

LEINSTER GAA

SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2020

WHERE WE
ALL BELONG

GAA



SEMI FINALS 15.11.2020

MEATH V KILDARE

LAOIS V DUBLIN

1.00pm Croke Park

3.30pm Croke Park

M. Mac Raghnaill

RUNAÍ CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL



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LEINSTER
GAA
FOOTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP



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LEINSTER GAA

SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2020

SEMI FINALS

MEATH v KILDARE

13:00 Croke Park

DUBLIN v LAOIS

15:30 Croke Park



MEATH v KILDARE

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Conor Lane (Corcaigh)

Std By: Paul Faloona (An Dún)

Linesman: Barry Tiernan (Áth Cliath)

Sideline: David Hickey (Ceatharlach)

Umpires: Raymond Hegarty, Kevin Roche, Pat Kelly & DJ O'Sullivan

Hawk Eye Official: Dickie Murphy (Loch Garman)



DUBLIN v LAOIS

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Ciaran Branagan (An Dún)

Std By: Brendan Cawley (Cill Dara)

Linesman: Anthony Nolan (Cill Mhantáin)

Sideline: Fergal Smyth (Uíbh Fhailí)

Umpires: Mickey Curran, Conor Curran, Seáimie O'Hanlon & Marty Brady

Hawk Eye Official: Dickie Murphy (Loch Garman)

CLÁR AN LAE

12.35 An Mhí amach ar an bpáirc

12.37 Cill Dara amach ar an bpáirc

12.45 Oifigigh an Chluiche amach ar an bpáirc

12.50 Toss

13.00 Tús an chluiche

A water break will take place between the 15th & 20th minute of the half**

13.38* Leath-am

Cill Dara to leave the field immediately on half time whistle

An Mhí to leave the field once Cill Dara have cleared the tunnel

13.53* Tús an dara leath

A water break will take place between the 15th & 20th minute of the half**

14.32* Críoch an chluiche

14.33 Pitch Walk: Teams (Áth Cliath v Laois) & Match Officials

15.15 Áth Cliath amach ar an bpáirc

15.17 Laois amach ar an bpáirc

15.20 Oifigigh an Chluiche amach ar an bpáirc

15.25 Toss

15.33 Amhrán na bhFiann

15.35 Tús an chluiche

A water break will take place between the 15th & 20th minute of the half**

16.13* Leath-am

Laois to leave the field immediately on half time whistle

Áth Cliath to leave the field once Laois have cleared the tunnel

16.28* Tús an dara leath

A water break will take place between the 15th & 20th minute of the half**

17.07* Críoch an chluiche

-- Phase 1 of Extra time (2 Periods of 10mins) --

17.14 Toss & Teams Sheets Given to Referee

17.15 Start of Extra Time 1st Half

17.26* End of Extra Time 1st Half

Teams Remain on the Pitch

17.30 Start of Extra Time 2nd Half

17.41* End of Extra Time 2nd Half

-- If Still level, Phase 2 (Penalties) --

17.44 Players registered with the Referee & Toss

17.45 Penalties

* depending on 'added time'

Coronavirus COVID-19



Help prevent coronavirus



Wash your hands



Cover mouth if coughing or sneezing



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Keep surfaces clean



Stop shaking hands and hugging



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The virus spreads in sneeze and cough droplets, so regularly taking the above measures helps reduce the chance of it spreading.

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FÁILTE ÓN GCATHAOIRLEACH



Fáilte Róimh Go Léir inniu.

Welcome all of you to the staging of the 2020 Leinster GAA Senior Football Championship Semi Finals at Croke Park. Today will decide who gets to contest our Leinster Final on a historic day next Saturday.

Last weekend saw four fantastic displays from today's participants. On Saturday night in Portlaoise Dublin got their 2020 campaign off to a winning start and gave Dessie Farrell his first championship win as manager. On Sunday we had a feast of football with Meath looking exceptional in Aughrim and Laois coming through a tough battle in Longford. Our evening game saw Jack O'Connor's Kildare overcome a strong Offaly side to complete today's quartet.

Today's first game is a one that is steeped in history. Kildare and Meath have thrown up many memorable encounters and today should be no different. Both teams had dazzling debutant displays in their quarter final match ups. These displays alone will give both sets of supporter's optimism around the future. Whichever side emerges on the right side of the result today will only affirm these suspicions.

Our second games see's the clash of Dublin and Laois. The O'Moore county under the guidance of new manager Michael Quirke will be looking to lay down a marker.

This is an opportunity for them to draw a line in the sand and confirm their development in the right direction. For Dublin they will be hoping to continue their fine form and to progress to the final stages once again.

To all sets of players and management teams I wish you all the best of luck. It takes enormous commitment and dedication to represent your county at senior level, and these difficult times makes that challenge even greater. I thank each and every one of you for continuing to show pride in your jersey and the county it represents.

I would like to pay special mention to our today's officials, Conor Lane and Ciarán Branagan. They are two of the top referee's in the country and are all well respected within our games, I trust the same respect will be afforded to all of their decisions today. To them and their teams I wish them best of luck, without you all our games literally could not happen.

As we look ahead to what will no doubt be a historic occasion next Saturday, I hope that whoever may be contesting the final on that day savors the moment and is aware of all that have gone before so that we may have the privileges we enjoy today.

Go n-éirí an bóthar libh.



**“That one day is
what you live for.
Winning the whole thing
is what you dream of.”**

Brendan Lowry, All-Ireland winner, 1982.

