

HURLING WORLD

Hurling-Camogie
Championship
Launch in Ulster

Mayo sink
Lakesiders in
Christy Ring

Hurling mourn's
Tipperary Legend



Foul or Fair -
Flaherty Goal
in 1981 Final?

Sportsfile capture
captured Silverware
(page one photo)

ISSUE THREE 18TH MAY 2009

2008 Kilkenny Silverware, from left: Leinster Under 21 trophy, Leinster Minor trophy, Leinster Intermediate trophy, National Hurling League Division 1 trophy, Bob O'Keefe Cup, Liam MacCarthy Cup, Irish Press Cup, All-Ireland Intermediate trophy, Walsh Cup, All-Ireland Under 21 trophy and the Railway Cup.

Welcome to the third issue of HURLING WORLD,

We are still in the calm before the storm with just two weeks to go before the championship cranks into gear with Cork taking on Tipperary in the first round of the Munster Championship in Semple Stadium and Galway heading into Leinster to face Laois in Portlaoise.

The second round of the Christy Ring Cup took place on Saturday with Mayo surprising Westmeath in Westport while Down and last year's champions Carlow have made it to the semi-final stages. The most successful team in the competition Westmeath are now confined to a relegation battle with Wicklow, while Kildare play Mayo and Kerry play Derry in the 2 quarter finals next weekend.

The 8 counties involved are pleased that they have at least 3 games and didn't have the long training break after the league that was forced on them in other years. In addition with the final fixed for the 20th of June the possibility of a Croke Park appearance is still a realistic dream for the finalists.

The combined launch in Ulster of the Ulster Senior Hurling and Ulster Senior and Junior Camogie Championships, where hurling and camogie championship games form double headers shows great initiative. We wish both well with their programme.

We look back at Offaly's 1981 breakthrough and we put Johnny Flaherty's winning goal under the microscope. We also visit Kilnadeema/Leitrim - the little rural club in Galway who captured the Co Galway féile title.

HURLING WORLD was saddened to hear of the death of that gentle giant of Tipperary hurling, Roger Ryan and also Galway's Paddy O'Brien. Roger won Munster and All Ireland titles in the early 70's and helped Toomevara in recent years as a selector. Paddy was part of Galway's U-21 breakthrough in 1972 and played for his club Turloughmore for a number of years.



Derry's Conor Quinn

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Mayo Hurlers Sink the Lakesiders

Words: Adrian Hession

The Mayo hurlers caused one of the shocks of the year on Saturday last in Westport GAA Grounds, as they dumped early season favourites Westmeath out of the Christy Ring Cup for 2009. Westmeath came into the tie as 1/7 on favourites, but the bookies got it all wrong as Mayo kept their championship aspirations alive thanks to a dogged display of power and skill.

Mayo's platform for victory was set in one minute's hurling during the opening quarter, as a brace of goals rocked the travelling Westmeath outfit. The first came in the 10th minute as Derek McDonnell was first to pounce on a loose ball from close range, while a minute later Tooreen's Martin Devaney justified his selection by goaling high into the Westmeath net after some neat approach play by Piersie Higgins. This left the score at 2-2 to 0-3 to the homeside - with all of Westmeath's early points coming from Andrew Mithell long-range free's.

Mayo's dominance continued with further points from Adrian Freeman, as he tormented the Westmeath defence from frees and play, while Eoghan Madigan and Brian Higgins both toasted their home crowd with peaches of long-range points. But it was the Higgins' brothers at midfield - Piersie and Keith - who were pulling the strings all through the tie.

Westmeath finally steadied their ship coming towards half time as points from Robbie Jackson (2) and Ciaran Curley kept their side in touch, but Keith Higgins had the final say of the opening half as he converted a long range free from his own half to leave the score at 2-8 to 0-6 in favour of Mayo at the interval.

