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THE GREAT OCCASION

When Castleblayney Faughs and Clontibret O'Neills step out on Pearse Park to-day the stage will be really set for what we all hope will be a keenly contested and memorable final.

Each of to-day's contestants are entitled to feel proud of their past achievements. Through their loyalty and dedication to our games they have contributed generously to the success story of the G.A.A. in Monaghan.

While recognising that the spotlight to-day will focus on Castleblayney and Clontibret let us not forget the other teams who made their exit in earlier rounds but yet played their part in making this a successful Championship.

The final of our senior football Championship is rightly regarded as the showpiece of our G.A.A. activities. We look to to-day's finalists to serve up a display of football and sportsmanship that will reflect credit on their clubs, their parishes and the G.A.A. in general and give to our many loyal supporters a lasting memory of all that is clean and manly in our national games.

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Castleblayney Faughs—Monaghan Senior Football Champions, 1965.

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TIT - BITS

Castleblayney and Clontibret first met in a Monaghan senior final in 1917 — Castleblayney won. They last met in the final two years ago (1965) — Castleblayney won.

The first ever Monaghan county final was played in Donaghmoyle parish in 1887 between Inniskeen and Clones. Inniskeen won and went on to capture the Ulster title (representing Monaghan in the series).

Eight 'Blayney men (Joey Farrell, Jimmy Duffy, Christy Fisher, Charlie McGrath, Joe McElroy, Billy Mason, John Loughman and Pat Hughes) and four Clontibret men (John Rice, Hughie McKearney, Francie McQuade and Bennie Mone) have represented Ulster in the Railway Cup.

Gerry Fitzpatrick is the only player ever to win four Monaghan minor championship medals.

The first title in any grade came to Clontibret in 1947 when they won the junior championship.

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Clontibret—Owen Ward Cup Winners, 1966.

"THE 1967 COUNTY FINAL

Looking through the lists of players that have played on Monaghan county teams down the years one startling fact becomes obvious — that the two clubs contesting today's County Final, Castleblayney Faughs and Clontibret O'Neills, have between them contributed more players to our county sides than all other clubs in the county combined.

In addition, both of today's contestants top the list of Monaghan County Champions — Castleblayney in first place with an impressive seventeen titles to their credit and Clontibret, sharing second place with Carrickmacross Emmets, seven times Monaghan Senior Champions.

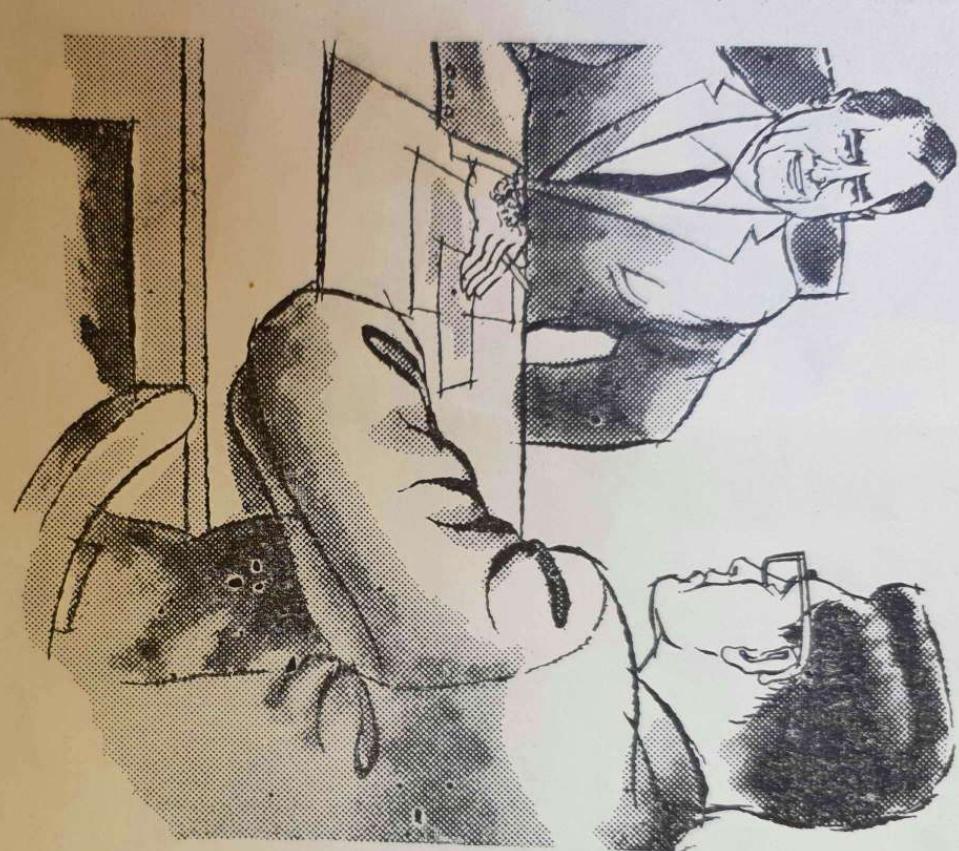
These two factors alone suggest that the 1967 Monaghan Senior Final is no David and Goliath affair. Rather is it an affair of two Goliaths and what better tribute can I pay to both of today's Finalists other than to suggest that they are the Greatest clubs this county of ours has ever produced. To make a decision on which of them is **THE GREATEST**, only today's contest can decide.

