

Gaelic Games News

Foley hangs up his boots with Kildare, maybe for good

Former All Star full back has opted out of 11th season with county's senior team
Defender's intercounty retirement likely to be announced via GPA and county board

EAMON DONOGHUE

Kildare will have to do without former All Star full-back Mick Foley for the 2015 season; in fact it's unlikely he will appear again in the white of Kildare.
The Athy club man has opted against playing an 11th season with the county's senior team, enrolling in a part-time teaching course on top of continuing his job as a full-time teacher.

"There isn't enough time for both," he says, and so the 30-year-old has decided to hang up his boots for this year at least.
Intercounty retirement
"At this point I won't be involved with Kildare next year," said Foley who also explained that a statement on his decision will be released in the near future via the GPA and the Kildare County Board, one which seems likely to confirm his intercounty retirement.
"I'm teaching full-time at the moment [in Maynooth post-primary school] and I'm also now doing a course outside of teaching, so I've decided that from a career point of view, I'm trying to kind of upscale myself in teaching maths, and I won't be playing with Kildare this year," he added.
The formidable defender made his senior debut for the Lilywhites in 2004, and for the following 10 years he featured primarily at full-back as well as across the half-back line and at midfield for his county.
In 2011 he was named on the All Stars team as Kildare brought that year's All-Ireland champions Dublin to within a

point in the Leinster semi-final, and again were the wrong side of a one-point game against Donegal in the All-Ireland quarter final. That Donegal team would, of course, go on to claim the following year's All-Ireland championship.
Triumphs
Foley came into the Kildare senior set-up off the back of a Leinster U-21 triumph in 2004; nonetheless, the only pieces of silverware he collected during his decade of service to the county at senior level were successive O'Byrne Cup triumphs in 2013 and 2014.
Last year, though, turned out to be a somewhat disappointing one for the defender, after an emphatic Leinster championship victory over Louth in

which Foley gave a typically unerring performance. Kildare were dismantled in the provincial semi-final, with Stephen Bray in particular, and the pace and mobility of Meath's forward line in general, causing all sort of problems for the exposed Kildare full back line.
Foley was substituted in that game and despite being named at full-back and then midfield in Kildare's final two qualifier matches against Clare, and then in the defeat to Monaghan, he neither started nor did he feature at all in those qualifier rounds.
Fellow defender Hugh McGrillen, who filled in at full-back for Kildare during those matches, has announced that he will be taking a year out of Jason Ryan's panel to travel

despite him still not having returned from injury.
The major injury concern remains midfielder Daryl Flynn who will sit out the entire league as his ankle injury will require surgery. Ryan says that Flynn "has been struggling with his ankle for quite a few years now and it's got to the stage where it's so unstable that it now needs to be operated on. That operation will be in the next few weeks."
Flynn played through the pain barrier for his club Moorefield during their county championship triumph late last year, although by the Leinster club semi-final stage he was unable to start in their defeat to Rhode. However he was still called on from the bench to take some part in that encounter.



At this point I won't be involved with Kildare next year

On the flipside, 2013 All Star Peter Kelly has returned after an injury-ravaged 2014.
Jason Ryan's panel is currently hampered by a number of injuries including Fergal Conroy, Alan Smith and long-term absentee Mikey Conway who does remain a part of the panel

Meanwhile, last year's Mayo captain Andy Moran will be featuring for the Connacht champions this year.
Injury concerns
The 31-year-old will be using the pre-season to put to bed any niggling injury concerns and therefore will not be featuring in the FBD league. Nonetheless, the 2011 All Star full-forward will definitely be back at some point in the league for what will be his 11th season in the green and gold.
Elsewhere, the Dublin hurlers will be without their former All Star Alan McCrabbe as he has withdrawn from the 2015 panel due to work and family commitments. The 28-year-old took a year out in 2013, citing similar reasons.