Westmeath had it all to do in the second half and threw caution to the wind by introducing both Derek McNicholas and Darren Kilcoyne to the fray. Minutes later Westmeath were dealt another hammer-blow as wing-back and former Christy Ring All-Star Darren McCormack received his marching orders for a second yellow card, after an incident with Mayo's Eoghan Madigan. Westmeath - now reduced to 14 players - faced the mammoth task of overturning eight point deficit, while the resulting Piersie Higgins point put nine between the sides with 30 minutes remaining.

The extra space provided to the Mayo attack in the absence of Darren McCormack was capitalised on further, as Mayo points began to flow from Keith Higgins (4) and Martin Devaney (2), while Stephen Broderick also converted a brace of points on his home soil. The final quarter was also notable for the introduction of Tooreen underage hurling star Cathal Freeman, who made his long awaited



Piersie Higgins who along with his brother Keith gave midfield advantage to Mayo in their Christy Ring Cup round two game against Westmeath. (Photo: Adrian Hession)

championship debut after replacing Eoghan Madigan at wing forward. The full time score was Mayo 2-20 Westmeath 0-15.

Armagh moved into the quarter-finals of the Ulster SHC after a 15-point win over Donegal in O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny on a score of Armagh 3-24, Donegal 2-12.

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Derry 2-15 Wicklow 0-9

Derry proved too strong for Wicklow at Swatragh on Saturday, eventually running out 2-15 to 0-9 winners. The decisive score in the first-half came on 21 minutes when Swatragh's Ruairi Convery goaled.

The Oak Leaf county pushed on in the second-half as corner-forward, Aaron Kelly, rattled the Garden County net to effectively end the game as a contest.

Wicklow had to wait until 26 minutes into the second-half before they registered their first score. That pointed free came from the stick of Joe Murphy who was eventually sent-off along with Derry half-back, Mark Craig.

Kerry 2-10 Down 3-11

A late Down rally at Austin Stack Park in Tralee ensured the Mourne men came away with the spoils on a 3-11 to 2-10 scoreline. Kerry full-forward James McCarthy got the crucial goal after 30 minutes. Outside of McCarthy, Shane Brick scored all of Kerry's points in the opening 35 minutes.

Down's Simon Wilson was more than his equal from placed balls in the second half and in general play. Gareth Johnson goaled for Down after 11 minutes of the second-half but Kerry's John Mike Dooley pushed the home side 2-9 to 2-8 ahead with a poacher's goal. However, Down finished the better and Johnson's second goal put in the final nail.

Top left: Derry manager Brian McGilligan at the game against Wicklow on Saturday. Above: Conor Quinn, Derry, in action against Eoghan Dunne, Wicklow in the Christy Ring Cup at Swatragh, Co. Derry on Saturday.

Kildare 1-13 Carlow 1-16

Carlow ran out three point winners over neighbours Kildare at Newbridge on Saturday. In what was a decent spectacle played in terrible conditions the Barrowsiders edged it on a 1-16 to 1-13 scoreline. Kildare had two late chances to draw or even win the match but they failed to capitalise on them as Carlow followed up on their win over Wicklow last weekend.

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Holders Carlow join Down in the semi finals

