

# Irish Independent

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One Halfpenny

## KILKENNY WIN A THRILLING FINAL. ALL-IRELAND HONOURS.

### RECORD CROWDS WATCH GRAND DISPLAY.

### WONDERFUL SCENES OF ENTHUSIASM AT CROKE PARK.

### SLIGO'S SURPRISE IN FOOTBALL SEMI-FINAL.

At Croke Park yesterday, before a crowd of 26,000, Kilkenny beat Tipperary by 4 goals 2 points (14 points) to 2 goals 6 points (12 points) in the final of the All-Ireland Hurling Championship for 1922.

The gate receipts, totalling over £2,400, constitute a record. Over 30 special trains arrived in Dublin from different parts of Ireland.

The game, which will rank as one of the greatest hurling contests in the history of the G.A.A., aroused remarkable scenes of enthusiasm. Excitement ran high, but, despite the stern nature of the struggle, it was decided in a fine sporting spirit.

With one exception the winning team was composed of players new to the All-Ireland Championship. After the match they were presented with the perpetual challenge cup by Mr. Dan McCarthy, T.D., President of the Central Council.

Tipperary are still ahead on the winning list, having 9 championships to their credit. Kilkenny, with 8, now tie with Cork for second place.

There was a surprise in the All-Ireland Football Semi-Final for 1922. Sligo, who were for the first time representing Connacht in the championship, gaining a meritorious victory over Tipperary. They meet Dublin in the final.

All classes were represented in the huge concourse at Croke Park, including several of the newly-elected Dail Deputies. Ladies were present in large numbers, and there was a big attendance of clergymen and army officers.

**HURLING: Kilkenny, 4-2 (14 points); Tipperary, 2-6 (12 points).**

**FOOTBALL: Sligo 1-8; Tipperary 0-7.**

With over 30 special trains arriving in Dublin from practically all parts of Ireland the crowd must have constituted a record. From the moment the gates were opened at about one o'clock there was a steady stream through the several entrances. This continued while the football match was in progress, and by the time the hurlers lined out shortly after 3.30, the spacious grounds presented the appearance of being filled to overflowing.

It was a great mass of humanity, all classes being represented in the immense hosting drawn together from every corner of the land. To judge from the attendance and enthusiasm, the games of the Gael, and more especially the national pastime of hurling, occupy a higher degree of popularity to-day than ever before.

## NATIONAL AIRS.

The members and officials of Central Council and other helpers, including the hurling and football teams of the Civic Guard, had the arrangements in excellent order, and the big task of catering for the crowd in the way of admission and accommodation proceeded without a hitch. The weather was everything that could be desired and the sod in perfect condition. The proceedings were enlivened by the Transport Workers' and Artane bands, which discoursed stirring musical selections during the time of waiting and the intervals. Members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Ireland (City of Dublin Division) rendered first-aid in a number of accident cases, and their services were warmly appreciated.

## HIGH-CLASS HURLING.

The hurling contest provided a really high-class exhibition, the play all through reaching a standard that has rarely, if ever, been equalled. Outstanding features were speed, dash, close tackling, and quick, accurate striking. It was surprising the very fast pace was maintained from start to finish. Both teams gave evidence of training and practice in plenty, for the players were going as strong, if not stronger, in the closing minutes than in the earlier stages.

THE OFFICIAL FIGURES ARE : -
GATE RECEIPTS.....£2,403 7 0
ATTENDANCE.....26,119

Tipperary, taken all round, would appear to be the heavier body of men, but anything Kilkenny may have wanted in weight they made up for in other respects. They are a young team, possessed of all the qualities that made Kilkenny hurling famous in the past. With the exception of the veteran, Dick Grace, of Tullaroan, they were making their first appearance in an All-Ireland final, and that they came through the trying ordeal with flying colours is a tribute to the sterling stuff of which they are made. They certainly did better than would have many a much more experienced selection. Where all gave a creditable account of themselves it would be invidious to particularise, suffice it to say that every man of the fifteen did his part and did it well.

## WENT DOWN FIGHTING.

That Tipperary were fated to go under does not in any way detract from their wonderful ability as hurlers. While Kilkenny are to be congratulated on a hard-earned victory, a meed of praise is due to the Munster representatives, who put up a gallant fight, and were not beaten until the referee whistled the end of the great game. Never before was an hour filled with such thrills of sensation and excitement. The scoring ran level, and the interval whistle found the figures even.

On through the second half it was a terrific struggle, and if at one time it looked as if Tipperary were to carry off the laurels, those who knew the Kilkenny style of play and their great finishing powers, never once lost confidence. In this, they were justified, for the closing minutes produced hurling the like of which was never seen before. The issue was in doubt up to the end, when Kilkenny were leading on the scores by a two points margin. The game will live in history, and will rank with all the great games that have gone before.