But there is something more between Castleblayney and Clontibret — something which puts today's Final in a unique position in the annals of Monaghan G.A.A. history. In 1952 Clontibret established a new Monaghan record by winning their fourth County Title in-a-row, something which had never before been accomplished by a Co. Monaghan club. In 1966 that record was equalled — by Castleblayney Faughs, who had worn the crown since 1963. Today, the Faughs have a wonderful opportunity of going one better than the O'Neills by winning their fifth County Championship in-a-row.

Had Clontibret not reached this Final they would have had to depend on someone else to prevent their record from being surpassed but they made quite sure that nobody else would be entrusted with such a monstrous task. A record is at stake then — a record which one club must establish; a record which the other club must prevent from being established.

All this adds up to the 1967 County Final being the Greatest Decider our Senior Football Championships have ever known. I think it will be just that . . .

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TONY LOUGHMAN

('Blayney's Captain) says

“It’s Blayney”

This will be 'Blayney's final. I am convinced of that. In saying this I don't mean we will have an easy game. We never did have it easy against Clontibret. In fact in all our eight years at or near the top the margin between Clontibret and ourselves was never more than five points and that five points' victory in the final two years ago was the only clear-cut win we had. Clontibret have beaten us often and although they did not hit top form in the semi-final we expect that because it is a county final, because Clontibret always play exceptionally well against 'Blayney, and because they will not want to see their four-in-a-row record beaten, we will meet with stiff resistance. But a point will do us at the finish.

OWENIE CONNOILLY

(Scotstown's Captain) says

“Blayney’s balance to win”

Scotstown expected to beat 'Blayney in the semi-final but the fact is that we just had no answer to them. After this game many said this was the best 'Blayney team yet, but while admitting that they looked great on that day I only partly agree with this assessment. Scotstown, I think, hit one of their worst days in this semi-final, a fact which was due, I think, to difficulties in getting all our players together for training. Nevertheless, having played against both 'Blayney and Clontibret this year, I must say that 'Blayney will win the final. They are a better-balanced team, dangerous in all positions and while Clontibret have the Woods', the Mones, the Morgans and Noel Farnan, I do not think that as a team they have 'Blayney's balance. 'Blayney's defence, led by Eamonn Toal should hold the Clontibret forwards; Eamonn Tavey (very dangerous with the ball), Tony Loughman and Gerry Fitzpatrick should get the scores, but it is at midfield, with Tom McManus knocking the ball down to Dinnin Brereton in the open spaces that 'Blayney will win their fifth title in a row.