ROUND ONE
9/05/2009

KERRY 3-11
MAYO 1-16

KILDARE 3-19
WESTMEATH 2-21

DOWN 3-20
DERRY 1-22

CARLOW 4-16
WICKLOW 3-9

ROUND TWO
16/05/2009

DOWN 3-11
KERRY 1-16

SECTION 2A
WINNERS

CARLOW 1-16
KILDARE 1-13

MAYO 2-20
WESTMEATH 0-15

SECTION 2B
LOSERS

DERRY 2-15
WICKLOW 0-9

QUARTER FINALS
23/05/2009

KILDARE
MAYO

KERRY
DERRY

RELEGATION
23/05/2009

WESTMEATH
WICKLOW

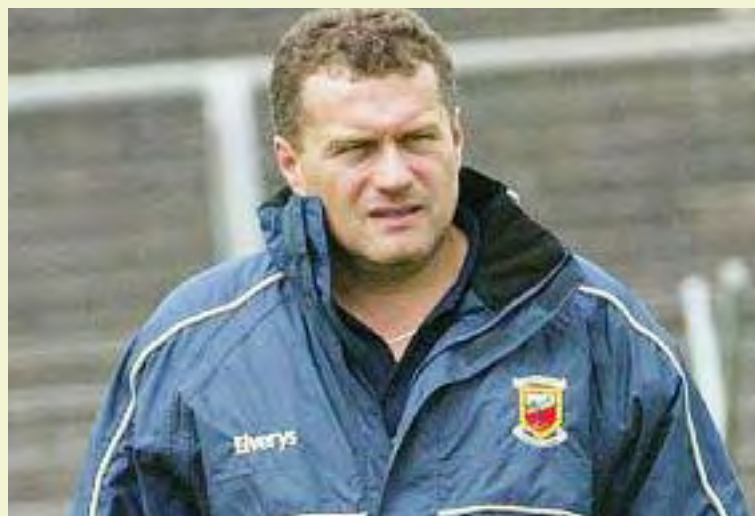
SEMI-FINALS
6/06/2009

DOWN
QTR WINNERS

CARLOW
QTR WINNERS

CHRISTY RING CUP FINAL
20/06/2009
PROVISIONAL

SEMI WINNERS
SEMI WINNERS



Mayo manager Martin Brennan saw his troops regain lost ground with a big win over Westmeath in round two of the Christy Ring Cup to qualify for the quarter finals against Kildare.

"If we don't take it on one step further this year and get to the final this day will be forgotten about very soon. We have to get down to brass tax and keep working and repeat that performance next week against Kildare"

Martin Brennan (after Mayo's win over Westmeath)

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The rock bows out

Cork's Diarmuid O'Sullivan has officially retired from intercounty hurling. The 'rock', who hadn't returned to training since the end of the latest Cork dispute, informed Denis Walsh of his decision after a recent club game. The 1999 young hurler of the year will be a big loss to the Hurling championship. His presence at the edge of the square alloyed to his freight train like bursts out of defence were a sight to behold. O'Sullivan now retires with 3 All Ireland medals, 4 Munster medals, 4 All Stars and a Munster Football medal from 2002. The 'rock' has enormous respect from fellow hurlers in the game and Galway's Ollie Canning remarked "He was a very strong player who had a great presence around the goals. He was so tough. A number of things stand out. I remember a great point from miles out the field when he bounced off a guy and then landed it over from inside his own half."

Cody sweats on Kavanagh

Brain Cody has admitted that Kilkenny will have to allow Michael Kavanagh ample time to recover from a recent hamstring injury. The St Lachtain's clubman did the damage in a recent club game. The 5 time All Ireland medal winner has had a relatively injury free career and has been one of the regular names on the Kilkenny team sheet in the successful Cody era.



Don Hyland hangs up his boots

Wicklow's veteran Don Hyland has called time on his career with the Garden County. The Carnew clubman has given his county an astonishing 20 years of dedicated service. Hyland has won League and All Ireland medals with Wicklow. A knee injury has forced the dual player into retirement but he will continue to play both Hurling and Football with his club. "Even though we had to endure a lot of disappointments, I have never regretted playing for my county. Every day I could put on a Wicklow jersey was a good day for me."



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ULSTER GAA & CAMOGIE HOST JOINT CHAMPIONSHIP LAUNCH



Players and officials at the joint launch in the Ramada Hotel



Players and officials at the joint launch in the Ramada Hotel

The combined launch of the Ulster Senior Hurling & Ulster Senior & Junior Camogie Championships took place recently at the Ramada Hotel Belfast. For the second year in a row the Provincial 'small ball' family held a joint launch.

In attendance were Ulster GAA President Tom Daly, Provincial Director Danny Murphy, Chairperson of the Ulster Camogie Council, Catherine O'Hara, along with players and managers from participating Counties.

