

# Connacht Tribune

Vol 8 No. 630

October 13, 1923

One Halfpenny

## THE FOOTBALL FINAL.

**GALWAY DEFEATED BY A NARROW MARGIN.**

**A SPLENDID EXHIBITION.**

**BOUND TO INFLUENCE THE GAME IN CONNACHT.**

By the narrow margin of two points, Dublin beat Galway at Croke Park on Sunday last in the final of the All-Ireland Football Championship for 1922.

With over twenty special trains arriving in the city from widely-separated areas, there was a huge crowd present, though the number was only approximately half of the attendance at the hurling final between Kilkenny and Tipperary a month before. As might be expected, the West was particularly well represented, Galway supplying the bulk of the Connacht contingent. There was a steady flow through the turnstiles from an early hour, but so perfect were the arrangements that there was no hitch in the way of admission or accommodation.

The time of waiting and intervals were enlivened by the stirring musical selections of the Transport Workers' and Artane Boys' bands. Accident cases during the match were promptly attended to by members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Ireland (City of Dublin Division).

Though not productive of brilliant football, it was a well-contested game in which dash and stamina counted for more than scientific play. It was a closely-fought encounter, and the level scoring kept the spectators at the pitch of expectancy right through. Dublin turned over with a lead of a point—two to one—but the interval scores were scarcely representative of this play in the opening moiety; when the visitors more than held their own. Galway had something more of the attack than their opponents, but the Dublin backs, though faced with a strong set of forwards, put up a magnificent defence, the outstanding figure in the metropolitan rere line being Joe Norris.

On resuming Galway showed up in wonderful style, and having drawn level and passed out on the score, gave promise of carrying off the honours. At this period the shooting of the Dublin forwards was very much at fault. About midway through the second half, Dublin appeared to infuse now vigour into the game, and then was seen the best football of the hour. Through no fault of the Galway backs, Dublin equalised and added two points before the end. Dublin had the better of the closing stages, and finished strongest. It is due to Galway to state that they fought pluckily on, to the last whistle, and never once showed a weakening in their stubborn style of play.

The game, though not up to the standard that one might expect in a final, provided a pleasant surprise, as it was generally believed that Dublin would have an easy victory. As events proved, it gave them all their time to win, and that they did may in the main be attributed to their stronger finish and splendid defence. The Galway men deserve high praise for their fine display.

It was a much better game than the 1921 final, in which Dublin beat Mayo, but was not nearly so good as that of 1920, in which Dublin went down before Tipperary. Ten of the Dublin team who turned out on

Sunday played against Tipperary; and nine against Mayo, P. Carey (capt.), J. Norris, J. Reilly, John Synnott (O'Toole's), W. Donovan, (Kickhams), and Franck Burke (University College) played in the three finals. A notable absentee on the Dublin side on Sunday was Johnny Murphy (Keatings), who figured against Tipperary and Mayo. This is the thirteenth All-Ireland Football Championship to be won by Dublin.

At least six of the Galway team who played on Sunday took part in the All-Ireland final of 1919, in which they went down before Kildare. They are: M. Walsh (capt.), J. Egan, D. Egan, J. Hannify, P. Roche, and G. Jennings. There was one change on the team from that which beat Sligo at Croke Park the previous Sunday, P. Jennings (Tuam) coming on as a back in place of H. Cunningham (Galway city). Though Connacht have yet to win an All-Ireland Championship, Galway can claim to have made a bold bid for the premier football honours of 1922. Their capital display against Dublin was certainly the best football exhibition that has yet been given by a western team, and should have a good influence on the game in Connacht, where recently there has been a big improvement.

## THE PLAY.

Galway were first to take the field, and were quickly followed by Dublin, a start being made a few minutes after the appointed hour — 3 o'clock. Galway had the advantage of the breeze in the first half.

John Synnott put Dublin attacking from the throw-in. A free relieved for Galway, but Dublin were quick to follow, Pierse sounding over. Play was still in Galway ground when P. Jennings affected a good clearance, Galway bounding away for M. Walsh to drive wide. Galway worked back from the kick-out, and were awarded a free, which, well placed by Walsh, was cleared in capital style by the Dublin backs. A free led up to a Dublin advance, but the Galway defence was sound. A free to Dublin availed them nought, while another was badly taken, Galway was still on the aggressive when a free by M. Walsh was received and sent over by McGrath. Dublin were busy defending when a free well taken by Carey eased for the metropolitans. A further free brought Dublin forward, while yet another free was sent over for a point by Joe Synnott. Dublin were again on the offensive, but spoiled by fouling. Galway engaged in a fast run on the right-wing but the effort was badly supported by the forwards.

