

SPORTS REVIEW – JUNE



Ballybofey man Jason Quigley celebrates after winning a gold medal in the 75Kg Middleweight division. Picture credit: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

Jason Quigley was the star of June after he won a gold medal at the European Championships. Quigley defeated Romanian Bogdan Juratoni in the final in the Belarus Capital, Minsk.

Despite a gruelling fight, Quigley managed to summons something from within to take the European title on a split decision.

"What a performance by Jason," said Ireland's Head coach, Billy Walsh. "Jason boxed out of his skin against some of the best in the world - and he beat them all."

In hurling, Donegal produced a phenomenal performance to win the Nicky Rackard Cup, by beating Roscommon 3-20 to 3-16 in Croke Park.

Sean McVeigh, Paddy Hannigan and Danny Cullen scored the all-important goals in a thrilling game to win the All-Ireland title for Donegal.

"Coming up to Croke Park and captaining Donegal in the final is something you always dream of. To do it is an incredible feeling," said captain Joe Boyle after the match.

"I'm over the moon, it was hard fought, but we got there in the end," added the Burt man.

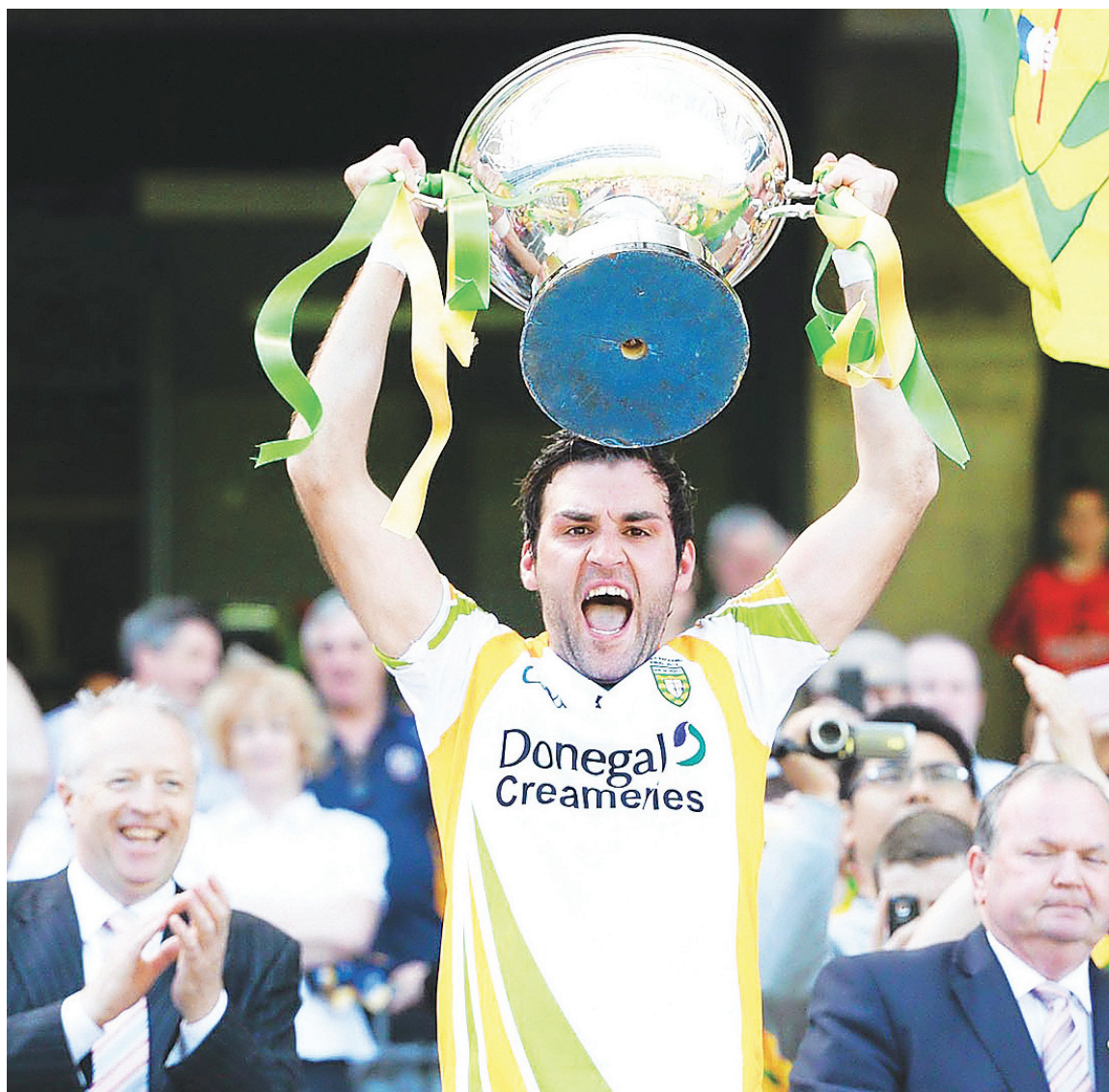
Donegal made the Ulster final, but they were made to battle for the place in the decider against a fearless Down team in Breffni Park.