As part of the ongoing Ulster Integration process Tom Daly outlined that, where possible Ulster GAA would seek to include Camogie fixtures as curtain raisers to Ulster GAA Championship games.

The senior semi-finals have now been played and Tyrone and Derry have booked themselves a final outing on July 4th at Pairc Esler with Tyrone playing Monaghan as a curtain-raiser in the provincial junior decider.

Ulster Camogie Chairperson Catherine O'Hara praised the Ulster GAA's leadership in the area.

"Moving forward together will only serve to strengthen the hand of both codes. After all we are from the same families and parishes who want the best for their young people male and female...sport should be no exception."

Catherine went on to single out the close working relationship of the two Councils. "This is the first time in our Ulster Camogie history that a County ground...in fact any ground has been provided for our showcase finals so well in advance.

Last year the Ulster GAA President Tom Daly and Secretary Danny Murphy recognised our need to be able to market and sell our game...which was really impossible when no-one knew where the match was until the final hour. This year Securing Pairc

Esler in Newry, with the full support of the Down GAA Board has given us the unique opportunity to stage the greatest day ever.

We are actively promoting the event among our members, which will cater for the whole family and become a festival of camogie.

We expect a recording breaking attendance. Camogie clubs in Ulster have been asked to give this their full support. Players, officials, administrators and supporters from past era's are being contacted in an effort to attract all our people back to the game.

The reaction from the smallest of clubs has been overwhelming...we expect a bumper crowd. A full itinerary will be issued by mid May.

For full podcast interviews with Tom Daly and Catherine O'Hara along with Antrim Hurling manager Dominic McKinley log onto www.gaelgames.com www.ulstercamogie.ie www.ulstergaa.ie



Roger Ryan walks back to his position after scoring a great goal in the 1975 League Final against Galway in Limerick. (See YouTube 1975 League Final HURL0012)



Limerick's Pat Hartigan (seen here pucking out the ball in the 1973 All Ireland Final marked Roger Ryan many times on the edge of the square in the early 1970's.



Roger Ryan 1944-2009. (Toomevara, Roscrea and Tipperary)

"He was a big powerful man and a great first time striker of the ball. It was hard to keep him out. On one occassion Roger went out corner forward on Ned Rea. They were tusling for a long time without the ball. I heard him say to Ned - at least Hartigan will play hurling with a man".
Pat Hartigan

Hurling fans across the country were saddened with the news of the death of Roger Ryan of Toomevara and Tipperary who passed away on Monday, May 11th following a short illness.

Roger won Munster and All-Ireland senior hurling medals playing at full forward with Tipperary in 1971. He played with Tipperary from 1970 to 1976 inclusive and won an Oireachtas medal in 1972 and represented Munster in the Railway Cup.

He later served as a senior hurling selector with Tipperary. He won a North Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship with Toomevara in 1962 and later won North and County Senior Hurling Championships with Roscrea in 1980. His great goal in injury time in the 1980 county final prevented Kilruane-McDonaghs from winning a four in a row.

He was a senior hurling selector with Toomevara for several of their county senior hurling championship wins in the last 17

years. His younger brother Tom played in the 1962 All Ireland Final when Tipperary beat Wexford. Tom sadly passed away in 1970 at the young age of 29.

HURLING WORLD would like to extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Teresa, his sons Tomás and Diarmaid, his daughter Helen and all his family on their sad bereavement.

Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anam uasal.



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Kilnadeema/Leitrim, County Galway U-14 A Féile na nGael Champions 2009.

Back Row: Liam Kelly, Stephen Roche, Tony Molloy, Noel Farrell, Patrick Halpin, Glen Costello, Evan Curley, Dara O'Donoghue, Martin O'Brien, Keith Callanan and Jacques Chahin.

Front Row: Mickey Lynch, Kevin Roche, Mark Lawless, Shane Fahy, Justin Moran, Daniel Mottram, Brian Molloy, (Capt), Stephen Molloy, Ciaran Connor, Paul Houlohan and Jack Kenny.