In a Galway return, a shot from McGrath was saved by McDonnell, in the Dublin goal. Galway was fighting hard, but were faced by a superb Dublin defence. Dublin moved in from a well-combined movement, and Joe Synnott missed on a free close up. Galway took up the running on, the kick out, and Martin Walsh failed from a score from a good position. John Synnott was robbed by Donnellan who in the effort conceded a "50", which brought no reward to Dublin.

The play was stubbornly contested, but was marred by frequent fouling. Two frees brought Galway forward and Joe Norris brought off a green clearance for Dublin. Galway were again in dangerous ground when Joe Norris again proved the man in the gap for Dublin. The metropolitans now had an innings, and P. McDonnell added a point. Galway led away for a free, and J. McDonnell, in the Dublin goal, saved a trying shot from Michael Walsh. Midfield play was, for a time, the order. Joe Norris showed splendid form in the Dublin rere line, and was only supported by Carey.

Galway were having as much of the play as the home team, but the persistent efforts of the forwards were nullified by a superb Dublin defence. The Galway backs were also good and proved a real stumbling block to the Dublin front rank. Flanagan saved well in the Galway goal and the renowned Dublin onslaught was weakly supported by the forwards. Excitement ran high as Galway stormed the Dublin citadel. A great attempt enluminating in a fine point from Roche. Galway worked back and Roche was fouled in a good position. Reilly saved for Dublin, but Galway came again, a hot attack ending to an over. Galway had the better of the play, at this stage, and were only prevented from scoring by the brilliant defensive tactics of the metropolitans. At the interval the score read: —

DUBLIN —2 points.  
GALWAY —1 point.

After the interval a Dublin player was injured, and following a respite there was a hop, from which Galway forced a “50”. The kick was well placed by Donnellan, but Donovan came to the rescue for Dublin. P. McDonnell, with a long kick, left the ball in the Galway goal-mouth. The Galway backs moved, and McDonnell again got possession close in to send wide.

Galway were moving away when held up by a foul. Donovan took the free for Dublin, and P. McDonnell secured but sent over. Centre play of a lively order followed, both sides giving of their best in a tense struggle. Joe Norris was still conspicuous in the Dublin defence, and the metropolitans got away for P. McDonnell to send wide for the third time. A brisk movement brought Galway into favourable ground, but the Dublin backs were all there, Gibbons effecting a timely clearance.

Galway kept up the pressure, and got a free, from which M. Walsh put on a minor, which left Galway leading by 2 points. Dublin were awarded a free in good ground. Donovan’s kick was well delivered, to find the Galway backs too strong for the opposing forwards. There was an exciting struggle around the Galway sticks when Flanagan saved what appeared to be a deadly shot from Rooney. Pierse, dashing in, struck the crossbar, the ball going over a point for Dublin, who were now only a point in arrears.

The play showed improvement on the first half, and Dublin appeared to be getting into their usual stride. A quick move by Dublin, and P. McDonnell levelled up with a point, Frank Burke giving Dublin the lead by a point shortly after. In no way dismayed, Galway burst away, but were checked by Carey, John Synnott took a splendid run for Dublin to go wide, and Galway again went away, a free bringing them into the scoring ground for the metropolitans to clear. Play of a high standard ruled at midfield. The Galway backs showed rare form. Flanagan, in saving in the Galway goal, conceded a “50” from which P. Carey kicked a grand point for Dublin. Dublin were now having the advantage, but Galway were staying well. After Kirwan had sent over for Dublin, Jack Reilly held up a Galway advance, and with a strong play at midfield the end came with Dublin winning by 2 points.

Mr. P. Dunphy (Dublin) had a busy time as referee, but got through his onerous task with credit.

## THE TEAMS.

**Dublin**— P. Carey (capt.), J. McDonnell (goal), P. McDonnell, W. Robbins, A. Gibbons, Joe Synnott, John Synnott, J. Norris, J. Reilly, W. Rooney (O’Toole’s); C. McDonald (St Marys’); W. Donovan (Kickhams); P. Kirwan (Keatings); F. Burke, T. Pierse (University College).

**Galway**— M. Walsh (capt.), W. Flanagan (goal), J. Egan, D. Egan, T. Molloy, T. Hession, J. Hannify, L. McGrath, J. Kirwan, P. Roche, G. Jennings (Ballinasloe), P. Jennings (Tuam); William Walsh, M. Donnellan (Dunmore); P. Kilroy (Caltra). Subs: Martin Egan, F. Benson (Ballinashoe).

## SLIGO CHALLENGES WINNERS.

After the match, the Press was informed by Mr. M. Jennings, the Sligo captain, who was accompanied by a number of the members of his team, that Sligo were challenging the winners. Sligo, it will be remembered, defeated Tipperary in the All-Ireland semi-final, but were subsequently beaten by Galway in the replay of the Connacht final, Galway this qualifying to meet Dublin.