The last meeting between Kilkenny and Tipperary in an All-Ireland final was for the championship of 1916, which went to the Premier county. Kilkenny had beaten Tipperary in the 1913 final.

The football match was well contested, but the result came as a big surprise. Victory was predicted for Tipperary, who won the All-Ireland Championship for 1920, but gave Mayo a walk-over in the semi-final for 1921. It was the first time for Sligo, who had beaten Mayo (1921 All-Ireland finalists), and Galway (1919 All-Ireland finalists) in the Connacht ties, to represent their province. They played good football, and thoroughly deserved their victory. Tipperary led by 3 points at half time, but Sligo showed decided superiority in the closing moiety.

Prior to the start, Tipperary lodged a protest with the referee against the composition of the Sligo team, the grounds of objection being that one of the players (Kilcoyne) was ineligible to take part. It is stated that there is also

an objection pending by Galway against Sligo being awarded the final of the Connacht championship.

Both games were decided in a good sporting spirit. Nearing the end of the hurling match the crowd encroached on the side line, with the result that only a very unsatisfactory view of the game could be obtained from the Press table.

### THE HURLING HARD-EARNED VICTORY FOR KILKENNY

Tipperary won the toss and played towards the Clonliffe goal. Tipperary were first away, and the Kilkenny citadel had a narrow escape. Tipperary returned and got a free from which Cleary opened the scoring with a point within 3 minutes of the start. Kilkenny bounded away, and Dick Grace sent well in for the Tipperary line to be crossed without result. Lovely play of a high order ruled at mid-field, both sides giving of their best in a tense struggle. A free for Kilkenny was neatly centred by Grace, and the forwards had a good try, but failed to score. The scene of action quickly changed, but the Tipperary forwards failed. Tipperary ground was visited, Carroll sending in a free which was struck by Roberts, for O'Meara, in saving the Tipperary goal, to concede a "70". This was well taken by Grace but brought no reward. Tipperary worked away fighting every inch of the ground, and Hayes added a point. Time gone, 9 minutes. A free by Browne brought Tipperary back, and there was an exciting bout close up to the Kilkenny citadel. Hayes added a point for Tipperary from a free. Time gone, 11 minutes.

### KILKENNY EQUALISE.

Really brilliant play marked the ensuing passages, either end being visited in turn. Both sides showed splendid form and some fine spectacular work was witnessed. Kilkenny, attacking, got a free in good ground, and Dick Grace levelled up with a great goal. Excitement ran high as Tipperary moved away to meet with a sterling Kilkenny defence. The Marble County were quickly on the aggressive and had hard luck in their full forward, Roberts, coming to the ground in attempting to get on to a rolling ball which went wide. Hayes put Tipperary again ahead with a point from a free, but Kilkenny dashed away with vigour, and after O'Meara had saved well in the Tipperary goal Lalor equalised for Kilkenny for a great point.

### FIRST HALF

Goals Points Frees 70's Wides

Kilkenny	1	1	3	1	6
Tipperary	-	4	4	1	6

### SECOND HALF

Goals Points Frees 70's Wides

Kilkenny	3	1	2	1	3
Tipperary	2	2	3	3	6

The hurling was now of a magnificent order, which was remarkable considering the extreme closeness of the play. The scoring was level with 20 minutes of the time gone. A Kilkenny visitation was repulsed, and Tipperary attacking with vigour spoiled by fouling. A free was well taken by Grace, and Kilkenny were again on the offensive, Grace sending over from a second free. The pace was unusually fast, and little open play was allowed. There were a few stoppages, due to minor injuries to players. Kilkenny backs showed up splendidly against a hot Tipperary onslaught. Kilkenny took up the running, and the Tipperary citadel was in danger when Lalor drove wide. Kilkenny were facing a brilliant sun, but were losing no ground in the play, which was pretty evenly distributed. There was a vigorous duel at mid-field, from which Kilkenny got away to send over. Kilkenny were having something the better of the play, and O'Meara was called on to defend between the Tipperary sticks. Tipperary strove hard, but made little impression on the Kilkenny backs, who put up a grand defence. After Tipperary had sent wide, Kilkenny again came along in

dashing style. Leahy did well in the Tipperary rere line, and Kilkenny territory was visited for Hayes to have a good try from a free. The play at this stage was as good, or better, than anything that has ever been witnessed on the same ground. This continued on to the interval when the scores were level, as follows :- Kilkenny, 1-1, Tipperary 0-4.

