish to learn more about us and our Mission should write to:

REV. DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS

De La Salle College,
Churchtown, Dublin 14.



St. JOHN B. DE LA SALLE

The Sons of Divine Providence



Founded by Blessed Don Luigi Orione (1872-1940). 'It is impossible to sum up in a few words the adventurous and often dramatic life of 'God's porter'. But he was certainly one of the most eminent personalities of this century for his faith and heroic love'

POPE JOHN PAUL II, 1980.

His Spirit:

'Let us live ALL for Jesus.
Nothing that is not Jesus, that does not lead to Jesus,
that does not breathe Jesus'.

'Read my mind and search my heart and my soul and
you will find nothing but love for the Mother of God'.

'Love Christ in all. Serve Christ in the poor. Renew Christ
in ourselves. Save always, save everyone'.

'Lord, put me at the mouth of Hell so that I may shut it'.

Our first work in Ireland following these ideals is a home
for homeless boys.

There are 1,500 priests and brothers in our Order in
many countries. If you are interested, come and join us so
that we can expand the Little Work of Divine Providence
together:

Write to:—

Fr. Victor Muzzin, S.D.P.,
Sarsfield House,
Dublin 10.
Phone: 266233.

Loughgiel Shamrocks

Continued from page 17

from winning County titles during the Sixties.

The McQuillans Club from Ballycastle have consistently been a force in Antrim hurling. In fact they have beaten Shamrocks in the 1983 county championship. Ballycastle have also contested the final of the All-Ireland Club Championship, losing to Castlegar from Galway. Cushendall lost to Mount Sion of Waterford in the semi-final of the Competition.

The Path to Victory

During the Seventies the Shamrocks faded somewhat and only contested one county final in 1974 when they lost to Belfast Sarsfields. All these lean years began to be channelled towards winning another county title and it was with this aim in mind that the team of 1982 began their preparation for the Championship series. In both the semi-final against Cushendall and against Ballycastle in the final Shamrocks were the underdogs but on both occasions won surprisingly easily.

It was these two victories that gave the players the belief that they could do well in the All-Ireland series. Shamrocks were fortunate to get the fancied Moycarkey Borris, the Munster champions, at Loughgiel in the All-Ireland semi-final and emerged victors after a blistering last ten minutes. All sights were now set on the final against St. Rynaghs of Offaly or Kiltomer of Galway. The final against Rynaghs was delayed and Shamrock mentors were afraid that the long wait might have a detrimental effect on the players. Instead, this extra period of preparation consolidated all their previous training and when they took the field at Croke Park they played like men inspired. All credit is due to St. Rynaghs; they too had a magnificent game and the result was a draw.

The Reward

The replay was fixed for Casement Park on the following Sunday and almost every Loughgiel man, woman and child travelled to Belfast to see the game. Again the match was a hard fought affair but the superior fitness of the Loughgiel team told in the end and they emerged worthy winners to bring the All-Ireland hurling trophy the "Tommy Moore Perpetual Trophy" to the North for the first time.



■ Below centre—One of Loughgiel's youngest fans, three-year-old Louise McKee with her father Hugh.



St. Rynagh's Padraic Horan blots out a Loughgiel attack.

■ The sweet taste of victory in double measure... Down captain Mark Tuohy and Loughiel captain Niall Patterson salute their teams' victories at Croke and Casement yesterday in the NFL final and All-Ireland club Hurling Cup final.



● Niall Patterson, the Loughiel Shamrocks captain, receives the B+I G.A.A. Personality of the Month award for April from James J. Kennedy (second from left), assistant chief executive B+I Line. Also included are Niall's father Neil and mother Kathleen.

Monday, April 25, 1983



- Pad
Carey (jr) clears
ball in front
Loughgiel's goalmouth
at Casement Park when
Hugh Dolan and Fran
Kenny make an attempt
for Rynagh in the All-Ireland Club Hurling
final.

APR 25 1983



Historic feat by Loughgiel

Loughgiel (Ulster Champions) 2-7
Moycarkey Borris
(Munster Champions) 1-6

The events of a single minute late in the second half of this All-Ireland Club hurling championship semi-final at Loughgiel yesterday turned a very ordinary game into one which Antrim hurling followers will remember for a long time. Coasting to what looked like a narrow but nonetheless comfortable victory the Tipperary champions were suddenly struck two devastating blows.

Twelve minutes from time substitute corner forward Paddy Carey and right forward Aidan McCarray each had the ball in the net during the course of a minute. And from a ragged side satisfied with a slender beating Loughgiel became a devastating force which took the Tipperary team to the cleaners in the remaining 10 minutes.

Following a great effort from Loughgiel's most impressive forward Brendan Lavery just a minute earlier, Paddy Carey sneaked in for Loughgiel's first goal, a score which levelled the game for only the second time. From the puck out Aidan McNaughton lofted another shot which was parried by goalkeeper Jim Dornan but nippy half forward McCarray neatly

swept it to the left corner.

Ahead now for the first time 2-5 to 1-5 Loughgiel besieged the Tipperary goal and Brendan Lavery was rewarded with a 23rd minute point. Three minutes later with Loughgiel running riot Martin Coyle had another and although John Flanagan, Moycarkey's top scorer, had a point from a free a minute later there was no way in which this determined bunch were going to let it slip.

It wasn't all so convincing for Loughgiel however. After only 15 seconds they conceded a goal when John Flanagan caught the full back line flatfooted and deftly tucked home a Dick Quigley cross.

Although the Shamrocks had levelled with points from McCarray, McNaughton and Lavery after only six minutes they did not enjoy much more of the first half play.

Despite their dominance the Munster champions went in at the interval only a goal to the good 1-4 to 0-4 after a rather casual approach and a performance which fell short of the anticipated skill expected from a southern side.

Loughgiel came out of this game with flying colours and can approach the final with some confidence.

Goalkeeper Niall Patterson was again brilliant as was half back Eamon Connolly, Paddy McElhatton and Aidan McNaughton. Although midfielders Dominic McMillan and Gerard McKinley did labour

at times they had their moments. The attack generally was weak but when it mattered Brendan Lavery, Aidan McCarray and Mick O'Connell were always on hand.

Moycarkey's goalkeeper Tom Doran and defenders Willie Rayan, Robert Hayes and Jack Bergin held Loughgiel in a tight grip during the first half. Midfielders Jim Leaty and Jim Flanagan looked the stronger pairing while Dick Quigley led an attack in which David Fogarty, Tom Quigley and John Flanagan were always a threat.

Loughgiel scorers: A. McCarray (1-1), P. Carey (1-0), B. Lavery, M. O'Connell (0-2 each), A. McNaughton and M. Coyle (0-1 each).

Moycarkey scorers: J. Flanagan (1-3), D. Quigley (0-2), J. McCormack (0-1).

LOUGHGIEL: N. Patterson; M. Carey, P. J. O'Mullan, S. Carey; E. Connolly, P. McElhatton, A. McNaughton; G. McKinley, D. McMullan; A. McCarray, B. Lavery, M. O'Donnell; M. Coyle, B. McCarray; S. McNaughton.

SUBS: P. O'Connell for Carey; P. Carey for McNaughton, Pat Carey for McGarry.

MOYCARKEY BORRIS: T. Doran; J. Hackett, W. Ryan, R. Hayes; E. Carmody, J. Bergin, T. Mullans; J. Flanagan, J. Leaty; J. Caesar, J. McCormick, D. Fogarty; T. Quigley, D. Quigley, J. Flanagan.

Ref: B. Crawford (Down).

HANDS OF GLORY

— Bishop Cahal Daly shows his delight with the outcome of yesterday's match at Casement Park — it is the first time the cup has come north of the border and proud Ulster President (second left) Philip Smith watches Niall Patterson wear the cup with pride.



APRIL 27 1983

What a double treat it would have been

in hindsight I must row in the popular opinion that National League Football at Casement Park. Now, I'm well aware, that all counties want to win a national title at Croke Park, and both Down and Armagh are anxious to get us much experience at headquarters as possible... with a hopeful eye on the championship... but the game would have lost its magic at Casement.

And what a double treat it would have been for the fans — the National Football League replay and the replay of the Ireland club hurling final. The latter game, on its own, would have been a treat for the spectators an afternoon to remember and it isn't just for the euphoria of Loughgiel's historic win. The replay, too, was out of the top drawer played at a cracking pace for the 60 minutes.

Set in the warm spring sunshine Casement looked splendid and the atmosphere was just one game was electrifying. Think of what it would have been had Down and Armagh been on the bill as well! Around 7,000 fans were at Casement to see history being made. Official figures say that over 23,000 were at Croke Park and others will argue there were more... so with 30,000 at Casement it would have been an afternoon to remember. I'm certain, that everyone

of those 30,000 plus more would have attended the northern venue.

There would surely have been people from other Ulster counties that would have travelled to Casement who didn't go to Dublin. People from Antrim, Derry, Tyrone and even Fermanagh who wouldn't fancy the long haul to Dublin.

There is this attitude that Belfast is not a place to spend an afternoon. Many country fans would think more than twice about visiting the city for a big match, but I honestly believe that if it came to the crunch of a double bill like that the spectators would flock to the scene.

Car parking is a problem at the Andersonstown venue, I agree, but then cars are not too safe sitting around the streets of Dublin either. I know a few people who will vouch for that.

Yes, it's time that the public cast aside their inhibitions about travelling to Belfast. After all, if hundreds of fans from Offaly could travel to Belfast why not Ulster people?

Loughgiel's win was an occasion, for those who witnessed it, that will live long in the memory. It was an afternoon of sheer wonder and a success that was achieved because of total commitment to the task on hand.

Everyone connected with that success deserves the highest praise and the way that

SPORTS OPINION

By TONY MCGEE

the Shamrocks shrugged off the disadvantage of that long wait as St Rynagh's and Kiltormer argued about their semi final was an example to all.