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EXTRA TIME AND WINNER ON THE DAY REGULATIONS

Regulations approved Ard Chomhairle on the 19th January 2019 and in accordance with Rules of Specification 3.4 & 3.6 T.O. Part 2 2019, that relevant games that finish level after normal playing times should be completed as follows:

Phase 1

- Proceed to Extra time as provided for in T.O Cuid II (two periods of ten minutes each way)

Phase 2 (Penalty Kicks/Pucks)

If still level, a "penalty competition" to decide the outcome:

- The relevant rules in T.O. Cuid II shall apply in relation to Penalty Kicks/Pucks, unless otherwise stated.
- Penalties will be taken for goals only.
- The Referee shall choose the end at which the penalty kicks/pucks will be taken. The end may be changed by the referee if it becomes unplayable during the course of the penalties.
- The Referee will ensure two goal umpires are in place at the end in which the penalty kicks/pucks are to be taken
 - Both umpires shall position themselves on the end line at opposite side of the goals facing inwards
 - If a penalty is scored, the goal umpire, will wave the green flag once the referee has signalled
 - If the penalty is saved or missed the point umpire will signal a wide once the referee has signalled
- Each team shall register five penalty takers, a goal keeper & a substitute goal keeper with the referee and indicate in which order the penalty takers will take their penalties. (A penalty taker can also be a goalkeeper or a substitute goalkeeper.)
- The Referee shall toss a coin in the presence of the two captains to see which team will have the option of going first.
- Only players who are on the field of play at the end of Phase 1 (i.e. end of Extra Time), shall be allowed to be registered as a penalty taker or goalkeeper. Exception: The substitute goalkeeper can come from the team panel.
- A goalkeeper who is injured while the penalty kicks/pucks are being taken and is unable to continue as a goalkeeper may be replaced* by the substitute goalkeeper who has been nominated in advance, provided the referee is notified. If in the event the substitute goalkeeper also gets injured, one of the registered penalty takers may replace* the substitute goalkeeper, provided the referee is notified. (*Once replaced, the goalkeeper/ substitute goalkeeper cannot be reintroduced as a goalkeeper at a later stage)
- Subject to the conditions below both teams will take five penalty kicks/pucks which are taken alternately by the teams. The game is awarded to whichever team scores more of their five penalty kicks/pucks
 - If, before both teams have taken five penalty kicks/pucks, one team has scored more goals than the other team could score, even if they were to complete their five penalty kicks/pucks, no more penalty kicks/pucks shall be taken
 - If, after both teams have taken five penalty kicks/pucks and both teams have scored the same number of goals, the penalty competition will continue but in sudden death format using the same five registered players until one team has scored a goal more than the other from the same number of kicks/pucks.
 - In sudden death, the same sequence of penalty takers does not have to be followed as in the first round of penalty kicks/pucks.
- Each penalty kick/puck is taken by a different player. All registered players must take a penalty kick/puck before any player can take an additional penalty kick/puck.
- The referee shall signal for the penalty to be taken. The penalty kick/puck is completed when the ball stops moving, goes out of play (including over the crossbar) or a goal is scored.
- Only the players involved in the penalty taking competition, as well as the Referee, Linesmen and Umpires are permitted on the pitch. With the registered penalty takers located between the 45m & 65m lines closest to the end selected by the referee. Goalkeepers to be located 20m from the goals.
- All other players (including substitute goalkeepers), managers, officials, backroom personnel etc should be at their designated sideline area, and off the field of play when the penalty-taking competition is taking place.

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SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



MEATH V KILDARE



RECENT MEETINGS BETWEEN THE LILLIES AND THE ROYALS



Kildare and Meath are today meeting for the 37th time in the Leinster Senior Football Championship and matters could not be much closer in terms of dominance with Meath having won 15 encounters to Kildare's 14, while seven games finishing all square. Kildare dominated the early meetings between the sides winning the first six meetings, three of those wins coming after replays. In fact Meath's first victory over Kildare didn't come until the semi-final of 1939 in Drogheda. Meath went on to win the next four clashes between the sides, and since then matters have been pretty even. In recent years Meath came out the better after it took three games to separate the sides in the semi-final of 1997, but Kildare got revenge the following year when capturing their first Provincial title since 1956. The full list of previous meetings reads:-

1906 IST R 27/04 KILDARE 0-8 MEATH 0-2 JONES RD
1927 S/F 10/07 KILDARE 1-6 MEATH 1-2 DROGHEDA
1929 Q/F 12/05 KILDARE 1-5 MEATH 0-8 DROGHEDA
REPLAY 09/06 KILDARE 3-5 MEATH 0-9 DROGHEDA
1930 FINAL 18/08 KILDARE 0-6 MEATH 1-3 CROKE PK
REPLAY 17/08 KILDARE 2-6 MEATH 1-2 CROKE PK
1931 S/F 19/07 KILDARE 1-4 MEATH 1-4 CROKE PK
REPLAY 02/08 KILDARE 1-5 MEATH 0-5 CROKE PK
1936 Q/F 07/06 KILDARE 0-12 MEATH 1-6 MULLINGAR
1939 S/F 09/07 MEATH 2-10 KILDARE 2-8 DROGHEDA
1949 IST R 15/05 MEATH 0-11 KILDARE 1-5 CROKE PK
1954 Q/F 27/06 MEATH 3-2 KILDARE 0-5 CROKE PK
1955 Q/F 29/05 MEATH 3-4 KILDARE 2-7 CROKE PK
REPLAY 12/06 MEATH 1-9 KILDARE 0-11 CROKE PK
1962 Q/F 10/06 KILDARE 0-8 MEATH 0-6 CROKE PK
1964 Q/F 07/06 MEATH 2-12 KILDARE 0-8 CROKE PK
1966 FINAL 24/07 MEATH 1-9 KILDARE 1-8 CROKE PK
1969 Q/F 25/05 KILDARE 2-16 MEATH 1-11 CROKE PK

1970 S/F 05/07 MEATH 0-13 KILDARE 1-8 CROKE PK
1971 S/F 27/06 KILDARE 4-8 MEATH 2-12 CROKE PK
1978 Q/F 18/06 KILDARE 3-14 MEATH 1-2 CROKE PK
1979 Q/F 10/06 MEATH 0-12 KILDARE 1-9 CROKE PK
REPLAY 17/06 MEATH 1-20 KILDARE 3-9 CROKE PK
1985 Q/F 02/06 MEATH 0-13 KILDARE 0-7 NAVAN
1987 S/F 29/06 MEATH 0-15 KILDARE 0-9 O'CONNOR PK
1997 S/F 06/07 MEATH 0-12 KILDARE 1-9 CROKE PK
REPLAY 20/07 MEATH 2-20 KILDARE 3-17 A.E.T. CROKE PK
2ND REPLAY 03/08 MEATH 1-12 KILDARE 1-10 CROKE PK
1998 FINAL 01/08 KILDARE 1-12 MEATH 0-10 CROKE PK
2001 S/F 24/06 MEATH 1-16 KILDARE 1-11 CROKE PK
2003 S/F 14/06 KILDARE 0-15 MEATH 1-11 CROKE PK
2007 IST R 20/05 MEATH 2-11 KILDARE 1-8 CROKE PK
2011 Q/F 05/06 KILDARE 0-16 MEATH 0-10 CROKE PK
2012 S/F 01/07 MEATH 1-17 KILDARE 1-11 CROKE PK
2014 S/F 29/06 MEATH 2-16 KILDARE 0-17 CROKE PK
2017 S/F 17/06 KILDARE 2-16 MEATH 0-13 O'CONNOR PK

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SHARP SHOOTERS

MEATH V KILDARE



Modern Football dictates that the need for efficiency and accuracy in front of goal. If the Quarter final stages are anything to go by the next generation of Leinster footballers will not struggle in this department. Both Jordan Morris and Darragh Kirwan made impressive debuts for their respective counties. Both finished the day as their sides top scorers and both will be the first on the list of things to watch for today's game.