O'Byrne Cup

Dublin's strong finish sees them home again

Jim Gavin's side kick seven points in a row to see off Offaly's brave challenge

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| Dublin | 0-17 |
| Offaly | 0-13 |

A magnificent seven points in a row from resurgent Dublin secured victory at Parnell Park and pole position in Group A of the O'Byrne Cup.
Jim Gavin's side looked shaky for spells in the first-half and trailed by three with 20 minutes to go to a strong-looking Offaly side.
But seven points in a row from the hosts including two from top scorer Dean Rock, who tallied 0-9 in total, put the experimental Dubs at their ease late on.
The result follows their 9 Points scored by Dublin's Dean Rock, six of them from frees

There was a second eye-catching effort from Dunne to close out the half and leave Offaly 0-10 to 0-7 up.
New Offaly manager Pat Flanagan is keen to hit the ground running in 2015 and has clearly got his team ticking nicely despite the end result. They were without their county title-winning Rhode contingent which included 2014 Niall McNamee. But they looked slick and sharp for long spells.
As for Dublin, Gavin was as good as his word and continued to hand lots of game time to fringe players and panelists. Free-taker Rock did the bulk of Dublin's scoring with five of their seven first-half points and of his 0-9 overall, six were from placed balls. He took his tally to a half dozen as Dublin narrowed the gap to two after the restart.
And while Offaly would reopen a three-point lead with points from Dunne and Bernard Allen, that was as good as it got for them.
As Offaly changed around their attack, Dublin grew in confidence and began to pick off point after point. Tomas Brady began the blitz and scored two of their seven points which arrived between the 52nd and 66th minutes. Up front, Philly Ryan looked lively and finally put Dublin ahead at 0-13 to 0-12.
Offaly sub William Mulhall pulled one score back but, fittingly, Dublin had the final say as Rock booted his ninth of the evening in injury-time.
Dublin's S. Currie, M. Fitzsimons, C. Culligan, D. Dunne, N. Devereux, S. Small, G. Hannigan, C. Dunlevy, E. Conaghan (0-1), T. Brady (0-2), D. Rock (0-9), N. Scully (0-1), P. Ryan (0-2), E. O'Gara (0-1), N. Collins. Subs: P. O'Higgins for Dunlevy (44), M. Deegan (0-1) for O'Gara (44), S. Lownds for Scully (40), C. McGuire for Collins (51), R. McSweeney for Daly (57), J. Kavanagh for Devereux (64).
OFFALY: A. Mullally, E. Rigney, P. McConway, J. Ledwith, B. Cronin, C. Donohue, D. Hogan (0-1), G. Galloway, R. Allen, K. Mullally (0-1), E. Carroll (0-2), N. Bracken, B. Allen (0-3, 2), J. Kavanagh (0-1), N. Dunne (0-4, 145, 2), Subs: L. Kelly for Mullally (46), W. Mulhall (0-1) for B. Allen (50), J. O'Connor for Cronin (51), D. Kelly for Dunne (50), J. Evans for Bracken (55), C. McNamee (60 mins).
Referee: P. Maguire (Longford).



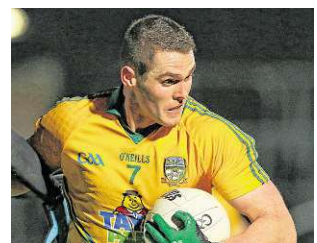
Dublin's Emmett Ó Conghaile and John Small tussle with Eoin Carroll of Offaly during the O'Byrne Cup game played at Parnell Park last night.

O'Dowd helps give Meath the edge as Longford run out of steam

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| Meath | 1-17 |
| Longford | 1-9 |

Last year's beaten finalists Meath are on the cusp of a semi-final spot in the O'Byrne Cup after seeing off the feeble challenge of Longford at Páirc Tailteann last night.
The visitors, who were boosted by a goal from Francis Magee on 18 minutes, promised much early on and led by five points at one stage.
A Seán Tobin goal following a centre from the impressive Ruairi O'Dowd brought Meath closer and by half-time they had drawn level at 1-5 apiece.
O'Dowd, from the Walters-town club, fisted the equalising point in first-half added time and added two more to his tally

at the start of the second half.
It was all Meath throughout the third quarter, with the returning Jamie Queeneey, who switched from midfield to full forward to good effect, scoring three points.
In all Meath shot nine points before substitute Brian McCormack opened the midlanders' second half account on 59 minutes.
Kilmacud Crokes club man McCormack accounted for three of Longford's second-half points, the other came from Aidan Rowan.
Meath though looked impressive throughout that second half with Joey Wallace and Andrew Tormey also showing up well.
The Royal County finished with 14 men after Tormey was shown a second yellow card on the stroke of full-time.