Jim McGuinness' men never hit form in a game littered with errors, and despite leading the Mourne men for the entire game, they struggled to kill off their opponents. However a late free from Michael Murphy secured a three-point win for Donegal.

"The most important thing is that we won the game and we found a way to win the game. It was a game where we were very much tested. It's championship football, it's fine margins," said McGuinness.

Donegal Ladies were beaten in the Ulster Championship semi-final by Monaghan in Donaghmore. Hughie Molloy's team put it up to the raging hot favourites, but Monaghan's class prevailed in the end and they won by eight points.

Reigning champions St Eunan's made it through to the knockout



Joe Boyle, Donegal Captain holds aloft the Nicky Rackard Cup. Photos: Oliver McVeigh / SPORTSFILE

stages of the Donegal Senior Championship, but there was a big shock as Naomh Conaill were dumped out. A massive win for Malin over Cloughaneely saw the Inishowen men qualify for the quarter-finals from Group 4 at the expense of Naomh Conaill.

St Michael's were the big team to fall in Group 1. A draw against Bun-

doran left them under pressure, and two defeats to Kilcar and Glenswilly, meant that Charlie McLaughlin's Bridge men exited the championship.

MacCumhaills caused a surprise by finishing on top of Group 2. The Twin towns men, Ardara and Four Masters all finished on four points, but an inferior points difference sent the Donegal Town men crashing out

of the championship.

Gaoth Dobhair and Killybegs were in pole position to qualify for the quarter-finals of Group 3 after collecting three points from their opening two games.

It proved to be a very successful month for Gaoth Dobhair, after they won the All-Ireland Senior Gaeltacht title by hammering An Rinn in Wa-

terford.

Monaghan man Sam Moffett was the surprise winner of the Donegal International Rally in June. Gary Jennings looked set to win the rally, but his hopes were dashed when he was given a three minute penalty as a result of being early out of service.

Moffett said: "I thought I had five flat wheels on that last stage, I was so nervous!"

"It's just fantastic, so many people have won this rally and to be part of that is just great."

Finn Harps dropped to sixth in the table, after picking up four defeats in a row. They finished the month eleven points behind league leaders Longford Town, and seven points adrift of second placed Athlone Town.

Harps manager Peter Hutton suspended four key players - James Doherty, Shaun McGowan, Mark Forker and Paul McVeigh - for a breach of discipline after they featured in the Arranmore summer cup, despite the manager requesting them not to play.

"The confidence of the players is low," admitted Hutton after the defeat to Waterford United.

"We can't afford to feel sorry for ourselves. We have to dust ourselves down and get on with it."

"It's never nice to lose four in a row. We're more than capable of getting results as the early part of the season has shown," added Hutton.

There was heartbreak for the Donegal Schoolboys under 14 team as they lost to the Limerick District Schoolboys league 7-6 on penalties at the prestigious Kennedy cup.

Cockhill Celtic defeated Drumkeen United to leap-frog them at the summit of the Ulster Senior League.

Two goals from Garbhan Friel were enough to give Cockhill the points and a big boost as the league looked to be a direct battle between the pair.

Swilly Rovers won the Knockhalla Caravans cup when they beat Glengad 1-0 in the decider at Leckview Park. Terence Shiels struck the only goal of the game to give the Ramelton men a famous win.