Kilnadeema/Leitrim, a small rural hurling club situated in East Galway created a wonderful story for all small clubs aspiring to reach the top of the ladder when they won the Galway U-14 Féile Na nGael title for the very first time in April 2009.

Though it has added U-14 and U-16 titles to their intermediate win in 1999, this proud club is best known nationally for providing the third President of the GAA Peter Kelly in

the early days of the Association. The club has competed in the B and C competitions of almost all the championships in Co Galway over the years.

With the Féile competition format changing to an open draw this year, the club could have drawn with any club in either A, B or C grades. Kilnadeema/Leitrim defeated Ardrahan, and Ballinasloe in the opening rounds before overcoming Carnmore in the quarter finals. Neighbours and great rivals

Loughrea were the team's semi-final opponents and in a competitive game Kilnadeema/Leitrim proved too strong by a few points.

The county final in Kenny Park, Athenry, was also a first time appearance for their opponents Liam Mellowes in this competition. Kilnadeema/Leitrim got a great start and were always in control, running out convincing winners on a scoreline of 3-09 to 0-06.

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1981 Another breakthrough

Offaly were given a huge fright when Laois mounted a massive challenge against their next door neighbours in the Leinster semi-final. With four minutes to go, Laois led by two points. Offaly managed to level the scores just before full time and then, with the last stroke of the match, from ninety yards out, Pat Kirwan sent the ball through the posts to clinch the tie.

After another close game, Wexford for once got the better of Kilkenny with a score of 4 - 12 to 1 - 18. The competitive spirit continued in Leinster as Offaly and Wexford fought out a tough and tight final. An eight-point Offaly lead was cut back in the second half and with two minutes to go Wexford were just a single point behind. Offaly went two points in front again but then at the death, Wexford stormed through for the winning goal only to see the shot cut out. Final score: Offaly 3 - 12, Wexford 2 - 13.

Cork were fancied to succeed in Munster following a six-point victory over Offaly in the League final. However, in the semi-final they came up against Clare, who had earlier knocked out Waterford, and went down by 2 - 13 to 2 - 15. In the other semi-final, Limerick found themselves 14 points behind Tipperary but fought back gallantly to force a draw. They won the replay comfortably by 3 - 17 to 2 - 12.

Joe McKenna had been Tipperary's tormentor and he took the same role against Clare in the Munster final, scoring three goals to help Limerick through by 3 - 12 to 2 - 9. In a tough All-Ireland semi-final, Limerick's Sean Foley was sent off after only nine



Offaly's Johnny Flaherty is chased by Galway's Sylvie Linnane in the 1981 All Ireland final

minutes but Galway failed to take advantage and never managed to take the lead. Four penalties were awarded during the match but none was converted. Galway scored a late point to grab a draw at 1 - 8 to 0 - 11.

Limerick were missing several players for the replay. Joe Connolly starred, scoring 2 - 7 of Galway's total, 4 - 16. Limerick's tally was 2 - 17.

Galway had the unfamiliar burden of being favourites for the All-Ireland final. Having

played with the wind they led at the interval by 0 - 13 to 1 - 4. Galway's dominance continued into the second half but then Offaly began to make an impression and gradually narrowed the gap while their opponents' attack dried up. The crucial score came five minutes from time when Johnny Flaherty, although surrounded by Galway defenders, hand-passed the ball over his shoulder and into the net. Two more points gave Offaly victory by 2 - 12 to 0 - 15.

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Above: OFFALY-ALL-IRELAND HURLING CHAMPIONS 1981

Back Row: Pat Kirwan, Pat Fleury, Joachim Kelly, Liam Currams, Pat Delaney, Eugene Coughlan, Aidan Fogarty.
Front Row: Tom Donoghoe, Johnny Flaherty, Damien Martin, Pdraig Horan(Capt.), Ger Coughlan, Pat Carroll, Mark Corrigan, Brendan Bermingham.



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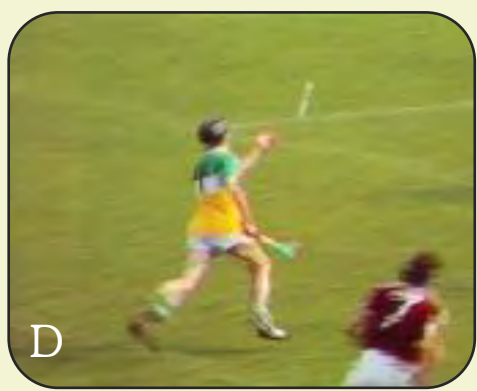
Right: Offaly's Johnny Flaherty and Galway's Seamus Coen in action in the 1981 All-Ireland Final.





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Throw or Handpass?



- A. Pat Delaney catches a Jimmy Cooney clearance.
- B. He rounds Michael Connolly and solos forward.
- C. He slips through Joe Connolly and Jimmy Cooney and strikes a short pass to Brendan Birmingham.
- D. Brendan gives a good handpass to Johnny Flaherty.
- E. He is tackled by Mike Conneely and Seamus Coen. He throws up the ball.
- F. He follows through with his right hand and palms the ball to the net over Michael Conneely's left shoulder.

Johnny Flaherty first came to prominence on the inter-county scene as a member of the Offaly minor and under-21 teams. He had little success in either of these grades and he quickly joined the county senior team. He emigrated to the United States at the start of the 1970s. When he returned he resumed his place on the Offaly senior team. In 1980 Offaly defeated reigning All-Ireland champions Kilkenny in the Leinster final. It was the first time that Offaly had captured the provincial title and it gave Flaherty his first Leinster medal. It was a remarkable turnaround for a team that had no hurling tradition. Unfortu-

nately Offaly's dream season came to an end at the hands of Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final. In 1981 Offaly retained their provincial crown and Flaherty added a second Leinster medal to his collection. This victory allowed Offaly to advance directly to the All-Ireland final against Galway. After fourteen minutes Flaherty passed the sliothar to Pat Carroll who scored the first of Offaly's goals. The game hung in the balance right up until the very end when Flaherty managed to get the ball into the net by hand to gain a 2-12 to 0-15 win for Offaly.

The speed of his reflexes left some Galway supporters believing (right up to today) that the ball was illegally thrown and not handpassed as required by rule. Frame by frame analysis by HURLING WORLD proves that the ball was handpassed and Offaly deserved their first senior All Ireland title. Later that year Johnny Flaherty won an all star award. Johnny Flaherty's goal from the "West's Awake" video is on YouTube at 1981 ALL IRELAND HURLING FINAL GALWAY V OFFALY HURL0013

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The 1975 National League Final highlights from the video "The West's Awake" are now on YouTube at HURL0012



Frames from the 1975 League Final Between Galway and Tipperary.
Top left: Francis Loughnane calls for a new hurley.
Top Right: The dust rises as Marty Barrett (13) scores a Galway goal.
Bottom Left: PJ Qualter (14) scores Galway's winning goal.
Bottom right: Galway manager MJ 'Inky' Flaherty is chaired off the field by the fans.

Competition time Who am I?

If you know the name of the current player from the five pieces of information given below send your answer to admin@hurlingworld.com.

The first 5 correct answers drawn will receive one of 5 DVD'S of Clare's Golden 90's.

I won an All Ireland Freshers Hurling title with Waterford RTC in 1994, and was a member of the College side that lost that year's Fitzgibbon Cup Final to University of Limerick in extra-time.

I am a cousin of Tipp's Eoin and Paul Kelly and I am also related to the Michael 'Babs' Keating.

I captained my county's minor footballers.

I was also on the Irish U-18 and Munster U-20 rugby teams.

I'm from the same club as one of the all time hurling greats.

The results of last week's competition were
English Goal C
English Goal D
Fox Goal C

The 5 winners of the Blue and Gold DVD's are John Cloonan, Michael Clancy, Karen Donnelly, D Greene, John McNerney



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