Meath's Bryan Menton scored two points

MEATH: P. O'Rourke, S. Carthy, M. Burke, N. Judge, D. Brennan, N. Shortall, B. Menton (0-2), J. Queeneey (0-3), A. Tormey (0-2), S. Tobin (1-0), M. O'Sullivan (0-2, one free), D. Toner (0-1), D. Bray (0-1), T. McCullen, R. O'Dowd (0-4), Subs: D. Dalton for Brennan (25), H. Rooney for McCullen, S. Meala for Shortall, J. Wallace (0-2) for Bray (44), D. Carroll for Tobin (48).
LONGFORD: P. Cullum, D. Brady, T. Gallagher, F. Battram, C. P. Smith, B. Farrell, E. Williams, B. Gilleran (0-1), 45), R. McEntire (0-1), P. Gill, F. Magee (1-0), A. Rowan (1-1), P. McKeon (0-1, one free), S. McCormack (0-2), P. Foy. Subs: B. Kavanagh (0-3, one free) for Magee (24 mins), A. Dalton for Gill (15), B. Devine for Battram (43).
Referee: J. Hickey (Carlow)

O'Byrne and Basquel keep UCD in the frame

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| UCD | 2-8 |
| Louth | 0-12 |

Ed O'Byrne stunned Louth with an injury-time goal to earn UCD a winner-takes-all tie with Kildare on Sunday.
Louth seemed to have done enough to secure Colin Kelly his first win when Ryan Burns edged them ahead with a free on full-time, but UCD's influential half-time sub Ryan Basquel teed up O'Byrne for a simple finish. Basquel also set up UCD's first goal for Tommy Moolick, making it 1-5 to 0-5 immediately after half-time after Anthony Williams had ensured the sides were level on 0-5 at the break.
Moolick's goal put Louth on the back foot and they didn't

level again until the 63rd minute through Hugh McGinn. Ruairi Moore then put them ahead before Anthony Jordan levelled again. Burns looked to have won it for Louth but Basquel's brilliance and O'Byrne's opportunism clinched the win for UCD.
UCD: A. Cullinane, O. Fitzpatrick, P. Reilly, S. Mulvaney, G. Staples, S. McEntee, A. Murphy, T. Moolick (1-0), C. Sheridan (0-1), C. Langan, C. Ellis (0-1), E. Nolan, R. Carr (0-2, one free), S. Kicoyne (0-1 free), E. Lowry. Subs: A. Jordan (0-1, free) for Lowry (30 mins), R. Basquel (0-2, one free) for Kicoyne (1-1), E. O'Byrne (1-0) for Carr (1-4), N. McInerney for Fitzpatrick (1-1), L. McHugh for Staples (45 mins), O. McInerney for Ellis (55 mins).
LOUTH: C. Lynch, K. Toner, D. Dilly, P. Berrill, A. Williams (0-1), P. Rath, D. McComish, D. Byrne (0-1), R. Brodigan (0-1), D. Duffy, D. O'Connor, T. Durkin, G. Quigley, D. McGuire (0-1), R. Holcroft (0-4, three frees), Subs: R. Burns (0-2, two frees) for Quigley (1-1), D. Finnegan for McComish (1-1), D. O'Hanlon for Berrill (38), H. McGinn (0-1) for Duffy (48 mins), R. Moore (0-1) for Holcroft (51 mins), S. McCann for O'Connor (61 mins).
Referee: D. Moore (Laois).

Dolan's goal puts DCU on back foot

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| Westmeath | 3-11 |
| DCU | 2-13 |

After a 20-month wait Westmeath recorded a competitive victory, over DCU, in Kinnegad last night.
James Dolan scored a goal after 17 seconds and Ger Egan lobbed a goal in the 24th minute. In the last minute of normal time in the first half, DCU's Conor McNally slapped the ball to the net as Westmeath led by 2-5 to 1-6.
A brace of points by Conor McHugh levelled matters within six minutes of the restart. Westmeath's responded with Lorcan Smyth guiding the ball to the net after James Dolan's initial shot was saved by Tadhg Lowe.
When Davy Byrne fisted to the ball home in the 50th minute, the sides were on level terms again, 3-6 to 2-9. Some outstanding free-taking by Ray Connellan enabled Westmeath to nudge ahead and they had to withstand a late onslaught from the visitors.
DCU finished with 14 men as Tom Flynn was black-carded in the 69th minute and could not be replaced, as the six subs had been used.