JORDAN MORRIS

V Wicklow Leinster Quarter

Final 2020

Scored: 3-04

From Play: 1-03



DARRAGH KIRWAN

V Offaly Leinster Quarter

Final 2020

Scored: 0-06

From Play: 0-05 (1 Mark)

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luck in 2020

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FLASHBACK:

1997 LEINSTER SFC SEMI-FINAL REPLAY

MEATH 2-20 KILDARE 3-17 By John Harrington



The second match in a classic Leinster Semi-Final trilogy between Meath and Kildare in 1997 was one of the most dramatic games of football Croke Park has ever seen.

Kildare, then a rising force under Mick O'Dwyer, were very unlucky not to beat reigning All-Ireland Champions Meath in the first drawn match which ended 1-9 to 0-12.

Fortunate to survive, it was expected that Meath would assert their authority in the replay. Instead, once again, it was the Lilywhites who played the more consistent passages of effective football.

They led by 1-7 to 0-7 at half-time and then a stunning Brian Murphy goal early in the second half put them further ahead.

Reduced to 14 men after Graham Geraghty was sent off, Meath looked like they were going to be dumped out of the Championship when Trevor Giles missed a late penalty and they trailed by four points with just a minute remaining.

Typical of the Royals though, they found a response and narrowed the deficit to three points before Giles made amends with a last-gasp palmed goal to bring the match into extra-time.



The memory of that goal still stings for Kildare defender, Davy Dalton, who won an All-Star for his performances with the Lilywhites that year.

"I made a terrible error in the second game myself and it took me a while before I could even look at that game again," he told GAA.ie

"We were winning by three-points and the game was up. I should have passed the ball to Anthony Rainbow but I didn't.

"The game was well into injury-time and I thought it would have been blown up if I just kicked the ball out over the sideline.

"But the ball came straight back in and ended up in the back of the net and the game was drawn and went to extra-time.

"Now, we went four or five points up in injury-time, but were pegged back again.

"Jody Devine went to town that day and we were probably a bit slow on the line that day because they left the same lad marking him the whole time."

Kildare looked home and hosed when they led by 3-16 to 2-13 lead after the first half of extra-time, but they hadn't reckoned on Meath sub Devine doing his best Superman impression.

He launched over four long-range points, three of them in a row, to incredibly edge Meath ahead with time almost up.



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"It was just one of those days, on another day I might have kicked one or two of them and the others would have went wide but it just happened to go right for me on the day, in the last ten or 15 minutes nothing could go wrong for me. It was just part of an amazing three game series.

"You'd talk to people around the country and there are still people who remember me from that game," said Devine in an interview with the Kildare Nationalist in 1997.

"I'd still know a few Kildare people and they would be slagging me about it, you're always reminded about it.

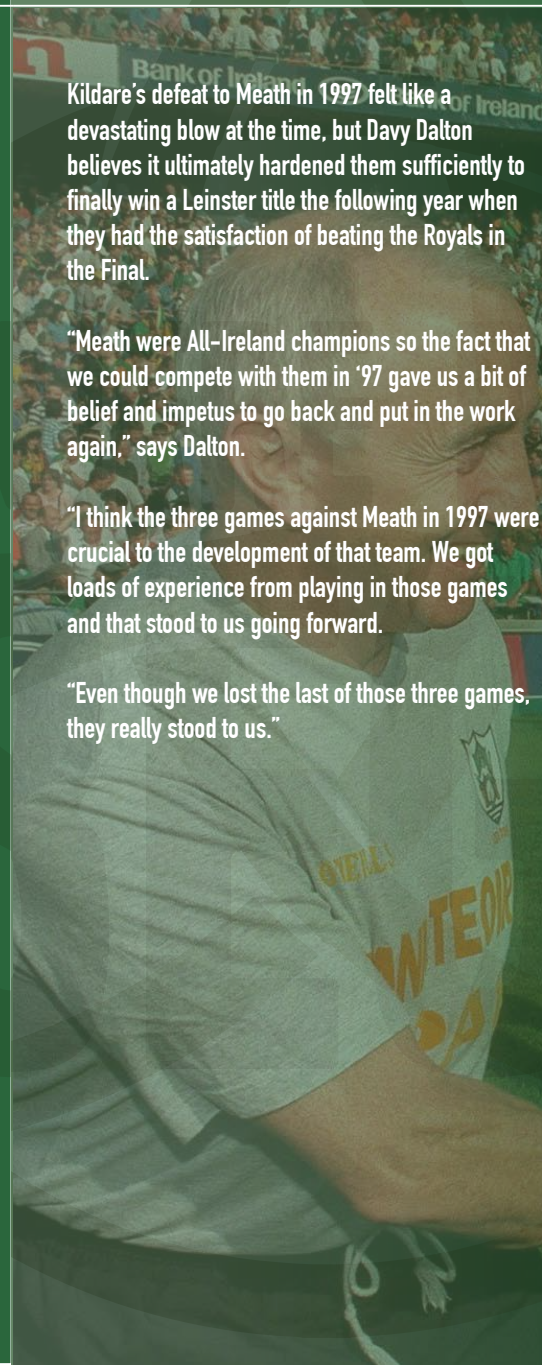
"Darren Fay, Graham Geraghty, Mark O'Reilly were all suspended and we had a couple of injuries too," said Devine.

"Offaly were probably fresh and were fresher on the day. We might have taken our eye off the ball a little though, after beating Dublin and Kildare we thought we were probably going to win it.