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BENNIE MONE says

“It’s 50 - 50”

Make no mistake about it, 'Blayney are a great team — not brilliant as individuals but undoubtedly the most consistent unit in the county. They have strength all over the field and, what is very important in the championship, their reserves are almost as good as their players. I don't think they are as good as when we last met in the championship two years ago but the fact that club football has deteriorated somewhat in the intervening two years leaves them still the best in the county. Scotstown are the second best. Where does that leave us?

Well I'm not being modest; I'm not being hypocritical. I know we are an erratic team. In fact I have often thought that the words of the song “When we are good we are very good
But when we are bad we are horrid”

just about sums us up. We played our best football at the beginning of the year against Scotstown in the Ward Cup final. We hope to be able to reproduce this form to-day, and with Lady Luck smiling on us we will be there with a fifty-fifty chance. You don't go out to be beaten, you go out to win and if we get the breaks and hit one of our better days we are capable of that.

Clontibret have won four titles in a row. I wouldn't like to see that record beaten, but if 'Blayney do, well, good luck to them.



NOEL FLANAGAN

(Oram's Captain) says

“It’s 60 - 40”

It's hard to beat 'Blayney, and many who saw our semi-final with Clontibret will say that Clontibret are not capable of beating them. Clontibret will need to improve on this showing if they are even to live for an hour on the same field as the 'Blayney team I saw against Scotstown. But I think they can improve. Their defence and midfield, built around the Mones and the Morgans, are very strong, but I doubt if their attack has the penetration to cause much panic in the 'Blayney defence. Sean Wood's high fielding and astute passing will certainly pose problems but 'Blayney's defence dealt capably with Owenie McCrudden's rangy ability in the semi-final.

I work it out like this: If we had taken our chances we would have beaten Clontibret in the semi-final. If we were in the final I would rate our chances as sixty-forty. I can't give Clontibret any more. But football's a funny game.

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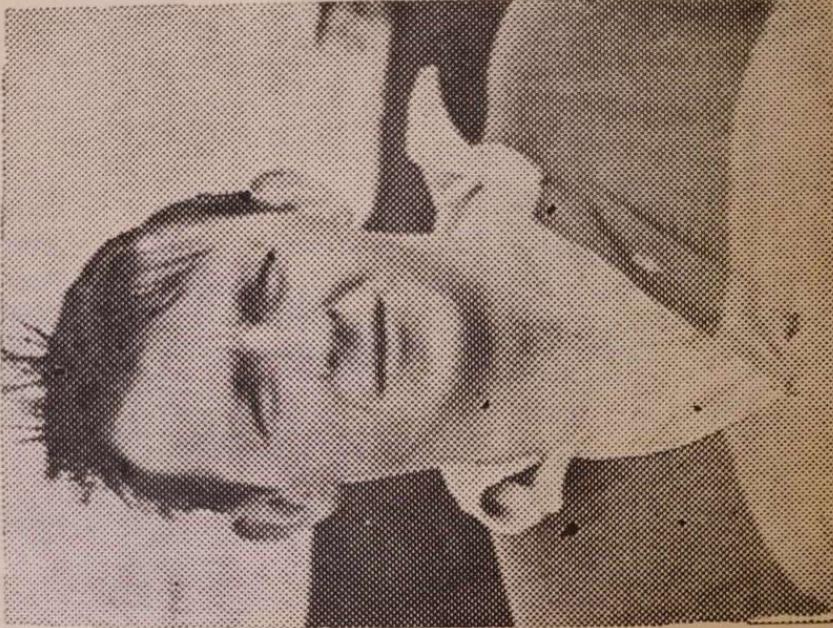
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takes a look at . . .