WESTMEATH: D. Quinn, J. Gilligan, K. Maguire, T. Mescal, D. Dolan, K. Martin, J. Dolan (1-0), P. Sherry, J. Stapleton, D. McCormack, Egan (1-4, two frees), P. Holloway, R. Connellan (0-7, five frees), L. Smyth (1-0), A. Coffey. Subs: J. Egan for McCormack (20 mins), D. Lynch for D. Dolan (45 mins), M. McCallon for Gilligan (45 mins), D. Whelan for Smyth (68 mins), K. Daly for Coffey (68 mins).
DCU: T. Lowe, J. Smith, D. Wynne, D. Ward, C. Daly, C. Boyle, M. Quinn (0-1), T. Flynn, S. O'Brien, C. McNally (1-1), N. Murphy (0-1), D. Byrne (1-0), E. Keane, C. McGraynor, C. McHugh (0-8, 4 frees), Subs: C. Begley for Quinn (30 mins), C. Moynagh for Boyle (1-1), R. Connor (0-2) for Keane (1-4), F. Kelly for Ward (44 mins), S. McCoy for McNally (53 mins), D. Smith for Murphy (62 mins).
Referee: A. Nolan (Wicklow).

DIT have too much in hand for Wicklow

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| DIT | 3-10 |
| Wicklow | 1-12 |

DIT are in pole position to make the O'Byrne Cup semi-finals after a four-point win over Wicklow at Bray.
Wicklow had the advantage of a strong wind in the first half but only led by three points, 0-11 to 2-2, at the break. They gave away two penalties in the first 20 minutes, both drilled to the net by Conor Madden and it took a succession of points by John McGrath and Ross O'Brien to keep the home side ahead at half-time.
Wicklow were awarded a penalty in the final quarter but McGrath blasted the spot kick over the bar while Connor Grimes took advantage of a mistake by Wicklow keeper Brendan Doyle to bundle the clinching goal over the line in the closing ten minutes.
WICKLOW: D. Doyle, A. Byrne, P. Cunningham, P. McLaughlin, D. Healy, S. Kelly, C. Murphy, A. McLaughlin (0-1), R. O'Brien (0-1), D. Hayden, J. McGrath (1-5), D. Woods, D. O'Donnell (0-1), T. Kelly, B. McCrea (0-2), Subs: K. Murphy for P. McLaughlin, J. Snell for K. Murphy (60), P. McWalter for Hayden, M. Mangnese for C. Murphy, B. Kennedy for O'Donnell.
DIT: C. Cashman, O. Manning, S. Clayton, C. Doyle, D. Reilly (0-1), A. Waters, G. Reilly (0-1), C. Carton (0-1), C. Reddy, P. Brogan (0-1), C. Grimes (1-2), E. Gaughan, D. McGuinness (0-1), E. Flanagan, C. Madden (2-2), Subs: C. Flynn (0-1) for Gaughan, C. McEgan for McGuinness.
Referee: B. Tierney (Dublin).

Maynooth pile the misery on 14-man Laois

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| Maynooth Univ | 0-18 |
| Laois | 1-7 |

Maynooth romped to a convincing victory over 14-man Laois in a one-sided clash at Portllington.
Laois star Ross Munnely (who shot 1-5) opened the scoring but the students soon took control as they rattled off ten unanswered points. Laois suffered a blow when they lost Darren Strong to a second yellow card after 20 minutes.
With Niall Walsh and David Duke taking scores at their ease, the visitors led 0-11 to 0-4 at the interval. Munnely added his second and third points for Laois before the break.
Munnely struck again after the break but the students

soon took complete control adding six unanswered points. Laois staged a mini-comeback with substitute Colm Kelly adding a brace of points before Donie Kingston set up Munnely for the game's only goal.
Laois next welcome Dublin to the same venue as Maynooth take on Offaly in Tullamore with a knock-out place on offer for the winners.
LAOIS: C. Callaghan, C. Campbell, P. McMahon, G. Hanrahan, D. Strong, P. Begley, J. O'Loughlin, K. Meaney, J. Finn, R. Munnely (1-5), P. McEvoy, B. Quigley, G. Dillon, B. King, D. Kingston. Subs: E. O'Connell for King (20 mins), M. Timmons for P. McMahon (45 mins), R. Kehoe for G. Dillon (48 mins), C. Kelly (0-2) for P. McEvoy (53 mins).
MAYNOOTH: B. Brady, C. Carton, D. Hyland (0-1), M. Murphy, E. Williams (0-1), K. Mulhall, F. Flanagan, G. Hannigan (0-2), P. Faulkner, J. Gonnouid (0-2), N. Walsh (0-4), D. Duke (0-3), Ben Duggan, R. Kennedy (0-1), B. Dardis (0-3), Subs: P. Lynch (0-1) for N. Walsh (46 mins), S. Farrell for G. Hannigan (52 mins), C. Connolly for F. Flanagan (60 mins).
Referee: Niall Ward (Westmeath)