- There was just one sour note at Casement Park — the admission charge. It was £2.00 in and that is far too much, despite galloping inflation, for one match.
- The fee is, of course, set by Croke Park and has nothing to do with the Antrim County Board. However, there were many complaints.
- Just another observation... could there not have been a band organised for a pre-match parade of the teams? Surely, the occasion deserved that much.
- I liked the little touch at the end — the playing of "Sweet Loughgiel" over the loudspeakers. It was very appropriate, indeed.
- It's such a pity that some counties will not play ball with the public. They just won't release their teams in time for the correct line-outs to appear in the match programme.

There was a typical example of this in the National Football final programme.

Down fielded as selected late in the week — but the Mourne team showed three changes from that which appeared on the Croke Park programme. This is not doing justice to their supporters, nor indeed, to the players.

Ned King, Brendan Toner and Greg Blaney were not even listed as subs., and they must have felt like second class citizens. The public pay 40p for their programme — they have a right to get value for money. It takes time for these programmes to be printed and the least the counties can do is cooperate.

Loughgiel, too, had two changes from the team published in the Casement Park programme but, at least, the two Paddy Careys, who were in the team, were listed as subs. Yet there is no reason why things cannot be done in the proper manner.

- Now here are a few figures to juggle around and reflect upon. Last weekend saw a host of finals in many different sports and a comparison in attendances is very interesting indeed.
- The Ulster senior cup final in rugby, at Ravenhill, attracted around 3,000 people and, to be generous, the Connacht comparison on Sunday was cheered

on by about 2,000.

The final of the Irish senior cup in men's hockey was played in Dublin on Saturday — a North-South clash — and an estimated 800 watched the action.

The fairytale F.A.I. Cup ended at Dalymount Park on Sunday when 8,500 fans watched Sligo Rovers make history.

So a total of 14,300 — say 14,500 to be on the safe side — watched four finals in rugby, soccer and hockey over the weekend.

Now to the G.A.A. finals which were played on Sunday. The National Football League decider was watched by 23,500 (official figure), the National Hurling League final, at Thurles, attracted 24,500 and the club replay at Casement had 7,000 there. That makes a total of 55,000. There was also the final of the League Cup at Navan, for which I haven't an attendance figure, but let's say 5,000 and that makes it 60,000 in all.

- Tonight, Northern Ireland will play Albania in the European soccer championship at Windsor Park and there might be about 20,000 — just might — there. Next Saturday's Bass Irish Cup final in soccer, also at Windsor, will unlikely attract more than 8,000.
- It sure makes you wonder how interest in sport is measured by some people.

'Giel's Golden Oldie

Brendan McGarry could be making his swansong appearance in an Antrim senior hurling final when his beloved Loughgiel come in from the cold today (3.30) to tackle fancied Ballycastle in a clash of the Titans at Dunloy.

And for the Ballymoney-based teacher he aims to hit the medal trail for the seventh time, providing underdogs Loughgiel bridge an eleven-year gap since their last county title success.

McGarry, renowned for a distinctive half-volley style of play, keeps himself in superb shape and at 37 years of age can lead the younger brigade

through a minefield of uncertainty.

A player from another era Brendan has covered a time gap with ease and his cool, articulate play helped the rising Loughgiel crush champions Cushendall in the semi-final.

He has been through the mill for the past 20 years, helping Loughgiel to eight finals (two defeats)... and Antrim to that magnificent All Ireland Intermediate championship in 1970.

Brendan retains a youthful enthusiasm for the game, has patiently plodded through the lean frustrating years since the team's last win in '71 and the shock '74 defeat by Belfast Sarsfields and is back fresh as new paint to help push the Shamrocks through the Ballycastle barrier.

The fact that he'll be the oldest player on view today, unless another 'golden oldie' Seamus Richmond is brought on from the bench for

Loughgiel, won't worry McGarry, the man with the slick skills that can give Ballycastle's rock-like defence a troublesome time.

But Brendan has always been a model of modesty and believes that his team must improve if they are to topple a team that is entering a sixth final in a row.

Ballycastle top the title charts with 15 wins... two ahead of Loughgiel and Belfast Rossa, and are keen to make amends for losing the crown to Cushendall last year.

Star sharpshooter Peter Boyle, of County and Ulster fame, caused the 'Castle a few anxious moments when sent off during a recent junior football game. But his suspension lifts in time for the big occasion and a potentially explosive epic between neighbouring teams... with little love lost between them.

Arch parish rivalry is mixed with deep-rooted

family tradition in this ancient art and when the Donnellys, Boyles, Bartons, McShanes, McVeighs, Lavertys and McAuleys gell they can be a tough nut to crack.

Cushendall suffered the latter fate, losing the title to high flying Ballycastle and a first-hand view of today's affair comes from Cushendall and county battler Brendan McGaughey.

"Ballycastle's experience should take them through and they have an outstanding half-back line that is hard to overcome.

"Also consider the skills and speed of Peter and Stephen Boyle and the one player who can swing the game... Brian Donnelly."

Ballycastle manager Dermot Donnelly says: "Our form over the last few weeks has not been up to scratch and it will have to improve if we are going to beat a Loughgiel side that is hungry for success.



• Brendan McGarry: big-time swansong?

CRITICS, GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT DUE!

SPORTS OPINION
BY TONY MCGEE

Park, is quite a bonus to the Antrim champions and it is up to all followers of the code to get out and support them. I never believed that football in Ulster was at as low an ebb as it was made out to be.

Granted Sam Maguire hasn't visited us since 1968 . . . but he hasn't gone West of the Shannon for a longer period. Down and Armagh have arrived in the National League final strictly on merit. They have met and beat the best in the land and they are set to serve up an hour's football that will do the province proud.

They have already made many people eat their words and I have faith in Down and Armagh to serve up the desert now. No matter who wins it will be a proud day for Ulster . . . and we can look forward to an interesting championship.

On the hurling final at Casement, it seems a little strange that John Rankin from Laois has been appointed as referee. I'd have thought that since

I have the feeling that had it been some other sport—and I won't mention codes—that an

Noel O'Donoghue the man in charge last Sunday, is not available a referee "near home" would have been selected.

Surely Seamus McGrath seemed an obvious choice if the powers-that-be wasn't interested in appointing someone from a neutral province.

The fact that "opt out times" are not available on Sunday is the reason put forward by Radio Ulster for not covering the National Football League final live from Croke Park. Now we all know that only 10 days ago it became definite that we would have an all-Ulster decider and that didn't give much time for a re-arrangement of the B.E.C.'s network. But I still believe that something could have been done.

I have the feeling that had it been some other sport—and I won't mention codes—that an

"opt-out" could have been arranged . . . even for part of the match. After all, it is a history-making event and it is disgraceful that it is not recognised as such.

Highlights of the final will be shown on Sunday night on both B.B.C. Northern Ireland and R.T.E., and R.T.E. will also have partial live commentary on the game.

They are, of course, showing the F.A.I. Cup final live on television. I wonder where the bigger crowd will be?

Still on the television theme and wasn't that a terrible storm in a teacup that Linfield secretary Derek Brookes kicked up last week. He was so concerned about RTE televising the F.A. Cup semi-final that one would think thousands upon thousands would be kept from the local soccer terraces.

The day that thousands upon thousands are on the terraces the I.F.L. will be smiling.

But the strength of the argument nickeed when Linfield refused to change the time of their match at Coleraine. Reason they stated was that their supporters had booked buses, etc. Well, if that is so, why was Mr. Brookes worried about supporters staying at home . . . if they had already made arrangements to travel to Coleraine.

Every Sunday R.B.C. teatise an English soccer match and that classis with League of Ireland games. I haven't heard from soccer officials down south about that . . . even though R.B.C. is readily available there.

Obviously Derek Brookes and those who think like him realise that soccer is not a big attraction in Northern Ireland and they are fearful that he small attendances get even smaller if a courier attraction cropped up.

It is very difficult to know what the G.U.I. are playing at.

At least I cannot imagine it to their waylength.

The fact that the Irish selectors have ignored the fabulous achievement of Colin Glasgown in winning the West of Ireland championship is really hard to take in. And then the Irish squad goes off to sunny Spain for a week's session without a professional.

Now if the G.U.I. is prepared to splash out money on the appointment of a pro, to iron out the amateur international's problems, it seems a bit stupid not to make the appointment before the preparation for the season begins.

Wouldn't it be more advantageous to have the pro in Spain for a week's intensive coaching rather than have the non-playing captain Brendan Edwards for advice? Maybe the man they wanted for the job thought that he wouldn't be available just now, but the appointment should have been made.

Haven't the Irish Ladies' hockey team done us proud? Their great success in Kuala Lumpur has given Irish hockey a new image and, of course, hopes are high that they will finish the job by beating Spain in the final of the Inter-Continental Cup tomorrow.

By the way, David Jones must be a hot tip for the job. The fact that Colin Glasgown was sent back to his bank job as John Hutchinson was invited to make the trip to Spain is little short of amazing. What has the Royal Dublin player done to deserve inclusion in the international squad?

Glasgown put Hutchinson out of the West of Ireland championship at the semi-final stage and then proceeded to slam international Garth McGiropsey in the final. If the West was to be the guideline for the extra player for Spain what more did the Donaghadee member need to do? It was a strange decision, indeed.

Haven't the Irish Ladies' hockey team done us proud? Their great success in Kuala Lumpur has given Irish hockey a new image and, of course, hopes are high that they will finish the job by beating Spain in the final of the Inter-Continental Cup tomorrow.

Printed and Published by the Irish News Limited, 13717 Donagall Street, Belfast BT1 2GE, Telephone 22726 where all communications for the Editor and Publishers should be addressed. London Office: 70 Nassau Garden, London EGIN 8JY, Telex

WELL DONE MESSAGES

The members of the Loughgalle Hurling Club have been given the congratulations of members of two councils on winning the All-Ireland Club Hurling Championship for the first time.

Councillor Mrs. M. J. Holmes, Mayor of Ballymoney, said it was "a great achievement" for the

small village team to accomplish. Councillor Bob McComb said it was a great tribute to the Loughgalle team to bring the little north of the border

And members of Moyale District Council have agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent to the Loughgalle team.

ALL-IRELAND CLUB HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Magnificent Loughgiel

LOUGHGIEL (Antrim Champions) 1—8
ST. RYNAGHS (Offaly Champions) 2—5

Magnificent Loughgiel! These are the only words to describe the performance of the Antrim men in this All-Ireland club hurling championship final. In the end they had to settle for a draw but boy did they have the opposition sweating.

Loughgiel have gone one better than either Ballycastle or Cushendall and irrespective of the outcome of the replay they have proved that they can match it with the best in the land.

There will be many who will claim that the replay will go Loughgiel's way and I am inclined to agree with them. I have been convinced of that since their semi-final victory. On Sunday they went to Croke Park not knowing what to expect. They return on Sunday not to the same venue but in a frame of mind where they know they really can win.

A minority will say that they have missed the boat. I would have thought, however, that it was the Offaly men who are going to be left waiting on the quayside! After all, they got the easiest of chances to clinch it and failed.

This was a great game but with a common weakness—the inability of free takers to pick off their points. Loughgiel were the much more guilty party and I cannot understand exactly what went wrong. They missed scoring chances that never would have been missed at Fr. Healey Park. And that penalty error. What a disaster!

However, they overcame this obstacle and still came out with their heads held high.

Then there was the question of the two goals scored against them. They were scores, I fancy, with some luck attached and scores which Loughgiel are not prone to give away.

One coming just before the interval to pull the Offaly men back into the game and the other immediately after the restart were scores which would have killed off any opposition.

And finally there was the incident in the sixteenth minute from which St. Rynagh's got a point, the score perhaps which saved the day for them. Niall Patterson, who led his side superbly, cleared a ball which came off Hugh Dolan and looked to have gone wide. The umpire, however, had other ideas and from the resultant '70' the Offaly men got an all important point.

These talking points aside, however, it was a magnificent performance which the 3,000-odd fans, mostly Northerners, enjoyed immensely.

Loughgiel began this game, running at everything which moved and completely knocked the Offaly champions out of their stride. Indeed, it would be fair to say that for most of the game St. Rynagh's were always struggling.

At the half-way stage, Loughgiel led 1-4 to 1-2 and had it not been for that late first half goal the fat could well

have been in the fire for St. Rynagh's.

This goal, perhaps, could have been avoided. It came from a bit of slackness in the Loughgiel defence.

The ball was parried away by hero of the hour, goalkeeper Niall Patterson, but his clearance glanced off an upright and into the firing line of corner-forward Hugh Dolan. Dolan had no trouble in placing this 'gift' in the corner of the net.

The second goal, immediately after the restart, was handed gift-wrapped. Goalkeeper Patterson, on minute into the half, moved to his left to block off a high centre from Dolan. The ball hit an upright, fell at the feet of intruding midfielder Aodh Horan and again it was the simplest of tasks to tuck it in the net.

Loughgiel did a magnificent job despite falling behind to overcome both these scores and to obliterate from their minds that missed penalty. They worked hard, continually harassing their opponents and it would have been a severe travesty of justice had Pdraig Horan pointed from that last-minute free. He didn't and it's all history now, but not without its lessons.

Loughgiel must get the free-taking policy right although this may never occur again and they must also adopt exactly the same style in the final. If they do I fancy All-Ireland champions in Antrim.

Loughgiel lacked absolutely nothing in hurling skill. Left-half back Aiden M'Naughton scored three superb points, one from fully a hundred yards. He got great help from Martin Carey at right full and P. J. O'Mullan at full-back. Paddy M'Ilhatton, at centre-half, was another to

have a game out of this world,

while goalkeeper Patterson was at his brilliant best.

Of the midfield partnership Mick O'Connell worked exceptionally hard and Gerard M'Kinley must think that he was most unfortunate to have been pulled up by referee Noel O'Donoghue for that last minute foul.

Of the attack, Brendan Lavery, as usual, was the warrior supreme and got great help from Aidan M'Carry and Martin Coyle.

Goalkeeper Damian M'Cartin, Joe Dooley, Tom White, John Connelly, Aiden Fogarty, Pdraig Horan, Hugh Dolan, James Horan and Dermot Devery were the most prominent St. Rynagh's players.

Loughgiel's scores came from Brendan Lavery (1-0), Aiden M'Naughton (0-5), Mick O'Connell (0-2), Aiden M'Carry (0-1), Martin Coyle (0-1), and Paddy Carey (0-1). For St. Rynagh's A. Dolan (1-1), A. Horan (1-0), P. Horan (0-2), A. Fogarty (0-1) and D. Devery (0-1), got the scores.

Teams:

Loughgiel—N. Patterson, M. Carey, P. J. O'Mullan, S. Carey, E. Connolly, P. M'Ilhatton, A. M'Naughton, M. O'Connell and G. M'Kinley; A. M'Carry, B. Lavery, D. M'Kinley, M. Coyle, B. M'Garry and S. M'Naughton.

Subs.—P. Carey (jun.), for B. M'Garry; P. Carey, sen., for M. Coyle.

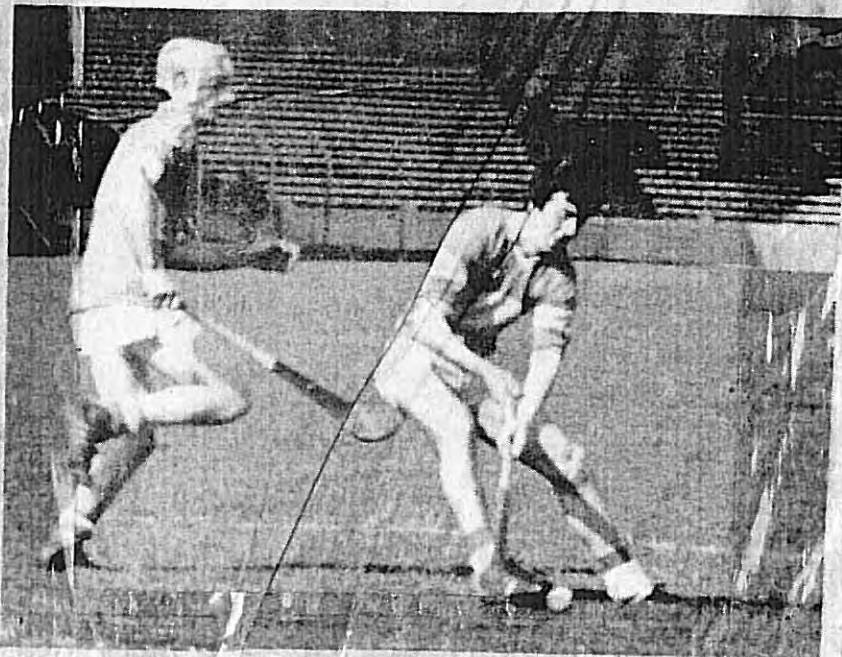
St. Rynagh's—D. Martin, M. Whelehan, J. Dooley, B. Keane, T. White, A. Fogarty, T. Connelly, A. Horan and S. White; J. Kerwan, P. Horan, D. Devery, J. Horan, F. Fleming, H. Dolan.

Sub.—G. Mahon for A. Horan.

Referee—N. O'Donoghue (Dublin).



Danger in the St. Rynagh's goal mouth.



Loughlel players cover their man.



A Loughgiel forward in full flight.



A Loughgiel defender prepares to clear his lines.

Monday, April 18, 1983



■ St. Rynagh's goalie Damien Martin goes high to save but the ball went wide.



Loughiel, Antrim, Ulster and now sharing
the All-Ireland Club championship title.



Loughgiel Shamrocks (ABOVE) hurling team and St. Rynagh's (BELOW), whose All-Ireland Club SHC final, at Croke Park, Dublin, on Sunday, ended in stalemate — a 2-5 to 1-8 draw.





Bihsoip Cahal Daly meeting the Loughgiel team before the puck off at yesterday's match against St. Rynagh's in Casement Park.

Gaelic games: All-Ireland club SH final (replay)

McCarry seals Loughgiel triumph

Loughgiel Shamrocks..... 2-12

St. Rynagh's..... 1-12

A BRILLIANT goal by Aidan McCarry, midway through the second half, put the seal on the All-Ireland club hurling championship for Loughgiel, as they proved too powerful for Leinster champions, St. Rynagh's, in yesterday's sizzling replay before 10,000 partisan supporters, at Castment Park, Belfast.

Loughgiel placed themselves in the history books by becoming the first Ulster club to break the southern stranglehold, and in sparkling fashion.

The Offaly champions briefly enjoyed command and, after a series of well-taken points, led by 0-5 to 0-4 after 20 minutes, but then Brendan Lavery, struck gold in spectacular manner. The Loughgiel scoring ace breezed past two defenders to crash home a great goal to put the Shamrocks in the driving seat.

McCarry then gave Shamrocks a three-point cushion, but two well-executed points by St. Rynagh's striker Hugh Dolan put the Offaly men back in the match.

Loughgiel's mid-field ace, Mick O'Connell, who had played such a dominant role in their drawn affair, found things a lot tighter this time, but produced one of the best scores of the match, picking up the ball to send over a magnificent point from all of 85 yards.

A further point by Aidan McNaughton, from a free 60 yards out, left the Antrim side 1-7 to 0-7 in the lead at the interval.

St. Rynagh's opened the second half with two points, but Loughgiel kept in front and it was 1-10 to 0-11 with 16 minutes remaining.

Then Loughgiel full-back Paddy McElhatton became one of the day's heroes, making a goal-line clearance from Padraig Horan's goal-bound free from 25 yards.

And the issue was decided when, after a four-man move, Dominic McKinley crossed a high ball from the wing, which soared over the entire St. Rynagh's defence and into the hands of McCarry, who gleefully drove the ball into the net.

Loughgiel's joy was increased three minutes later when Paddy Carey senior put them six points clear. When Horan stepped up to score a goal from a penalty one minute from time, it was too late to save St. Rynagh's.

LOUGHGIEL — N. Patterson, M. Carey, P. J. Mullen, S. Carey, E. Connolly, P. McElhatton, A. McNaughton (0-1), M. O'Connell (0-1), G. McKinley, A. McCarry (1-3), P. Carey junior (0-2), D. McKinley, B. Lavery (1-1), P. Carey senior (0-1), S. McNaughton (0-3).

ST. RYNAGH'S — D. Martin, M. Whelan, J. Dooley, B. Keane, T. White, A. Fogarty (0-3), T. Connolly, A. Horan (0-1), S. White, J. Kirwan, P. Horan (1-2), D. Devery (0-3), J. Horan, F. Kenny (0-1), H. Dolan (0-2).

Referee — J. Rankin (Laois)

GAA Latest honour for Loughgiel and Antrim

By Micheal McGeary

Shamrocks comfound the critics

Loughgiel Shamrocks carved out their own little slice of sporting history yesterday at Croke Park when they held the favourites St. Rynagh's to a draw in the final of the All Ireland Club Hurling championship.

In a splendid match Loughgiel, with Aidan McNaughton and Mick O'Connell in inspired form, made a mockery of predictions that they would be little more than token opposition for the Offaly champions.

It was the first time in the history of the competition that the final had ended in a draw. Loughgiel scoring 1-8 to St. Rynagh's 2-5, the hundreds of North Antrim fans breathing a collective sigh of relief as the experienced Pauric Horan sent wide a 45-metre free with only seconds left on the clock.

There was further recognition of Loughgiel's All Ireland club hurlers success when in Dublin yesterday 21-year-old Niall Patterson was presented with the B & I Personality of the Month Award for April.

On accepting the trophy Niall stressed "I couldn't believe it when I was first told of the award. Coming so soon after our success in the All Ireland club hurling final it has made it a memorable two weeks.

"It's a tremendous honour and I regard it as a personal award second only to an All Star award. But it has been made possible by the players and those connected with the club and they all contributed in their own way.

"In view of the fact that Kilkenny won the National Hurling League and Down were successful in the football league, I think that possibly a player from either county would have received such an award.

"This honour is an incentive I feel for Antrim to do well and produce the goods at county level. There is no reason why they can't emulate Loughgiel's success. What we have achieved at club level was brought about by the sustained commitment over a six month period.

"Providing Antrim show the same commitment there is no reason at all why we can't be as successful at county level within the next two or three years. It's all a question of commitment and pride," he added.

It completes quite a remarkable season for the exceptionally mature youngster, a season in which he has captained both club and province. It is also the first time since the awards were inaugurated that the magnificent trophy has gone to a player for achievement at club level rather than a county.



Historic moment for Loughgiel's young captain and goalie Niall Patterson.

Rynagh's Step Into Unknown

By PHILIP QUINN

RYNAGH'S step into the unknown at Croke Park Sunday when they take on reigning Antrim and Tyrone supremos, Loughgiel, in the much-delayed final of the All-Ireland club hurling championship.

Offaly men have been regarded with the favourite's status but they may waiver if their shoulders wither under a little trepidation, a trait Horan, who is now in his third decade of service to the club, warned.

"I have never played nor coached Loughgiel before, but we must not underestimate their ability when I saw Moycarkey-Kerry winning the Munster championship against Patrickswell I thought they were most impressive. Yet, they have since been well beaten by Loughgiel," Horan said.

"Antrim hurling over the years has always been of a high standard. Watching the All-Ireland Cup on television recently, one could see that the team, comprised mainly of trim players, possessed a certain measure of skill," he

added. "I have experienced the rigour of the code in the north-west. Back in 1972, when he was assisting St. Rynagh's to win the inaugural club championship, he played against O'Donovan Rossa in the final and remembers that match as a rugged, but exciting hour's hurling. He said it won't be much different this Sunday.

Rynagh's will be without key players in the suspended Sean Fogarty and Mick O'Connell, but the strength of the team is such that they have been

able to reshuffle and still come up with a formidable selection.

In addition to Horan, there is stalwart goalkeeper Damien Martin, Aidan Fogarty, Tom Conneely and Seanie White. It is an impressive array of talent and one which Horan believes will sway matters their way at the end.

However, the man who led Offaly to All-Ireland glory two years ago, is not entirely concerned with the outcome of Sunday's joust. At this stage of his career, refreshingly, he still gets a big kick out of pulling on a jersey, be it for club or county, and it will be the same again at Croke Park.

"I am enjoying my hurling immensely at the moment and I look forward to every game I play with real enthusiasm," Horan said.

WHILE Horan is fit and rarin' to go, another respected member of the GAA playing for the club, Armagh's Joe Kernan, is not so fortunate. Kernan has pulled a hamstring and is on the "easy" list for next week's National Football League final clash with rivals Down.

Kernan, who has been the bulwark for Armagh in the past seven seasons, aggravated his hamstring after just ten minutes of last Sunday's semi-final with Meath and has been receiving extensive physiotherapy treatment since.



The Ulster Council President, Phil Smith, presenting the All-Ireland Club Hurling Championship trophy to Loughgiel captain Niall Patterson. Looking on is the Bishop of Down and Connor, Dr. Daly, himself a Loughgiel man.



The Bishop of Down and Connor meeting players of the Loughgiel team.



■ Right—Paddy Carey (jr) clears the ball in front of Loughgiel's goalmouth at Casement Park while Hugh Dolan and Frank Kenny make an attack for Rynagh in the All-Ireland Club Hurling final.

Mighty Shamrocks to finish the job



● Brendan Lavery: Loughiel bigshot.

Casement Park provides an ideal backdrop to possible history, as Antrim and Ulster champions Loughiel Shamrocks intend to put the finishing touches on a job almost completed last week at Croke Park.

The Shamrocks, backed by an amazing army of red and white supporters, held fast from favourites St Rynagh's of Offaly to a dramatic draw in the club hurling final. Now the sturdy men from the Glens have home ground advantage for the replay and look likely to become the first northern team to win the title.

But Loughiel must repeat last week's glorious display when they shocked the Dublin critics and the Leinster champions with their rapid fire brand of first time hurling. Hopes of a fairytale ending must surely be on the cards today.

Seven days ago Loughiel, in the final for the first time — and indeed Ulster Champions for the first time since this attractive club tournament was formed, bridged the credibility gap for Ulster hurling.

Too often and for far too long hurlers from the North have almost been the butt of southern jokes. Teams have repeatedly lambs to the slaughter and mainly because of a self destruct button often pressed before a vital match.

But last week the red leaved Shamrocks made the critics eat their words with a powerful, sparkling dis-

play. On one occasion Loughiel reached a comfortable five points lead as they dominated the first half to leave St Rynagh's in tatters.

But they lost touch for a spell, stormed back when least expected and hung on for a share of the spoils and today's second bite at the cherry.

The player they must maintain a constant red-alert for is St Rynagh's county star and inter-pro forward Páirc Horan, who could have sneaked the title last week but missed a close range free in the last 20 seconds of sizzling action.

"We let them off the hook when five points clear," claims Loughiel boss Neil Patterson. "Our boys squandered a lot of clear-cut chances when in the driver's seat."

"If we are to win we must make the most of all scoring chances. We must also play the ball quicker, sharpen up set pieces. We have a better than average chance of winning now that we know what the opposition is like. Our players learned a lot from last week's match, a game we really should have won and now it is up to us to make sure this time."

Neil also has very high praise for last weekend's referee Noel O'Donoghue who delayed his flight out to the States to referee the game.

"It was the best refereed match that I have ever seen."

He kept the game flowing as much as possible and kept good control of the match. The only black mark I have against him was his harsh and very near fatal decision to give a free against Gerald Mckintley in the final minute," praised Patterson.

Neil added "Apart from that, he was a credit to the game and the best referee I have encountered for many years."

One of the stars of a memorable performance and sent the Loughiel supporters wild with a fifth minute goal. Brendan forecasts a Loughiel victory after being unimpressed by the mighty Leinster men.

"If we had a little bit of luck last Sunday we would have won. We were a bit unfortunate but although they are not a bad team, I think we can take them this time."

"On what was witnessed last weekend, I am very confident that we can pull it off. I think we are well fit for them."

"They did play well but nobody really impressed me in any way. We have no injury problems and I am confident that we can win," claimed Brendan.

So all is set for a thrilling, tension packed and hopefully a memorable day for the hurlers and supporters of Loughiel as they try to strike gold after running on barren ground at the first attempt.

MAN BEHIND THE SCENES

While the players on the field got all the credit, and rightly so, it should not be forgotten that it took a very dedicated team behind the scenes to produce such a fine side.

Main man, of course, was the trainer, Danny M'Mullan. The quiet man, Danny, did a

superb job which was shown in the staying power of the team.

He also acted as motivator, perhaps the most important role, along with selectors Neil Patterson, Liam McGarry and Dominic Cassidy. Congratulations on a job expertly done.

ULSTER VENUE BAFFLES ST. RYNAGH'S

By VINCENT HOGAN

Officially hurling championships, St. Rynagh's, are baffled at the decision of the G.A.A. Activities Committee to take the replay of their All-Ireland Club final against Louisahele to Casement Park in Belfast.

"The choice of the Northern venue means a long round trip for the Leinster champions and virtually ensure that their support will be at a premium on Sunday.

Club secretary, Jackie Regal and said last night: "We were never consulted about the venue beforehand. It certainly doesn't suit us as it's going to be very hard to organise from this end. But there's not a lot

We can do about it now."