"It just shows you can never underestimate a team, not that we underestimated them but I think everything just took its toll going into that Leinster final."

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Kildare's defeat to Meath in 1997 felt like a devastating blow at the time, but Davy Dalton believes it ultimately hardened them sufficiently to finally win a Leinster title the following year when they had the satisfaction of beating the Royals in the Final.

"Meath were All-Ireland champions so the fact that we could compete with them in '97 gave us a bit of belief and impetus to go back and put in the work again," says Dalton.

"I think the three games against Meath in 1997 were crucial to the development of that team. We got loads of experience from playing in those games and that stood to us going forward.

"Even though we lost the last of those three games, they really stood to us."



MEATH



KILDARE



MARK BRENNAN
MARC Ó BRAONÁIN
NAVAN O'MAHONYS

1

2

SEAMUS LAVIN
SÉAMUS Ó MAOILÉIMHIN
ST PETER'S DUNBOYNE

3

CONOR MC GILL
CONCHÚR MAC GIOLLA
RATOATH

4

DAVID TONER
DAITHÍ Ó TOMHNAIR
CURRAHA

5

DONAL KEOGAN (C)
DÓNALL MAC ECHAGÁIN
RATHKENNY

6

SHANE MCENTEE
SEÁN MAC AN TSAOI
ST. PETER'S DUNBOYNE

7

MATHEW COSTELLO
MAITIÚ MAC COISTEALA
DUNSHAUGHLIN

8

BRYAN MENTON (C)
BRIAN Ó MANTÁIN
DONAGHMORE / ASHBOURNE

9

RONAN JONES
RÓNAN SEOIN
ST. PETER'S DUNBOYNE

10

CILLIAN O'SULLIVAN
CILLIAN Ó SÚILLEABHÁIN
MOYNALVEY

11

BRYAN MCMAHON
BRIAN MAC MATHÚNA
RATOATH

12

RONAN RYAN
RÓNÁN Ó RIAIN
SUMMERHILL

13

JORDAN MORRIS
JORDON Ó MUIRIS
NOBBER

14

SHANE WALSH
SEÁN BREATNACH
NA FIANNA

15

THOMAS O'REILLY
TOMÁS Ó RAGHALLAIGH
WOLFE TONES

FIR IONAD

16. ANDREW COLGAN / ANDRIU O COLGAIN DONAGHMORE / ASHBOURNE
17. EAMON WALLACE / ÉAMANN BHAILIS RATH TÓ
18. CATHAL HICKEY / CATHAL Ó HÍCÍ SENESCHALSTOWN
19. EOIN HARKIN / EOIN Ó HEARCÁIN DUNSANY
20. BRIAN CONLON / BRIAN Ó CAOINLEÁIN SIMONSTOWN GAELS
21. ETHAN DEVINE / ÉATAN Ó DAIMHÍN NA FIANNA
22. JOEY WALLACE / SEOMASH BHAILIS RATH TÓ
23. JASON SCULLY / ÍASON Ó SCOLÁI RATOATH
24. JAMES CONLON / SEAMUS Ó CAOINLEÁIN ST COLMCILLE'S
25. DONAL LENIHAN / DÓNALL Ó LOINGEACHÁIN ST. PETER'S DUNBOYNE
26. DARRAGH CAMPION / DÁIRE CAIMPION SKRYNE

MANAGEMENT

BAINISTEOR
ANDY MC ENTEE

ROGHNÓIRÍ
DONAL CURTIS
FINIAN MURTAGH
GERRY COONEY

MARK DONNELLAN
MARCUS O DONALLÁIN
MAYNOOTH

1

3

SHEA RYAN
SHEA Ó RIAIN
SARSFIELDS

4

DARRAGH MALONE
DARA O MAOILEOIN
ALLENWOOD

6

CON KAVANAGH
CONN CAOMHÁNACH
SARSFIELDS

7

KEVIN FLYNN
CAOIMHÍN Ó FLOINN
CELBRIDGE

8

KEVIN FEELY
CAOIMHÍN Ó FICHEALLAIGH
ATHY

9

AARON MASTERSON
AARON MAC AN MHAISTIR
MOOREFIELD

10

MATTIE BYRNE
MAITIÚ Ó BROIN
SARSFIELDS

11

BEN MCCORMACK
BEIRCEART MACCORMAIC
SARSFIELDS

12

PADDY BROPHY
PÁDRAIG Ó BRÓITHE
CILL DROICHID

13

DANIEL FLYNN
DÓNALL Ó FLOINN
JOHNSTOWNBRIDGE

14

DARRAGH KIRWAN
DÁIRE O CIARUBHÁIN
NAAS

15

JIMMY HYLAND
SEAMUS O HAOLÁIN
BALLYTEAGUE

FIR IONAD

16. JAMES ROBINSON / SÉAMUS MAC RÓIBÍN ROUND TOWERS
17. NEIL FLYNN / NEIL O FLOINN MAIGH NUAD
18. PAUL CRIBBIN / PÓL Ó CROIBÍN JOHNSTOWNBRIDGE
19. LUKE FLYNN / LÚCAS Ó FLOINN JOHNSTOWNBRIDGE
20. FERGAL CONWAY / FEARGAL O CONBHÚÍ CILL DROICHID
21. EOIN DOYLE / EOIN O DÚGHAILL NAAS
22. JOHNNY BYRNE / SEAN O BROIN ALLENWOOD
23. KEITH CRIBBIN / CEITHEACH MAC RÓIBÍN JOHNSTOWNBRIDGE
24. MICK O'GRADY / MÍCHEÁL Ó GRÁDA CILL DROICHID
25. EANNA O'CONNOR / ÉANNA O CONCHUIR MOOREFIELD
26. LIAM POWER / LIAM DE PAOR RAHEENS