Fogarty's late goal drags Kildare over the line to deny Carlow

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| Kildare | 2-7 |
| Carlow | 1-9 |

An injury-time goal from Padraig Fogarty rescued an under-strength and underwhelming Kildare in Athy last night. The win ensured the champions retained a 100 per cent record going into the weekend's third-round tie with UCD.
Carlow looked like they were heading for a deserved victory after substitute Eric Bambrick goalied in the 57th minute to bring the sides level. Ed Finnegan followed up with his second point and when the excellent Daniel St Ledger landed a monstrous free, Turlough O'Brien's men were bound for a win.
It wasn't to be though, as substitute Gavin Farrell ex-

changed passes with Fionn Dowling in the second minute of injury time and found Séamus Hanafin. Hanafin fed Fogarty and the St Laurence's man danced around his marker before rifling an unstoppable shot beyond Andy O'Brien.
Second goal
It was Fogarty's second goal, with the first coming after five minutes. The initial strike followed a brace of frees from Daroch Mulhall and a good score from play by Fogarty. That made it 1-3 to 0-0 but the hosts only landed another two points in the half and had only added two more in the latter period before Fogarty's late strike.
Darragh Foley was heroic at midfield as Carlow dragged themselves back into the game and with Paul Broderick kicking three points, they trailed by

just 1-5 to 0-4 at half-time.
Mulhall scored a brilliant 53rd minute point to retain that gap but Shane Connolly had been forced into a reflex save and Carlow wasted two other goal chances before Bambrick made no mistake. That set up a thrilling finale as Kildare dug deep at the death.
KILDARE: S. Connolly, C. Fitzpatrick, P. Kelly, S. Campbell, W. Burke, K. Murnaghan, C. O'Shea, B. Kinahan, G. White, D. Whyte (0-1), P. O'Neill (0-1), D. Slattery, D. Mulhall (0-3, two frees), P. Fogarty (2-2, 0-1 free), S. Hanafin. Subs: S. Kelly for Mulhall (60 mins), E. Murphy for Slattery (46 mins), E. Callaghan for Kelly (54 mins), C. O'Donoghue for Burke (55 mins), F. Dowling for Mulhall (60 mins).
CARLOW: M. O'Brien, D. Kinsella, S. Dowling, M. Nolan, J. Kane, D. St Ledger (1-1, free), B. Kavanagh, S. Gannon, D. Foley (0-2, two frees), E. Finnegan (0-2), C. Moran, A. Kelly, P. Broderick (0-4, three frees), H. Gahan, E. Doyle. Subs: D. O'Brien for Doyle (1-1), E. Bambrick (1-0) for Moran (50 mins), M. Fitzgerald for Kane (57 mins), E. Ruth for Kelly (53).
Referee: S. Johnston (Louth)

Wexford ease past Carlow IT to get first win

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| Wexford | 1-13 |
| IT Carlow | 0-13 |

Wexford recorded their first victory under new manager David Power when they saw off a stiff Carlow IT challenge in St Patrick's Park, Enniscorthy.
Playing with a strong first half wind, Wexford dominated the opening quarter at the end of which they led 1-4 to 0-0, their goal a 13th minute effort from impressive corner-forward Dermot Flood.
Carlow IT had to way until the 22nd minute for their opening score and despite pints from Tom Nolan and Liam Boland kicking points they trailed 1-5 to 0-4 at half-time.
Carlow IT opened the sec-

ond half impressively with two Tom Sheils points but Wexford managed to regain the initiative playing into the strong breeze with Kevin O'Grady and Dermot Flood responding with points.
The home side took control of the closing 15 minutes with fine points from Kevin O'Grady, Kevin Rowe and sub Declan Murphy helping build a 1-12 to 0-7 lead which saw them through to the end.
WEXFORD: S. Roche, J. Rossiter, J. Breen, K. Day, D. