

PROFILE - GERRY FAGAN (1963)

Clann Eireann has won only two Armagh Senior Championships in Football. Shame on them!

On the two occasions that they did win, in 1954 and 1963, the team was captained by the same player, none other than Gerry Fagan (Sen) or "Gerald the Leader" as he is called in that mocking "History of the Clann."

To be at the top for ten or more years and to lead his team to six or seven County Finals in that time speaks volumes about the football prowess of the man. It also gives us the excuse to introduce the last of our Chris Creery Profiles - the one he wrote on Gerry in September, 1963. As before, we present it unaltered, let Chris himself cut "Baldy" down to size.



GERRY FAGAN, Captain of Clann Eireann's Senior team, which won this year's Championship. Gerry also captained the 1954 successful side.

Schoolteacher by profession, electrician by instinct, and footballer by a long tradition - that's Gerry Fagan! He's known as "Baldy", though Heaven knows why, because his crop of hair is the envy of equally mature members of the Committee.

It was fitting that he should be the one to be precariously chaired from the field after the Championship victory, holding aloft the McKillop Cup. It was a fitting climax to as long and distinguished a footballing career as can be found in any County.

He was born in Cavan in the mists of antiquity, played Junior and Senior County football for Antrim and for Armagh, and his trophies include an Ulster medal and several County Championship medals. It is well nigh impossible to discover, despite discreet and surreptitious enquiry, just when "Baldy" started to play football, it is equally impossible to speculate when he will quit. We do know that he has played for Clann Eireann, boy and man and old man, for a quarter of a century! He has served as Club secretary for almost as many years, and when he has time, he is also County Registrar.

What else? He is an authority on roads in Ireland, and has this compulsion for shortcuts. He is an inelegant handballer of over-powering determination and inexhaustive stamina. On his rare visits to his wife Kathleen and the family on the Shore Road, he enjoys a game of Rugby League on T.V. He has been known to discourse learnedly on various televised soccer games as well. No one is perfect!

There aren't many like "Baldy" around Clann Eireann.