MANAGEMENT

BAINISTEOR
JACK O'CONNOR

ROGHNÓIRÍ
ROSS GLAVIN
BRYAN MURPHY
TOM CRIBBIN



STEPHEN CLUXTON (C)
STIOFÁIN CLUXTON
PARNELLS

1

3

JONNY COOPER
SEÁN Ó CÚIPÉIR
NA FIANNA

6

JOHN SMALL
SEÁN Ó CAOILTE
BALLYMUN KICKHAMS

8

BRIAN FENTON
BRIAN Ó FIANNACHTA
RAHENY

9

TOMÁS LAHIFF
TOM LAHIFF
ST. JUDE'S

10

NIALL SCULLY
NEIL Ó SCOLÁI
TEMPLEOGUE SYNGE STREET

11

CIARAN KILKENNY
CIARAN MAC GIOLLA CHOINNIGH
CASTLEKNOCK

12

SEÁN BUGLER
SEÁN BUGLER
ST. OLIVER PLUNKETT'S/EOGHAN RUADH

13

PADDY SMALL
PÁDRAIG Ó CAOILTE
BALLYMUN KICKHAMS

14

CON O'CALLAGHAN
CONN Ó CEALLACHÁIN
CUALA

15

DEAN ROCK
DEAN MAC CONCHARRAIGE
BALLYMUN KICKHAMS

NIALL CORBET
NIALL O'CORBÁIN
CLONASLEE ST MANMANS

1

3

MARK TIMMONS
MARCAS Ó TIOMÁIN
GRAIGUECULLEN

6

PATRICK O'SULLIVAN
PADRAIC Ó SUILLEABHÁIN
CÚIL AN TSUDAIRE

8

DANIEL O'REILLY
DANIEL O RAGHALLAIGH
GRAIGUECULLEN

9

JOHN O'LOUGHLIN (C)
SEÁN Ó LOCHLAIN
ROSENALLIS

10

GARETH DILLON
GEARÓID DIOLÚN
PORTLAOISE

11

PAUL KINGSTON
PÓL MAC CLOCHAIRE
ARLES KILLEEN

12

BRIAN BYRNE
BRIAN O'BROIN
GRAIG CHUILINN

13

EVAN O'CARROLL
ÉIMHÍN O CEARÚILL
CROCHTA ARD

14

KIERAN LILLIS
CIARAN LAIGHLÉIS
PORTLAOISE

15

GARY WALSH
GEARÓID BREATNACH
BALLYLINAN

FIR IONAD

16. EVAN COMERFORD / EVAN MAC CUMASCAIGH BALLYMUN KICKHAMS
17. DAVID BYRNE / DAIBHÉID Ó BROIN NAOMH OLAF
18. CORMAC COSTELLO / CORMAC MAC COISDEALBHA WHITEHALL COLMCILLE
19. BRIAN HOWARD / BRIAN Ó HÍOMHAIR RAHENY
20. ERIC LOWNDES / ERIC LOWNDES ST. PEREGRINES
21. MICHAEL DARRAGH MACAULEY / MÍCHEÁL MAC AMHLAIOIDH BALLYBODEN ST. ENDA'S
22. PAUL MANNION / PÓL Ó MAINNÍN KILMACUD CROKES
23. PHILIP MCMAHON / PILIB MAC MATHÚNA BALLYMUN KICKHAMS
24. KEVIN MCMANAMON / CAOIMHÍN MAC MEANMAN ST. JUDE'S
25. DARA MULLIN / DARA Ó MAOLÁIN KILMACUD CROKES
26. CIÁN Ó MURCHÚ / CIÁN MURPHY THOMAS DAVIS

MANAGEMENT

BAINISTEOR
DEASÚN Ó FEARAIL

ROGHNÓIRÍ
DARREN Ó DÁLAIGH
MÍCHEÁL Ó GEALBHÁIN
SEÁN Ó HANLUAIN
BRIAN Ó RIAGÁIN

FIR IONAD

16. MATTHEW BYRON / MAITIÚ O BEIRN COURTWOOD
17. MARK BARRY / MÁIRC DE BARRA NA DIOMASAIGH
18. SEAMUS LACEY / SEAMUS DE LÉIS BAILE UÍ LAIGHEANÁIN
19. ROSS MUNNELLY / ROSSA O'MAONAILE ARD LIOS CILL CHRÚIS
20. MICHAEL KEOGH / MÍCHEÁL MAC EOCHADH ST JOSEPH'S
21. DIARMUID WHELAN / DIARMUID O FAOLÁIN MAINISTIR BAILE ATHA AN RÓINE
22. ALAN FARRELL / AILÉIN Ó FEARAIL BAILE UÍ LAIGHEANÁIN
23. SHANE BOLGER / SEÁN O'BOLGUIR KILLESHEIN
24. BRIAN DALY / BRIAN O DALAIGH ST JOSEPH'S
25. DAVID SEALE / DAITHÍ O SEALBAIGH PORTLAOISE
26. DENIS BOOTH / DONNCHA BOOTH THE HEATH

MANAGEMENT

BAINISTEOR
MICHAEL QUIRKE

ROGHNÓIRÍ
EOIN KEARNS
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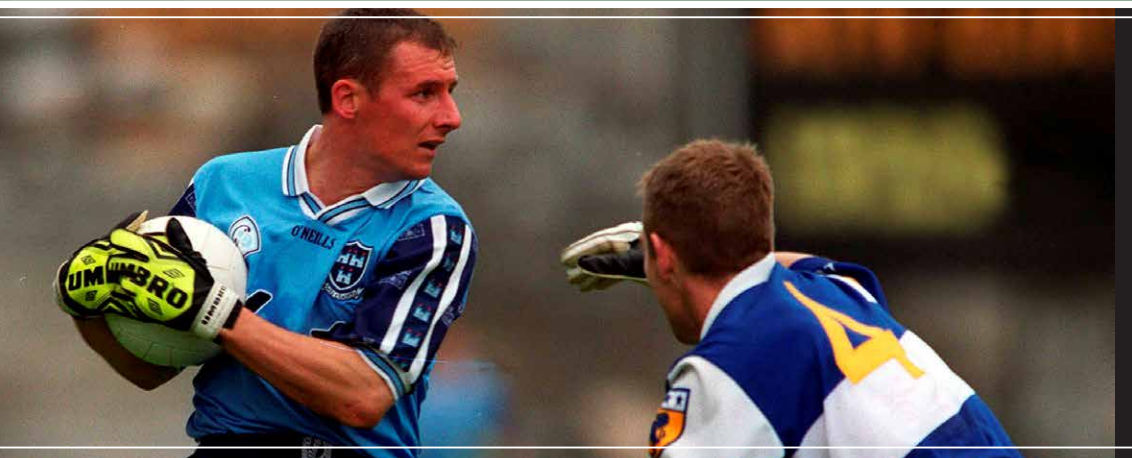
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LAOIS V DUBLIN



