

# Done deal for Kerry

Kingdom clinch 37th All-Ireland crown by beating favourites Donegal

By Eamon Donoghue

WAITING five years for Sam Maguire in Kerry is like an eternity – but yesterday the Kingdom came, saw and conquered.

Traditional football royalty they may be but this Kerry team was largely unfancied at the start of the year and was not the favourite going into yesterday's clash against a resolute Donegal side.

But that only seemed to make the side's 2-9 to 0-12 win – their 37th senior championship in total – even sweeter for both players and fans.

Winning captain Kieran O'Leary, who only got onto the field as an injury-time substitute, made sure to acknowledge the team's initial captain Colm 'Gooch' Cooper in his acceptance speech – the Kerry legend suffered a heartbreaking cruciate ligament injury in February which ended his season.

In a tense, tactical match that was largely unspectacular, a frantic finish saw Donegal come between the width of the post of netting an injury-time equalising goal. And even after the final whistle a few

ONE confident punter who placed a €121,000 bet on Donegal was counting the cost last night.

The bet was made in-store at a branch of Boylesports at odds of 8/11, and that the punter needed Jim McGuinness's men to claim Sam Maguire within 70 minutes.

Boylesports said the punter was from neither Donegal nor victorious Kerry, adding, 'This was a neutral bet'.

Yesterday, Liam Glynn, a PR executive with Boylesports tweeted during the game: 'I'd say the punter who has €121k on #Donegal has no nails left already.'

scores remained to be settled. Former Footballer of the Year Kieran Donaghy, who netted a crucial second-half goal, was quick to remind the early season doubters of their pessimism towards his team, led by boss Eamonn Fitzmaurice.

'Joe Brolly said the production line was finished in Kerry,' he said post-match of the GAA pundit. 'Well Joe Brolly, what do you think of that?'

He added: 'It was possibly the best one yet, the young lads really brought us on this year and they drove us on today.'

Brolly, a columnist with the Irish Mail on Sunday, would not begrudge the Kingdom their well-deserved victory, commenting: 'Donegal got their own medicine today, they can have no complaints.'

It was a day of double delight for the Kingdom and double despair for Donegal, who also lost to their Munster rivals in the minor final.

The senior clash was as edgy and calculated as many predicted, and the result largely hinged on one of the year's most calamitous errors, when Donegal goalkeeper Paul Dur-



What a feeling: Kerry fans Danny Lane, 4, and Paddy Lane, 8



Presidential seal: Mary McAleese with her husband Martin



A wee bit of excitement: Daniel O'Donnell with wife Majella at Croke Park

can kicked the ball out directly to Kieran Donaghy on the 21-metre line, handing him one of his easiest but most important ever goals.

And although Donegal had one final chance to draw level with the last play of the game, when the ball fell to Colm McFadden just two

yards out – his fisted effort, under immense pressure, struck the post. The goalkeeper's error would prove to be the undoing of Jim McGuinness' much-heralded system, and so

it was Kerry fans who rejoiced. It was not the result Donegal fan Daniel O'Donnell and his wife Majella would have wanted while it's likely Antrim woman and former president

Mary McAleese was also rooting for her Ulster comrades at Croke. There'll be some consolation for Tir Chonail fans as back in Donegal town tonight 20,000 people are expected to attend an O'Donnell concert to welcome home their heroes.

reporter@dailyemail.ie

**THE RETURN OF THE KINGDOM**

SEE PAGE 56

## Get jabs to stop whooping cough spread, urges expert

AT least one person a week – mainly vulnerable babies who have not been vaccinated – is being diagnosed with the potentially deadly whooping cough.

The respiratory disease has seen an increase across Europe in recent years, prompting one health expert to warn that newborns and pregnant women should get potentially life-saving jabs.

Up until this month, there have been 50 confirmed cases of the condition known as pertussis, disease watchdog, the Health Protection Surveillance Centre, has said.

Dr Marc Sprenger, director of the European Centre for Disease Control, said in the last few years reported cases of the infection

By **Petrina Vousden**  
Health Editor

– regarded as a forgotten illness until recently – in EU and other developed countries has soared despite high rates of childhood immunisation.

'Improvements in reporting of the disease and better diagnostic tests cannot alone explain this increase,' he said.

He warned that adults may be exposing young infants, who have yet to receive all three doses of the vaccine, to the infection because they are unaware they have whooping cough themselves. He also pointed to waning immunity to the illness as an issue.

Dr Sprenger said: 'The protection provided by the vaccine wanes over time, so after a while even those vaccinated are at risk of catching pertussis.'

'This can mean that the typical age of pertussis cases has increased from children to adults. Because pertussis is not always easy to recognise in adults, these patients may spread the disease for a longer time before the cough is diagnosed as pertussis.'

However, he said vaccination remains the most effective way to prevent the disease both for children and adults.

Babies are vaccinated against the infection in three stages at two, four and six months. But despite a strong uptake in vaccination,

cases continue to be diagnosed.

In 2012 the number of cases confirmed in Ireland doubled to more than 400. Two infant deaths were confirmed as a result of that outbreak.

Dr Sprenger said: 'Newborns and infants are at highest risk of developing severe, sometimes life-threatening pertussis.'

He added that the best way to try to prevent babies who haven't been fully vaccinated getting the disease is to ensure that people who come in contact with the baby have been vaccinated too. 'Ireland, for instance recommends a booster dose of pertussis vaccine to pregnant women,' Dr Sprenger said.