### A TERRIFIC FINISH.

Play was for a time confined to midfield on resuming. Kilkenny were first to press and O'Meara saved in the Tipperary goal. Kilkenny ground was visited for a "70." which was sent over by Cleary. Kilkenny backs showed up well and eventually got away a ground movement bringing the

marble county forward. The Tipperary sticks had a narrow escape, but Kilkenny kept up the pressure. The hurling had lost nothing of its brilliancy from the first half. Kilkenny, showing great form were keeping the Tipperary backs busy, but the defence was equal to all efforts to get through. The Tipperary citadel was in grave danger, but the end was crossed without result. Tipperary sprang away on the puck out, but were unable to penetrate the Kilkenny defence. Showing wonderful speed Kilkenny again went attacking and the Tipperary backs cleared in capital style.

### **TIPPERARY AGAIN LEAD.**

A strong rush by Tipperary brought them a great goal from Power. This with 10 minutes of the second half gone gave Tipperary a three points lead. Kilkenny tried for a score, but failed against the Tipperary defence and Tipperary again moved away to get a free, from which Hayes put on a point. Time gone 12 minutes. The hurling was all the time of an unusually high order and the spectators went wild with enthusiasm. A few strong duels were witnessed in Kilkenny ground and excitement reached fever pitch. Tipperary continued to force the play in a terribly vigorous game and the Kilkenny backs effected a succession of fine saves. Kilkenny dashed away for Roberts to get a great point 15 minutes after resumption. Renewing the offensive the Tipperary sticks were again in danger when O'Meara saved well in the goal mouth. Terrific hurling followed, the persistent efforts of the Kilkenny forwards being only equalled by the superb Tipperary defence.

### **KILKENNY DRAW LEVEL**

Kilkenny were now doing best and, fighting hard for a score forced a "70." which Dick Grace placed in the goal-mouth for the forwards to level up. The Kilkenny followers went mad with delight. Tipperary bounded off on a fruitless scoring mission, the Kilkenny backs again being equal to the best efforts of the opposing forwards. The hurling maintained its brilliancy, it being wonderful how the great speed was kept up. Tipperary, showing wonderful dash, pressed with determination, and, with six minutes of the time to go, P. Power put Tipperary ahead with a goal which left the Kilkenny custodian no chance of saving. With a heavy shower coming on, Tipperary were still on the offensive, but were making little headway against the Kilkenny defence. Kilkenny bounded away, and the excitement was feverishly intense, when within three minutes of the end the Marble County levelled up with a great goal. The play was stubbornly contested, and there was strenuous hurling at midfield, when a great Kilkenny burst was rewarded with a goal, which gave them a lead on the score. Tipperary almost immediately put up a point, and continued on this offensive. The Kilkenny backs were brilliant, and held up quite a number of forward drives by Tipperary. The excitement and enthusiasm that prevailed towards the close baffled description. Tipperary tried their utmost, but were unable to improve their position, and the long whistle found them two points in arrears. Mr. P. Dunphy (Dublin) gave general satisfaction as referee.

### **THE TEAMS.**

**Kilkenny** – W. Dunphy (capt.), M. McDonnell (goal), M. Power, J. Roberts, R. Tobin, P. Donohoe, E. Dunphy, M. Lalor, W. Kenny, P. Aylward, R. Grace, T. Carroll, P. Glendon, John Holihan, J. Tobin.

**Tipperary** – J. Leahy (capt.), J. O'Meara (goal), A. O'Donnell, J. Power, P. Power, B. Browne, S. Hackett, T. Dwan, W. Dwan, J. Darcy, J. Cleary, M. Kennedy, J. Hayes, J. Fitzpatrick, P. Spillane, J. Darcy, J. Cleary, M. Kennedy. Subs – M. Mockler, P. Cahill, W. Ryan, J. Conway.

### **KILKENNY RECEIVES CUP. VICTORS BORNE SHOULDER HIGH FROM GROUND.**

There was a scene of wild jubilation by the huge Kilkenny following at the end of the hurling match. The crowd rushed in and several members of the victorious team were borne shoulder high from the ground. The cheering, which was deafening, was kept up for a long time. It was the unanimous opinion on all sides that the game, especially the finish, was one of the greatest in memory.

Mr. Dan McCarthy, T.D., President of the G.A.A., presented the Kilkenny captain (W. Dunphy, Mooncoin) with the silver challenge cup, the gift of Mr. Liam McCarthy, a well-known London Gael, and which was won for the first time early this year by Limerick for the 1921 Championship. Mr. McCarthy complimented the winners on their splendid achievement.

Rev. Father Mathew, O.S.F.C., suitably acknowledged on behalf of the Kilkenny team.