RECENT MEETINGS



Today Dublin and Laois are meeting for the 34th time in the Leinster Senior Football Championship. Their first meeting was in Clontarf Pk in 1890 with Dublin convincing winners. In fact Dublin won the first nine meetings between the sides, with Laois' first victory over the Metropolitans not coming until 1929. Dublin have won 26 of the games between the sides, Laois 5 and two draws. The full details are:-

1890 DUBLIN 2-8 LAOIS 0-1
1899 DUBLIN 7-11 LAOIS 0-3
1908 DUBLIN 0-13 LAOIS 0-7
1912 DUBLIN 2-2 LAOIS 0-2
1915 DUBLIN 1-2 LAOIS 1-2
R DUBLIN 1-8 LAOIS 0-2
1917 DUBLIN 0-5 LAOIS 0-3
1920 DUBLIN 2-6 LAOIS 0-1
1923 DUBLIN 3-3 LAOIS 1-2
1927 DUBLIN 2-5 LAOIS 0-3
1929 LAOIS 5-5 DUBLIN 3-10

1946 LAOIS 1-3 DUBLIN 0-5
1959 DUBLIN 1-18 LAOIS 2-8
1962 DUBLIN 0-13 LAOIS 1-8
1963 DUBLIN 2-11 LAOIS 2-9
1964 DUBLIN 0-8 LAOIS 1-2
1969 DUBLIN 3-7 LAOIS 1-5
1971 LAOIS 3-9 DUBLIN 0-13
1976 DUBLIN 3-12 LAOIS 0-11
1980 DUBLIN 2-14 LAOIS 2-8
1981 LAOIS 2-9 DUBLIN 0-11
1985 DUBLIN 0-9 LAOIS 0-4

1995 DUBLIN 1-13 LAOIS 0-9
1999 DUBLIN 1-11 LAOIS 0-14
R DUBLIN 0-16 LAOIS 1-11
2003 LAOIS 0-16 DUBLIN 0-14
2005 DUBLIN 0-14 LAOIS 0-13
2006 DUBLIN 3-17 LAOIS 0-12
2007 DUBLIN 3-14 LAOIS 1-14
2011 DUBLIN 1-16 LAOIS 0-11
2014 DUBLIN 2-21 LAOIS 0-16
2016 DUBLIN 2-21 LAOIS 2-10
2018 DUBLIN 1-25 LAOIS 0-10



LAOIS V DUBLIN



SHARP SHOOTERS

In the first game the highlight was very much on the up and coming generation, the ones on who's shoulders future dreams rest. However, in the second Semi Final today the attention turns very much towards experience. The been there and done that players. Both Laois and Dublin have several of these on display today, none more so Ciarán Kilkenny and Gary Walsh. Both sides will be hoping that these key forwards can produce the goods like so often in the past.



GARY WALSH

V Longford Leinster Quarter
Final 2020

Scored: 0-08

From Play: 0-01



CIARÁN KILKENNY

V Westmeath Leinster Quarter
Final 2020

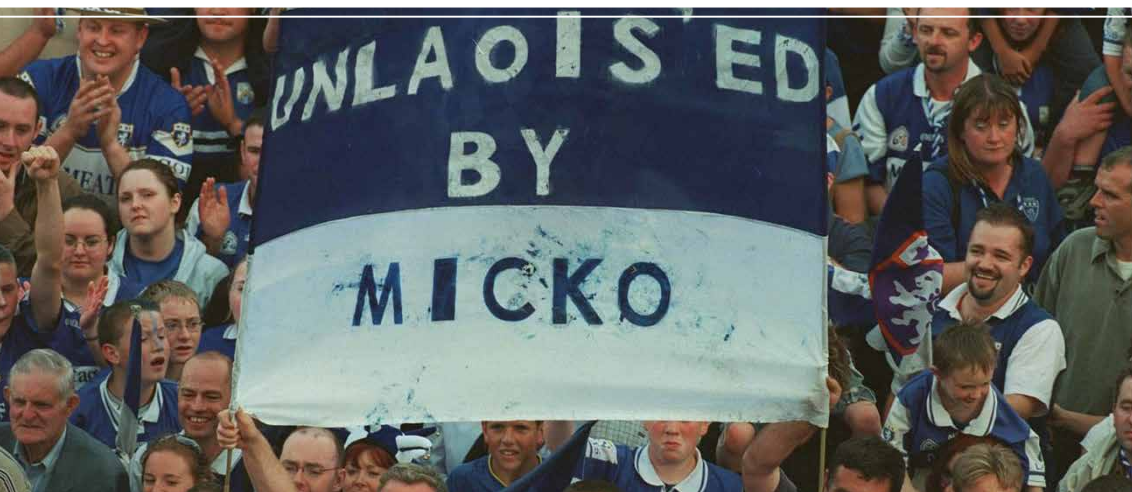
Scored: 0-05

From Play: 0-05



LAOIS THE LORDS OF LEINSTER

By Cian O'Connell



Ultimately Ross Munnelly's career has been about memories and matches. The day, though, that a Leinster Senior Football Championship medal was secured in 2003 brought joy.

For the first time since 1946 the royal blue and white flag was perched on the summit of the eastern game. Significant scalps had been taken en route which added to the sense of satisfaction.

Remarkably Munnelly is still on the inter-county beat with Laois, relishing the adventure and challenge of operating at the highest level.

At the end of Munnelly's debut provincial campaign with Laois, Dublin and Kildare were beaten, but the Arles/Kilcruise clubman recalls entering that summer nursing a degree of trepidation.

"It couldn't really have gone any better in terms of the Leinster Championship," Munnelly admits. "Going into the first round of the Championship we were a small bit nervous against Wexford because we had been beaten by Tyrone in the League Final.

"So to bounce back so quickly, to play in the first round as a group we were hoping we'd hit the field, to take up where we left off in the League Semi-Final. We got that win against Wexford. It was fairly convincing."

Next on the agenda was a derby that went the distance with neighbours Offaly. "We ended up getting a couple of scores towards the end to draw the game," Munnelly remarks about a tight encounter at O'Moore Park.

"We beat them in Tullamore. That was a real defining moment in the season. Having drawn the second round at home, then going to Tullamore. It was mad because the crowds trying to get into Tullamore that day, the game was delayed by 15 minutes.