THE FAUGHS

Since this club's formation sixty-five years ago, Castleblayney Faughs have won more titles than any other club; have appeared in more finals than any other club; have supplied more players to our County Teams than any other club; have played more official competitive games than any other club; have provided more Ulster Railway Cup stars than any other club in the county. These latter include J. Duffy, J. Farrell, C. Fisher, B. Mason, J. Loughman, P. Hughes, C. McGrath and J. McElroy. The long list of players who have worn the Green-and-gold with honour down the years is enough to make any club in the country green with envy. They took their first title in 1907, their second ten years later; scored three-in-a-row 1931-33, another 3-in-a-row 1939-41; their 13th in 1946; drew a sixteen year blank 1947-62; equalled Clontibret's four-in-a-row, 1636-66. Besides Senior Championships their record includes:—Owen Ward Cup (8)—1931, '38, '39, '41, '48, '60, '61 and '62; Fr. Hackett Cup (2)—1938, '61; Junior Champions (1)—1918; Dr. Ward Cup (1)—1953; Brennan Cup (4)—1960, '64, '65 and '67. Minor Champions (8)—1936, '37, '55, '58, '59, '60, '62 and '65; Maguire Cup (9)—1937, '48, '50, '51, '55, '59, '60, '61 and '63. Hurling Champions (4)—1943, '55, '57, '62. In fact, there is no trophy in the county (excluding Tournaments and Juveniles) that has not appeared on the Castleblayney sideboard at some stage.



FRANK MARRON

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THE O'NEILLS



F. MCQUADE

"modern team" of Monaghan football as they brought a new life, a new style to the game in the county. Down the years this club has had its stars but it was the men of the nineteen-fifties who really put Clontibret on the map — men of the calibre of Packie McQuaid, John Rice, Hughie McKearney, Joe Smith, John Murray, Tony Prunty, Pat Clarke, the Woods' and the McSkeanes. Half of the Monaghan team which won the Dr. McKenna Cup in 1952 were Clontibret men and in 1957 further honour was brought to the club when the great John Rice became the first and only Monaghan man ever to be selected on an Ireland team. J. Rice, H. McKearney, Benny Mone and Francie McQuade have all been honoured on Ulster Railway Cup teams, while, besides their seven Senior Championship titles, the club has also won:— Owen Ward Cup (6)—1950, '54, '55, '57, '64 and '66; Fr. Hackett Cup (5)—1950, '52, '57, '62 and '63; Junior Champion-ship (1)—1947; Minor Championship (1)—1963; Hurling Champion-ship (1)—1966.

Fifty-three years in existence this year, Clontibret O'Neill's first came into prominence in 1917-'19, when they unsuccessfully contested three Monaghan Senior Finals in a row. In those early years they dominated the Toal Cup competition (now defunct). Then followed thirty years of near oblivion ending with a Junior Championship win in 1947 — a win which was to begin a new era for the O'Neill's. Two years later they were in the Senior Final and the first of the "Four Glorious Years" had arrived, culminating with the record-breaking win of 1952. Monaghan's first ever "Four-in-a-row" had been accomplished. Clontibret could correctly be called the

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

It is my duty and pleasure to thank all those with whom the production of this programme brought me in contact. To Seamus McCloskey for his unrewarded assistance, to "The Northern Standard" for their courtesy in lending me the blocks for photographs, to those who contributed articles, and finally, to our advertisers without whom this venture would be impossible, my sincerest gratitude.
Rath Dé oraibh go léir.

Is mise, le meas mó�,

SEAN Mac ARDGHAILL.

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at 2-30 p.m.

Reiteoir: P. O Doiblin Títe Eogain

LUAC

6p.

Peil na Sinnsear**AN DUN**

Colours — RED and BLACK

		1 D. O Ceallaigh D. Kelly
2 B. O Siuain B. Sloane	3 D. Mac Artain D. McCarten	4 T. O Hir T. O' Hare
5 R. Mac Conmhaoil R. McConville	6 L. O Dubhghaill W. Doyle	7 S. O Leannain J. Lennon
8 C. Mac Giolla Earna C. McAlarney	9 S. O Maoileagain J. Milligen	
10 M. Mac Comhaill M. Cole	11 S. O Murchu J. Murphy	12 S. Mac Siomoin S. Fitzsimmons
13 P. O Ruanaigh P. Rooney	14 S. O Neill J. O'Neill	15 P. O Dochartaigh P. Doherty

Fir Ionaid

16. S. O Puirdi (J. Purdy) : 17. S. O Muireagain (J. Morgan) :
 18. A. O Cionga (A. King) : 19. M. O Braoin (M. Breen) :
 20. A. Mac Craith (H. McGrath) : 21. G. O Raghallaigh (G. Reilly)
 22. S. Mac Artain (J. McCartan).

Peil na Minour**DOIRE**

Colours — Red and White

1. C. Mac Eachain (K. McGahon) : 2. U. O Conbhuidhe (H. Conway) : 3. L. O Murchu (W. Murphy) : 4. P. Mac Eochain (P. McGuckian) : 5. P. Mac Oitir (F. McCotter) : 6. A. Mac Gualraic (H. McGoldrick) : 7. R. O hOsain (R. Hasson) : 8. E. O Laibheartaigh (E. Laverty) : 9. S. Mac Giolla Comhaill (J. Coyle) : 10. B. O Maolain (B. Mullan) : 11. B. Mac a'Bhaird (B. Ward) : 12. M. O Morain (M. Moran) : 13. M. O Neill (M. O'Neill) : 14. S. Mac Gaoithin (J. McGeehan) : 15. E. O Broliagh (E. Brolly)

Fir Ionaid

16. T. Mac Liam (T. McWilliams) : 17. B. O Ceallaigh (B. Kelly) : 18. C. Longain (C. Langan) : 19. P. de Burc (P. Burke) : 20. D. O Trolain (D. Trolan) : 21. M. Mac Gloin (M. McGlone) : 22. E. Marascal (E. Marshall)

MUINEACHAN**Peil na Sinnsear**

Colours — WHITE and BLUE

		1 P. MacCarthaigh P. McCarthy
2 E. Mac Giolla Uir E. McAleer	3 P. Mac Giollarnath P. Forde	4 S. S. Mac J. J. Bra.
5 S. O Muireagain J. Morgan	6 T. Mac Giolla Mheana T. McElvanna	7 S. O Mochain J. Mone
8 S. Mac Rodain J. McCrudden	9 B. O Conghaile B. Connolly	
10 T. Mac Cadain T. McCudden	11 G. Mac Giolla Phadraig G. Fitzpatrick	12 S. Mac Conchoille J. Woods
13 C. Mac Carthaigh C. McCarthy	14 B. O Mochain B. Mone	15 E. Mac an tSamaigh E. Tavey

16. S. Mac Cionnaith (J. McKenna) : 17. S. Mac Caba (J McCabe) :
 18. B. Mac Donaill (B. McDonald) : 19. B. O Dullaing (B. Dowling) :
 20. T. O Ciarr (T. Kerr) : 21. S. O Muireagain (J. Morgan) :
 22. P. Mac Giolla Comhaill (P. McKenna)

Peil na Mionur**AONTRUIM**

Colours — Saffron and White

1. M. O Donnghaile (M. Donnelly) : 2. D. O Labhraí (D. Lavery) : 3. D. OLidi (D. Leddy) : 4. S. Mac Giolla Eain (J. McClean) : 5. A. O Cuinn (A. Quinn) : 6. T. O Gallchobhair (T. Gallagher) : 7. D. Mag Uidhir (D. Maguire) : 8. M. Mac Giolla Iosa (M. McAleese) : 9. T. Mac an Ghírr (T. Short) : 10. A. Thornbury : 11. G. Mac Thaidhg G. McCague) : 12. P. O hUiginn (F. Higgins) : 13. S. O Laibheartaigh (J. Laverty) : 14. P. O Duifin (F. Duffin) : 15. S. O Raine (J. Rainey);

Fir Ionaid

16. E. Mac Giolla Bhain (E. Bann) : 17. S. Mac a'Bheatha (J. Mc Veigh) : 18. P. Mac Eoghain (P. Ewings) : 19. E. de Grannt (E. Grant) : 20. C. de Suin (K. Young) : 21. S. Mac Corraidh (J. Mc Curry) :