It seems that the reasoning behind the choice of venue was that last Sunday's drawn game took place at Croke Park—the provincial venue for Leinster. As Casement Park is considered the provincial venue for Ulster, it was promptly decided that the replay should go there.

In an attempt to ensure that they won't be without any form of support, the Rynagh's club are hoping to organise a special train to travel up from Tuamamore on Sunday morning. "Hopefully, we might be able to get a couple of hundred to come," said Rynagh.

Suggestions that the O'Flaherty

team's chances have receded with the choice of venue were discounted however by All-Star half-back, Aidan Fogarty.

He said: "Obviously we won't have great support, but I think that Louisahele might be under more pressure than us this time. After holding us in Croke Park, their home fans will be expecting a great deal from us."

The Antrim champions report no injury worries after Surelaw's draw and are expected to field an unchanged line-up. Declan Fogarty and Michael Moran are still suspended for Rynagh's.

Belfast is the venue this weekend for the annual U.C.D. Seven-a-side All-Ireland Football

Championships. No fewer than 29 of the 32 teams competing are county champions.

Walsh Island, backboned by the Connor clan, will be there as will a South Kerry outfit that includes both John Egan and Jack O'Shea. The action starts at 1.0 on Saturday and concludes with the final on Sunday evening.

Westmeath have made two changes in their team for Sunday's Kehoe Cup senior hurling final against Dublin at Kinnegad. Pat O'Brien and Mick Ryan, both of whom played in the 2-13 to 1-8 semi-final defeat of Wicklow, have been demoted with Edmond

Galagher coming in for O'Brien and the right-corner forward position being left vacant.

The Westmeath football selectors have also opted for two changes in their selection to face Louth in a National Football League Cup final at Navan that will also incorporate the O'Byrne Cup.

Niall Lynch, who played at right-half back in the 1-8 to 0-5 semi-final defeat of Wexford, is injured and is replaced by Eddie Ryan who comes back after a lengthy absence through injury.

Michael Greene takes over at full-forward with Peter Kerr again stepping down.

• THEY'LL MEET AGAIN
St. Rynagh's of O'Flaherty (top) and Louisahele Shamrocks who drew the All-Ireland Club championship final, which will be replayed at Casement Park next Sunday



WELL DONE MESSAGES

The members of the Louisahele Hurling Club have been given the congratulations of members of two councils on winning the All-Ireland Club Hurling Championship.

Councillor Mrs. M. J. Holmes, Mayor of Ballymore, said it was "a great achievement" for the small village team to accomplish.

Councillor Bob McComb said it was a great tribute to the Louisahele team to bring the title north of the border for the first time.

And members of Moyale District Council have agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent to the Louisahele team.

Many a tear was shed by young and old and indeed, I felt privileged to be there on such an historic and moving occasion.

Later, the Louisahele changing room was complete chaos, with well-wishers from all parts keen to express their congratulations to a great bunch of lads who did Louisahele, Antrim and Ulster proud with this unforgettable performance.

Well done, Louisahele, and may be by the time this report is read in the village, the celebrations will have ceased!

Louisahele team and scores: P. J. Patterson, Martin Carey, Eamon O'Riordan, Sean Carey, Aidan Connolly, Paddy McElwee, Connell (4), McKinnon (0-1), Mark O'Connell, Dominic (1-3), Brendan Lavery (1-1), Dominic, McKelvey, Paddy Carey, Seamus, Paddy Carey, Jim (0-1), Seamus McKinnon (0-3).

McElwee, Seamus Redmond, Martin Sals, Brendan McCurry, Sean Cuyler, Paddy O'Connell, Sean Lavery, Harry Carey, Martin Gillen, Joe McGurk, Paddy McElwee, Robbin Clark, Dominic McKinnon.



Antrim revival

Antrim's hurling future, after a fruitless campaign at county level, was given a much needed and welcomed shot in the arm and in sparkling fashion by Loughgiel recently.

The red-hot Shamrocks have possibly paved the way for better and bigger things in Antrim after their powerful, spirited display to become the first northern team to win the All-Ireland club championship, at the expense of St. Rynaghs of Offaly.

After 99 unyielding years an Antrim side has finally broken the 'duck' on the All-Ireland circuit, but still the question remains. Can the county seniors learn from Loughgiel's triumph and produce the goods?

County boss Neil Patterson, one of the men behind the Shamrock's rise to fame believes, that his players will make the long haul to the top, materialise — but only if they respond to the call.

"There is absolutely nothing to prevent Antrim becoming a force to be reckoned with. If the players on the county panel start to play with the type of commitment and determination along with the fighting spirit that Loughgiel showed in the All-Ireland final, Antrim will become a hurling force," claims Patterson.

Neil added: "Ballycastle, Cushendall, Loughgiel and Rossa all have some very talented hurlers but there is one major problem that must be altered.

"Their attitudes on the field are totally different when they play for their clubs and then for the county. They have a lot of pride but the sad fact is that they do not play with the determination and fighting spirit they show at club level when they were the county colours.

"The county secretary summed it up nicely when he said that in a club match they fight 50-50 for the ball while its 60-40 for the opposition every time, when they play for Antrim.

Players attitudes are one thing but Neil stresses that the fitness of the team in general is not what it should be and I am sure, to many people's surprise, he predicts that Antrim will lift the All-Ireland championship . . . within the next 3 years!

"The players are starting to play fast hurling, are thinking quicker but one thing they lack is fitness. Loughgiel proved that fitness can take you a long way in achieving your goal," he said.

The players have six weeks to whip into shape for a clash with the 'B' championship final team and at stake is a quarter-final spot against Galway.



Nial Patterson — making history.

Nial joins elite

Congrats . . . to Antrim and Loughgiel goalkeeper Nial Patterson on winning the B & I 'Personality of the Month' award for April.

Nial made history by becoming the first Antrim player, in either hurling or football, to be awarded the honour.

The stocky Shamrocks 'keeper also became the first player to receive the award for success achieved in club competition.

Nial now joins the elite bracket of hurling 'keepers such as Noel Skehan (Kilkenny) and Seamus Durack (Clare), who have previously been awarded the honour.

● Congrats also to the hurlers of Cavan, who made such an impressive debut in the National League with a stylish win over Louth.

Loughgiel — why even the bishop cheered . . .

By Irish Press Reporter
LOUGHGIEL SHAMROCKS, from the glens of North Antrim, were the toast of Ulster hurling last night after beating Offaly's stars, St. Rynaghs, to bring the All-Ireland club hurling title to Antrim for the first time.

Loughgiel is a small inland parish with a population of around about 600. Hurling is the only game played in the parish yesterday no one was left at home to feed the cows or look after the sheep as everyone was at Casement Park for the glorious day.

Among the big crowd was the Bishop of Down and Conor Dr. Cahal Daly, a native of Loughgiel. After the victory he made his way from the stand on to the pitch to join the jubilant Loughgiel players and supporters.

"It was a marvellous win, a great game, he told me. "The hurling was outstanding and both teams deserved congratulations for the magnificent game and the sportsmanship.

Loughgiel won their first county title away back in 1920 and since that they have collected around a dozen Antrim titles. They were Ulster champions in 1971 and 72 and last year, but yesterday was their first appearance in an All-Ireland final.

Loughgiel's colours

Most people probably do not realise that the famous red jerseys in which the Loughgiel Shamrocks have become so well known were not worn by the club until 1953. The original club colours were blue which they wore from 1915 to 1926 and in which they won the county titles of 1920, '24 and '25. Because of a colour clash with Tir-na-nOg in 1926 the club changed to a light red jersey but it was not to prove lucky for them as they were beaten by the Randalstown men. They reverted back to blue when beating O'Connell's in the 1929 final.

The next change was to a

saffron jersey which they wore to victory in 1938, when they beat Glenariffe and in 1943 when they overcame O'Connell's of Belfast.

The now famous red jersey was first worn in 1953 but they had to wait until 1956 before winning their first county title in these colours when they beat O'Donovan Rossa.

Since then they have won seven more titles in the red jerseys when beating Dunloy in 1963, Glenariffe in '66, Mitchells in '67, Rossa in '68, Ballycastle in '70, Glenariffe in '71 and of course Ballycastle in last year's decider.

SHAMROCKS IN FULL BLOOM!

Loughgiel 2-12, St Rynaghs 1-12

A GOAL in each session by Brendan Lavery and Aidan McCarry helped Antrim side Loughgiel Shamrocks make hurling history in Belfast yesterday.

Loughgiel proved too good for the Leinster champions in the All-

Ireland club final replay, taking the title to Ulster for the first time.

Shamrocks turned three points clear and were six points ahead with one minute remaining when Pauric Hogan grabbed a consolation goal for St Rynaghs from the penalty spot.

WHILE Kilkenny were basking in the joys of yet another triumph, the real success story of the weekend was the achievement by Loughgiel. It was quite remarkable that the Antrim champions should emerge as the best hurling club in the country.

Not surprisingly they were delighted by their victory over Offaly champions, St. Rynagh's.

Team captain Niall Patterson said: "People said it was a freak when we won the Antrim title. Then they regarded it as impossible that we would beat Moycarkey-Borris. We did that too and then pulled off another famous win over St. Rynagh's. So much for freaks! I was worried that the break in training while we awaited the St. Rynagh's-Killormer controversy to be sorted out might upset us but we shook that off and played very well".

Team manager Neilly Patterson said that the victory was a great boost for hurling in general.

Braves Alive!

By PHILIP QUINN.

Cobh Ramblers, beaten but unbowed, have returned to their southern haven, their exploits in the FAI Cup completed. However, a flag-bearer remains for the underdogs. Little Loughgiel Shamrocks, those marvellous band of hurlers from Antrim, are alive and kicking in the All-Ireland Club Championship and are determined to succeed where their soccer counterparts have failed.

On Sunday, in the club final at Croke Park, the unconsidered and unfashionable Loughgiel were pitted against the might of Leinster supremos St. Rynagh's from Offaly. In the eyes of the "experts," Loughgiel had two chances of repeating their stunning semi-final success over Moycarkey-Borris—slim and none at all.

However, Loughgiel have been making a habit of proving critics wrong all season and as their captain and goalkeeper, Niall Patterson commented beforehand, it was a trend they fully intended to continue at Croke Park.

How close they came to collecting their first All-Ireland club crown, distinctly superior in the first half, despite a slender two-point lead, they squandered several scoring opportunities in the second period as well, and yet, were a mile fortunate to survive at the death when Padraic Horan drifted a free wide of the posts in the closing moments.

It was an encapsulating afternoons hurling, played in brilliant sunshine and at its conclusion, almost everyone concurred that a draw, in retrospect was a fair outcome. What a pity, however, that Loughgiel had ground for complaint on the occasion of their first ever appearance in an All-Ireland club championship final.

Team selector and club secretary, Neil Patterson, yesterday explained: "We were a little disappointed at the treatment we received. When we arrived at the ground, we were told at the main entrance to go to Stile 16 and enter from there," he said.

"We duly walked to Stile 16 where we were informed that there was no way in because we had no tickets. I explained to the man who we were and he instructed us to go back to the main entrance.

"I ran the 50 yards or so back to the entrance and the attendant repeated his earlier message stating that the way in was at Stile 16. By now, I was running all over the place feeling slightly foolish, but back I went to Stile 16 where, after much persuasion, our party of 35, including officials, were eventually allowed to pass through," he added.

This is not the first time that players, officials, and at times, members of the Press, have found difficulty in gaining

LOUGHGIEL HAD MORE ON THEIR MINDS

ROSSA 0-7

LOUGHGIEL 2-3

No doubt Sunday's All-Ireland Club championship final against St. Rynagh's, Offaly, at Croke Park, was more on Loughgiel's mind than this opening game of the more mundane Antrim Senior Hurling League.

In the end, however, despite their lack of concentration, they collected the points.

Against a gale force wind Loughgiel grabbed only one first half score, a goal from Seamus M'Naughton.

Rossa, with the wind, shot only five points and it was obvious that they had not done enough.

It took a great solo goal from Brendan Laverty midway through the second half to spur Loughgiel on and further points from Dominic M'Mullan and Brendan Laverty saw them home by two points.

Niall Patterson, P. J. O'Mullan, Paddy M'Ilhatton, Eamon Connelly, Brendan Laverty and Seamus M'Naughton were best for Loughgiel, while Rory Galway,

Brian Gormley, Jim Fagan and Aiden Hamill were always prominent for Rossa.

For Rossa Rory Galway (0-3), Sean Quinn (0-3), and Jim Fagan (0-1) got the scores.

Best wishes go with Loughgiel in their quest for All-Ireland honours. They obviously have a big task ahead with two all stars in the Offaly line-up. However, determination, similar to that displayed in the semi-final, can compensate for All Stars and if they keep their heads they will run it close. Good luck, lads!

GAELIC

SCENE

By Jim Smyth

**CUMANN LUITH-CHLEAS GAEL
COISDE CONNDAE AONDROMA**

**ALL IRELAND CLUB
CHAMPIONSHIP HURLING FINAL
(Replay)**

**CASEMENT PARK, BELFAST
SUNDAY, 24TH APRIL, 1983
AT 3.00 P.M.**

**LOUGHGIEL
SHAMROCKS**

(ANTRIM)

v

ST. RYNAGH'S

(OFFALY)

**ADMISSION £2
(INCLUDING COVERED STAND)**

GAA

HORAN MISSES LAST-GASP KO!

Loughgiel Shamrocks 1-8, St. Rynaghs 2-5

PARAIC HORAN, a key figure in Offaly's All-Ireland triumph in 1981, missed a golden chance to clinch the All-Ireland club Hurling Championship for St. Rynaghs with the last shot of a Croke Park thriller.

The sides were level when Gerard McKinley was pulled up by referee Noel O'Donoghue for a trip foul on James Horan about 51 yards out.

Wide

Paraic's free shot went to the right of the upright and wide. So these two teams must meet again but a new date will be a problem. Earlier the Antrim champions had the best chances to tie it all up.

Ironically they scored most of their points off frees but failed to snatch two vital half points from close frees and also missed out on a penalty. Loughgiel were ahead

by 1-4 to 1-2 at half-time.

LOUGHGIEL: B. Laverty 1-0, A. McNaughton 0-3, M. O'Connell 0-2, R. Carey (jun), M. Coyle and A. McCarty 0-1 each.
ST. RYNAGHS: H. Dolan 1-1, P. Horan 0-2, A. Horan 1-0, A. Fogarty and D. Devery 0-1 each.
All-Ireland Senior Hurling Club Championship: Loughgiel (Antrim) 1-8, St. Rynaghs (Offaly) 2-5. **National Hurling League Div. 1:** Mayo 10, Down 7-6. **Ulster Under-21 Championship Football:** Donegal 2-8, Antrim 1-4; Down 3-8, Cavan 4-5; Fermanagh 0-4, Monaghan 2-13. **Leinster Under-21 Football Championship:** Dublin 1-5, Meath 0-8, Carlow 0-6, Louth 0-7; Longford 1-7, Westmeath 0-5. **Keogh Cup Senior Hurling:** Dublin 3-5, Louth 2-4.

NIALL 'PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH'

NIALL Patterson — pictured — captain of recently crowned All-Ireland Club Hurling champions, Loughiel Shamrocks, has been honoured even further by being voted the B and I sponsored GAA 'personality of the month.'

Niall is the first ever player to be awarded such a coveted honour for services with a club rather than with a county.

His sparkling displays in the All-Ireland final and final replay against St. Rynagh's from Co. Offaly, mean that the 21-year-old goalkeeper is guest of honour at a luncheon and presentation in the Gresham Hotel in Dublin.

The Association of Sports Journalists in Ireland chose the burly, 14 stones, Patterson as their top player during April, a remarkable

feat when one considers that during that period the National League Hurling and Football finals were played.

Niall, educated at St. Louis Grammar and St. Patrick's Secondary Schools, is now a technigraph designer in Cloughmills shirt factory, and he is no stranger to success. Already he has won two All-Ireland 'B' championship medals, four Ulster Under-21 medals, one Antrim minor championship trophy, and of course, Antrim, Ulster and All-Ireland Senior medals last season.

What is left for the 5 ft. 11



if he maintains his impressive form. If only he would stop eating and lose weight, he could be an even better goalkeeper!"

Well Niall, heartiest congratulations on your tremendous achievement, and I'm sure the dieting will not start until after that big meal in Dublin!

FOOTNOTE — Neilly Patterson asked me to thank Mrs. Holmes and Bob McCombe, both members of the Ballymoney Rural Council, who extended congratulations to Loughiel Shamrocks after their historic All-Ireland victory.

ins. Patterson to achieve in hurling circles?

His father Neilly, the manager of the Antrim County team, stated: "He could be an All-Star next year



Niall Patterson, of the Loughiel G.A.A. Club, who was invited to Dublin recently to collect the 'Trophy of Cuchullin,' The B. & I. Line/G.A.A. Personality of the month award. Niall, who lives in Cloughmills, was picked out from all the G.A.A. teams in Ireland.



Award For Patterson

A little piece of history was enacted at the monthly B+I G.A.A. Personality Award ceremony yesterday when Niall Patterson of Loughiel Shamrocks was named the personality for April.

The first piece of history lies in the fact that Patterson becomes the first hurler from Antrim to win the award and the Loughiel goalkeeper and captain also becomes the first player to be honoured for success achieved in a club competition. Loughiel beat St. Rynaghs (Offaly) in the All-Ireland club hurling championship final.

Patterson joins a fairly elite band of hurling goalkeepers who have won the award as Seamus Durack (Clare) and Noel Skehan (Kilkenny) are among the previous winners. Dave Synnott

Niall nets top award

NIALL PATTERSON (above) has become only the third hurling goalkeeper to be named B and I — GAA Personality of the Month since the award scheme started in 1975.

Patterson, who captained Loughiel Shamrocks to their historic All-Ireland club hurling championship victory over St. Rynagh's of Offaly, is also the first winner from club competition.

And his selection for April makes him the first Antrim and Ulster hurler to be honoured.

Outsiders Loughiel's victory over St. Rynagh's was the greatest success for Antrim hurling since the county beat Kilkenny in the 1943 All-Ireland semi-final.

Loughgiel

live to fight again

By Liam McDowell

LOUGHGIEL 1-3, ST. RYNAGH'S 2-5.

LOUGHGIEL Shamrocks, all but written off as serious contenders for Ulster's first All-Ireland club hurling crown, knocked the form book sideways when they met and matched — St. Rynagh's in the Croke Park decider yesterday.

The game, which produced an exhilarating 60 minutes of superb hurling, ended in a draw. The stage is now set for a replay on a date yet to be fixed.

But while the draw was generally accepted as a fair result, the Offaly men almost made a one-point win only seconds from the final whistle. An untimely trip on right corner ward James Horan brought Rynagh's a free — and when Brian Horan stepped up for a 50 metres stroke, it seemed over for gallant Loughgiel. But the shot drifted three feet to the left of the upright, much to the relief of the Antrim supporters. The 3,000 crowd, and the game lasted a few seconds after the kick out.

St. Rynagh's were rated as being the more experienced and they would also be the first to admit, that trailing by two points at half-time (1-2 to 1-4) was a fortunate state of affairs. It was that Loughgiel were really unfortunate to concede their second goal.

The first Offaly goal came a minute before the break. Brian Horan hammered home an off-the-sock clearance from goal. The skipper Niall Patterson, in a second, less than 90 seconds after the re-start, was given a gift chance, this time by Aodh Horan when the ball popped at his feet after slipping off the upright.

Both gift chances gave St. Rynagh's a shaky 2-3 to 1-4 lead. When the deficit might have been reduced to only one point a few minutes later, Loughgiel defender Mick O'Connell, perhaps unwisely, drove a salty shot at the three-man mouth defence only to see the ball caught and cleared.

Loughgiel can also feel grieved at another piece of misfortune when a Patterson clearance was seen to bounce to corner forward Dolan and over the end-line. But the referee, surprisingly, signalled 'GO' which Padraig Horan converted with a superb stroke. There was a hint of fate, too, in a later stage when the usually reliable O'Connell missed twice in reasonable positions, but the game was balanced when All-Ireland hero Horan screwed a last ditch attempt wide in the dying seconds.

Apart from goal scorer Brendan Laverty, who finished his glorious three man move to the net in the opening half, Loughgiel were well served by their half back Aidan Naughton, who scored three exceptional points — one from only 100 yards.

Final replay next Sunday

The replay of the All-Ireland inter-club hurling final between St. Rynagh's (Offaly) and Loughgiel Shamrocks (Antrim) will be played at Casement Park, Belfast, next Sunday (3.0), writes PADDY DOWNEY.

Announcing the fixture yesterday, the GAA PRO, Pat Quigley, said that the clash of the game with the two National League finals was unavoidable because of the lack of suitable dates. The game could not be arranged for either of the first two Sundays in May because the St. Rynagh's centre half back, Aidan Fogarty will be touring the United States with the Bank of Ireland All-Stars.

Jim Rankins (Laois) has been appointed referee of the replay in place of Noel O'Donoghue (Dublin), who was in charge of the drawn game at Croke Park last Sunday. O'Donoghue postponed a business trip to America to fulfill that appointment. He flew out from Dublin yesterday.

Loughgiel can make history in final

THIS SUNDAY, all roads from Loughgiel lead to Croke Park, Dublin, where the local Shamrocks contest their first All-Ireland hurling final against St. Rynagh's, Co. Offaly.

What a season it has been for Loughgiel because, against all the odds they battled their way through the Antrim championship, overcoming the then reigning champions Cushendall in the semi-final, and then in an exciting final, they overwhelmed North Antrim neighbours, Ballycastle, to lift the county championship for the first time since 1971.

Last October in the Ulster final, the Shamrocks struggled against the Co. Down champions, Ballygalget, but in the end they scraped home by a 1-9 to 0-9 margin. That, in fact, was the club's third Ulster title, having won previously in 1970 and 1971, but the big test still lay ahead.

On February 13, with home advantage Loughgiel ran out at Healey Park against the powerful Munster kingpins, Moycarkey Borris, from Tipperary. The visitors were a goal ahead inside a minute and with the Shamrocks still behind with just 10 minutes left, no one really expected them to come

back. But hit back they did in true, fighting spirit, with two goals inside a minute, from young Paddy Carey and Aidan McCarry, to clinch a memorable victory.

This Sunday, at 3 pm, sees the Loughgiel men contest the All-Ireland final against Leinster title holders, St. Rynagh's, Offaly, who include in their ranks goalkeeper Damian Martin, centre-half-back Aidan Fogarty, and full-forward Padraig Horan, all members of the Offaly Senior county team which carried off the 1981 All-Ireland title.

St. Rynagh's are no strangers to the big occasion because in 1973, they won the All-Ireland club championship, defeating Rosa, Belfast, in the semi-final. However, I visited the Loughgiel training camp recently and found the squad "quietly confident", looking forward to the big match at the week-end.

Indeed that match is the major talking point at present in the village and surrounding

districts and already four coaches and dozens of cars, have been booked for the journey to Dublin on Sunday to support their Shamrock heroes.

Team trainer Danny McMullan, a PE teacher in Ballymoney, has the panel in great physical condition, but team selector Neill Patterson, himself a member of the Antrim championship winning sides in 1956 and 1963, added: "This is a chance of a lifetime. If Loughgiel can go out without an inferiority complex, believe in themselves, and get the breaks, then we can win."

Paddy Carey, now resident in Moneyglass, but right-half back on that famous 1958 team, stated: "If they have confidence in their ability, take the game to the opposition, then the boys must have an excellent chance."

Can Loughgiel do it? — that is the question all Ulster hurling enthusiasts are asking. Team selectors, Liam McGarry, Dominic Casey and Neill Patterson, have not yet announced the starting line-up, but barring injury it should be as in the semi-final.

Without doubt, if Loughgiel become the first Ulster outfit to lift the All-Ireland title, then the celebrations in the local Pound Lounge, will go on until the small hours of Monday morning — at least! Let's wish them well and hope that the Shamrocks can achieve that "dream of a lifetime."

How they got to the final.

Antrim championship — 1st round, beat St. Johns 2.11-1.10; 2nd round, beat Sarsfields 2.14-0.8; Semi-final, beat Cushendall 3.7-1.11; Final, beat Ballycastle 5.9-3.8.

Ulster championship — Semi-final, beat Cloutibret, Monaghan 2.15-0.6. Final, beat Ballygalget, Co. Down, 1.9-0.9.

All-Ireland championship — Semi-final, beat Moycarkey Borris, Tipperary, 2.7-1.6. Final, verses St. Rynagh's, Co. Offaly.

★ ★ ★
My sympathy rests with St. Rynagh's over the fixing of the replay of the All-Ireland club hurling final for Casement Park in Belfast. It really is a case of travelling into the lion's den and the decision might well cost the Offaly champions the title. All neutrals will be secretly wishing Loughgiel well and a victory for the men of Antrim would certainly be a fairytale ending to this club competition.

★ ★ ★

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 1983

Loughgiel lad All- Ireland champion

During 1983 the Loughgiel club has never been far from the headlines. Now they have hit them again.

At the weekend in Croke Park the club won the All-Ireland Feile na Gael skills competition when 13-year-old Seamus Dobbin gave almost a perfect performance.

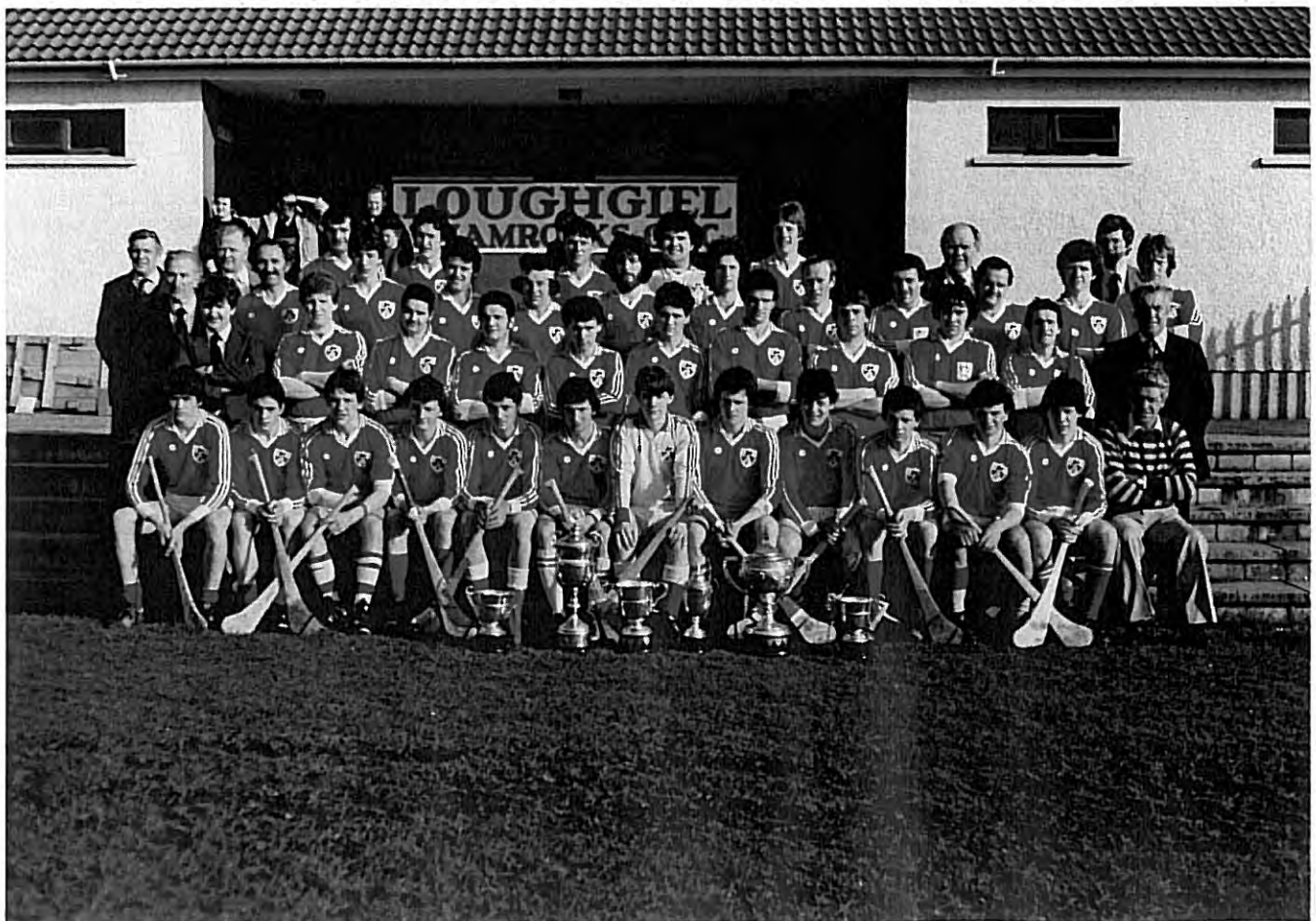
Competing against 20 other county champions, the Antrim lad led them a merry dance displaying complete composure during the four skills.

Entering the final round Dobbin was joint leader with the Clare champion, but a mess up by the Clare youngster knocked him out of the top three places.

Kilkenny and Waterford had to play off for second spot with the Munster county coming through.

Dobbin, a 2nd year pupil at St. Patrick's Secondary School, Ballymena, amassed 64 points from the four events. He dropped just two points, one in striking and the other in the penalty competition.

Loughgiel chairman Gerard McCloskey, who accompanied young Dobbin to the event, said: "Seamus has done the club proud. His performance was magnificent and he has set an example to other lads in the club".



PREVIOUS FINAL MEETINGS

With twenty-seven Antrim Senior hurling championship titles between them, Ballycastle and Loughgiel have obviously dominated the scene along with Rossa and St. John's.

The teams have only met in four county finals although prior to 1930 they met in the North Antrim final on many occasions.

The last meeting of the teams was in 1970. Then Loughgiel won 8-9 to 4-8.

The Shamrocks started firm favourites for that game but for three quarters of the game it looked as if Ballycastle might provide a shock. Loughgiel, however, rallied in the final quarter with goals from Seamus Richmond, Barney Campbell and Gerry M'Garry to run out convincing winners.

In 1964 Loughgiel again were also firm favourites. They were the reigning champions, having beaten Dunloy in the '63 final. M'Quillans, however, surprised the champions to collect their first title in ten years.

In 1953 and again in 1950 Ballycastle were dominant when both games were played in Belfast.

Longest serving players on both sides are the Donnelly brothers, Kevin and Eddie for Ballycastle and Brendan M'Garry for the Shamrocks. All three played in the 1964 final, the Donnelly's winning the first of their five championship medals. For M'Garry, however, it was the second of six medals, the first being won the previous year at Dunloy's expense.

LOUGHGIEL AND BALLYCASTLE'S LAST TITLE WINNING SIDES

Loughgiel Shamrocks last won the county hurling title in 1971 when in the final they easily overcame Glenariffe by 4-11 to 1-5 at Ballycastle. This victory ensured Loughgiel's fifth title in six years.

The Loughgiel team which won that thirteenth title was Johnny Coyle, Aiden Connolly, Neil M'Mullan, Patsy M'Garry, Seamus M'Mullan, Arthur Connolly, Patsy M'Ilhatton, Dan Gillan and P. J. O'Mullan; Brendan M'Garry, J. M'Fadden, Seamus Richmond, Paddy Carey, Gerard M'Garry, Barney Campbell.

Ballycastle's last title was won two years ago when they beat Cushendall in the final at Dunloy. This victory gave them their fourteenth title.

The team on that occasion was very similar to the present one with only a couple of changes in personnel.

The team was—Paul Smith; Kevin Boyle, Kevin Donnelly, Gerard M'Auley, Seamus Donnelly, Terence Donnelly, Des Donnelly,

Terence Barton and Mickey Dallet; Brian Donnelly, Phelim Watson, Peter Boyle, Charlie M'Veigh, Eddie Donnelly, Olcan Laverty.

CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE WINNERS

Ballycastle 14—1913, 1914, 1933, 1944, 1948, 1950, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1964, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1980.

Loughgiel 13—1920, 1924, 1925, 1929, 1938, 1943, 1956, 1963, 1966, 1967, 1968, 11070, 1971.

Rossa 13—1918, 1919, 1921, 1945, 1949, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1972, 1976, 1977.

O'Connell's 9—1927, 1928, 1930, 1932, 1936,

1940, 1941, 1942, 1946, St. John's 7—1934, 1951, 1961, 1962, 1965, 1969, 1973.

Carey 3—1906, 1916, 1923.

Mitchels 3—1911, 1912, 1947.

Tir-na-nOg 3—1922, 1926, 1939.

Glenariffe 2—1935, 1937.

Cushendun 1—1931.

Sarsfields 1—1974.

Cushendall 1—1981.

Castle panel—Paul
 ith, Kevin Boyle, Kevin
 nnelly, Gerard M'Auley,
 amus Donnelly, Terence
 nnelly, Kevin M'Shane,
 rence Barton, Stephen
 yle, Peter Boyle, Charlie
 Veigh, Brian Donnelly, Des
 nnelly, Olcan Lavery,
 die Donnelly, John
 Kendry, Kieran Donnelly,
 ddy Kinney, Liam
 lagher, Brendan Elliott,
 elim Watson, Danny
 oney.

eam manager—Dermot
 nnelly.

ainer—Paddy M'Shane.

electors—Robbie Elliott,
 mot Donnelly, Paddy
 Shane and Joe Butler.

Loughgiel panel—Niall
 erson, Liam Lavery, Sean
 erty, P. J. O'Mullan, Sean
 ey, Eamon Connolly,
 ddy M'Ilhatton, Aiden
 Naughton, Robin Clarke,
 minic M'Mullan, Gerard
 Kinley, Mick O'Connell,
 gene Patterson, Dominic
 Kinley, Joe M'Gurk,
 endan Lavery, Seamus
 Naughton, Aiden M'Carry,
 e M'Gurk, Martin Coyle,
 ddy Carey, Harry Carry,
 endan M'Garry, Paddy
 Intyre, Paddy O'Connell,
 mus Richmond.

ainer—Danny M'Mullan.

electors—Niall Patterson,
 um M'Garry, Sean Carey.



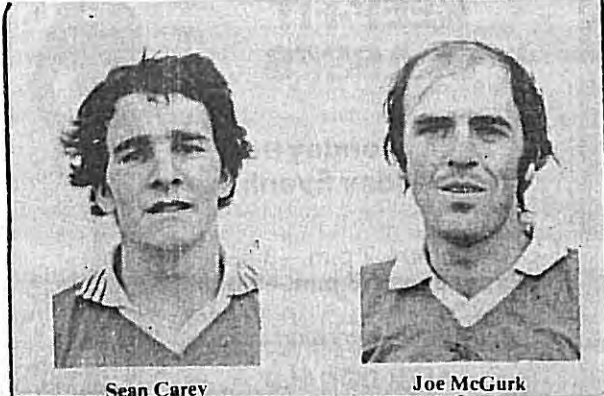
Mick O'Connell

Gerard McKinley



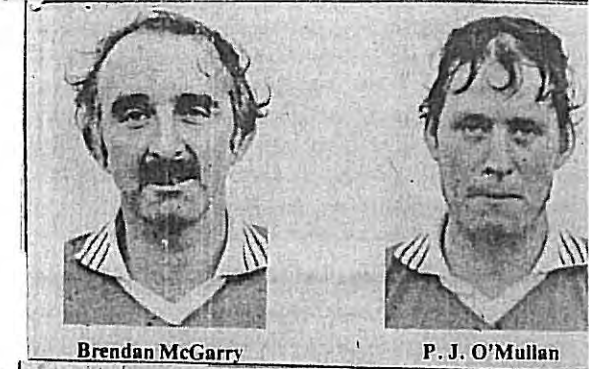
Sean Lavery

Robin Clarke



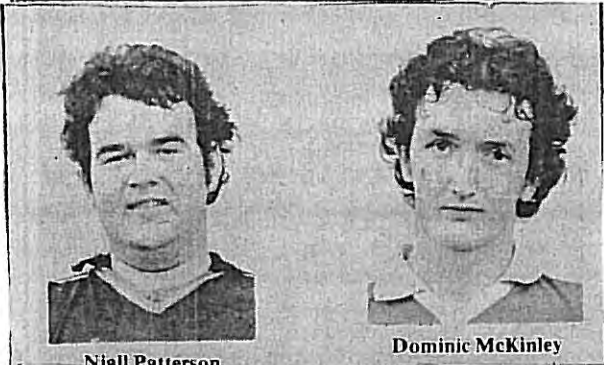
Sean Carey

Joe McGurk



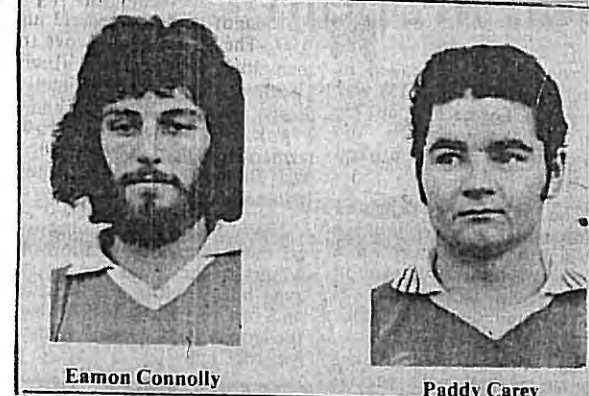
Brendan McGarry

P. J. O'Mullan



Niall Patterson

Dominic McKinley



Eamon Connolly

Paddy Carey



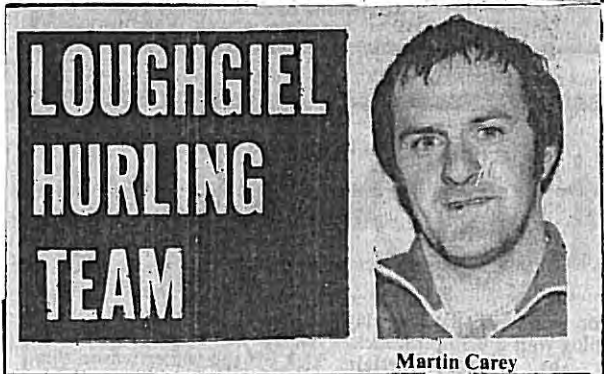
Donnie McMullan

Paddy McIlhatton



Martin Coyle

Brendan Lavery



**LOUGHGIEL
 HURLING
 TEAM**



Martin Carey



Aiden McNaughton

Seamus McNaughton



BALLYCASTLE HURLING TEAM

Peter Boyle



Seamus Donnelly



Terence Donnelly



Brian Donnelly



Terence Barton



Des Donnelly



Olcan Laverty



Kevin McShane



Kevin Donnelly



Paul Smith



Kevin McShane



Stephen Boyle



Eddie Donnelly



Patrick Kinney



Liam Gallagher



Gerard McAuley



Benny Elliott



Charley McVeigh



Kieran Donnelly