"It was a really warm, sunny day for the game. We got on top of Offaly and ran out winners in the end. That really set us up to go on to have a bit of a platform in Leinster. From there on it was magical moments as we went through Leinster."



The enthusiastic manner in which Mick O'Dwyer stitched a team together is what endures in Munnelly's mind. He was the newcomer, arriving behind a decorated crop, who had sampled All Ireland minor glory. Other older players also supplied valuable guidance. The cocktail worked against Kildare.

The enthusiastic manner in which Mick O'Dwyer stitched a team together is what endures in Munnelly's mind. He was the newcomer, arriving behind a decorated crop, who had sampled All Ireland minor glory. Other older players also supplied valuable guidance. The cocktail worked against Kildare.

"It was really good," Munnelly replies. "We had, up until Jim Gavin, probably the greatest GAA manager of all time. I'm sure Kerry will make arguments that he still is and so on.

"He provided such a belief base for us. He made us feel as a group that we were going to achieve something. That if we worked hard it would fall right for us.

"When you have that experience on the management team, and a couple of guys who played for Laois for 10 years at that stage, and a crop of guys who came through the first couple of All Ireland successes, you had a really good mix.

"It is always a help when you have someone standing in your dressing room that is able to say to you that 'I think you are able to beat this team, I have managed them, and I know where we can make gains'.

"Thankfully we were able to do that. It definitely was a help from a psychological perspective. It was more reassuring for him to say

to us that he knew these players, how good they were, but he also knew how good we were. He felt we were going to beat them."

By then Kildare were a seasoned Croke Park outfit, packed with accomplished players, who had delivered on the grand stage. Laois, though, weren't overly concerned or perturbed by the fact it was their first Leinster decider in 12 years.

"Back then you had a lot of guys, who had made their names at minor level in Croke Park," Munnelly remarks.

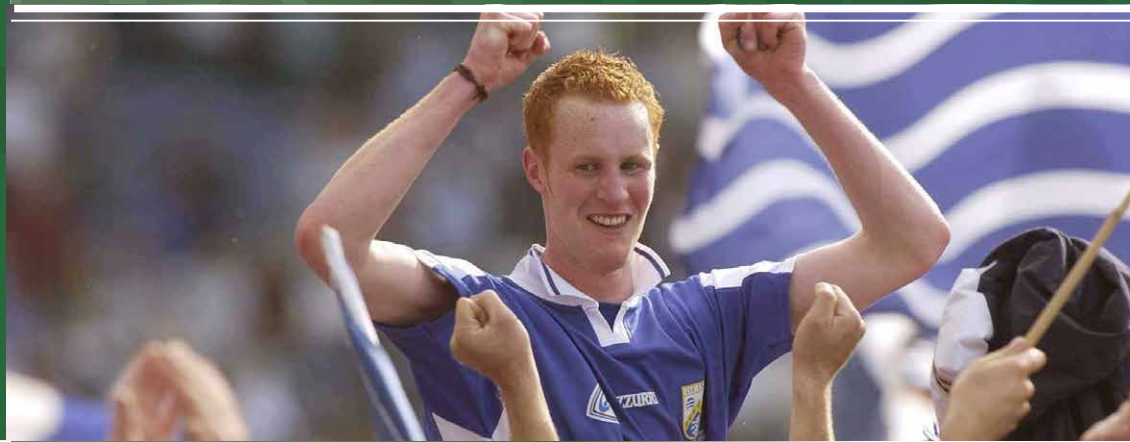
"So Croke Park was a place a lot of the players associated with good memories, with some of their best performances. That helps when it is an environment you are going into. It is familiar, you have been there, done that so it is just a regular game.

"Going to Croke Park is no big deal after that. I do think that helps approaching a big game. With the magnitude of the Leinster Final, going up that day we were stopped on the motorway for what felt like ages with the traffic going up so early.

"Obviously Laois and Kildare were travelling along the same road. There was never an anxiety around getting to the stadium or any sense of nervousness. I think a lot of our players felt at home in Croke Park, why wouldn't they because they had been stunning minors throughout the 90s in it.

"Munnelly was delighted to be arriving shortly after a celebrated crew. Timing can be everything in sport and so it proved in 2003 when

Munnelly pinched 1-1 making a key contribution as the Lilywhites were outfoxed.





"They were at the top of their game with incredible fitness levels," Munnelly says about those who had given Laois such an injection of hope during the 90s.

"When you look at the core of that team at the time a lot of those guys were off the All Ireland minor team and the Under 21 team that got to a final. The players themselves were used to performing at the top level, used to going to the end of competitions.

"When you add in some of the more experienced players into the group mentality all of a sudden you have experience, but a fearlessness mentality within the group.

"Back in 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 under Micko there was a sense that in every game we went into, if we performed we had a right good chance of winning.

"It is hard to put a value on what it is worth, but there was a combination of things. It was the Micko factor along with the combination of players that were there at the time."

Now 17 years later Munnelly remains part of Mike Quirke's Laois panel, still relishing being involved with Laois. That is so vital for Munnelly, the enjoyment aspect.

"Yeah, over the years playing I probably wouldn't be able to count on two hands the amount of nights I didn't want to go training," Munnelly responds.

"For me I've been very fortunate whether it be the depths of winter or the sunny evenings playing Championship matches in the summer, I thoroughly enjoy the challenge of each of those environments. For me it has given me great satisfaction and it has given me a great goal over the years. I enjoy it now as much as ever.

"In many ways it is more testing now. With more young players on the scene you have to come up with different ways of reinventing myself, changing my game to make sure I have something different to offer.

A couple of promotion winning campaigns hinted at Laois' potential. The promise and emergence of new players, alongside the fact that Laois have reached two EirGrid Leinster Under 20 Finals on the spin provides nuggets of optimism.



"Going to Division Four was tough on us because for the previous 13 or 14 years we had played all of our football in Division One and Two, then we suffered back to back relegations which was difficult to take," Munnelly acknowledges.

"We went through a period of rebuilding, some younger players have been coming into the group, adding to it and really driving it forward.

"At the moment we have guys in first and second year in college, Sean O'Flynn and Mark Barry, lads like that coming into the set-up. Not alone are they good players, but they are good leaders, driving the thing on.

"They have incredible fitness levels, their attention to detail in training is so good. That inspires the rest of us, to see young players coming in with this kind of an attitude, commitment, and expectation. When

you have that it does get everyone else in the group to find those extra inches.

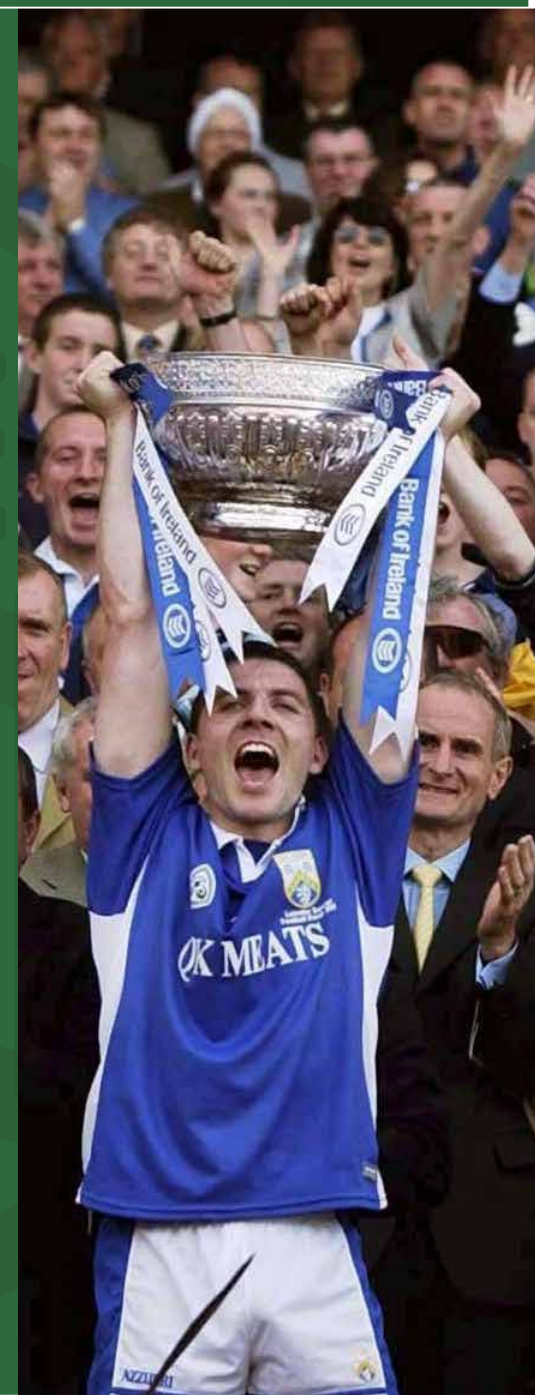
"That is what we are enjoying at the moment, young players like that coming in and setting their own expectations and not being shy about demanding high standards off more established players.

"It is a combination of things, once you have that competition the whole thing keeps going and opens the door to get another young player each year. It keeps the level going in the right direction, you have a hunger in the group that every night you go training there is a massive competition for places. That improves our football.

"When we have gone out to play games we've had strong panels where we can bring people in off the bench. We have more strength in depth and it is making a difference when it comes to close games."

time, the 2003 Leinster showpiece on the Jones Road provided the perfect illustration of that.

Throughout his near two decades service for Laois that has been one of Munnelly's trademarks. Nailing a critical score at a key time, the 2003 Leinster showpiece on the Jones Road provided the perfect illustration of that.



TURAS



LEINSTER



Across the Province Leinster GAA Games Development Coaches have been having a major impact. Since the return to activity in the summer they have begun re-engaging with schools and clubs with renewed vigour. Below is a snapshot of some of the ongoing hard work.

We are extremely grateful to everyone that has made this Return To Activity possible. Teachers, Coaches, Clubs and Staff have all gone above and beyond to ensure our Games continue to be developed.



TURAS
WORKSHOPS

209



TURAS
CLUB VISITS

269



TURAS
WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE

2822



TURAS
CLUB VISIT ATTENDANCE

889



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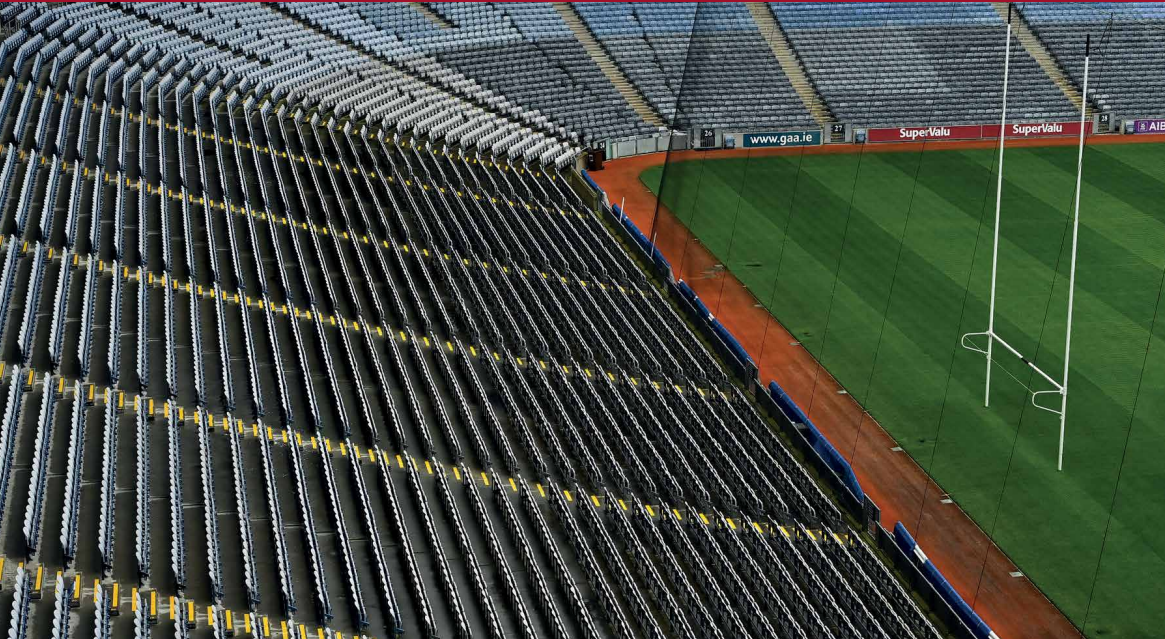
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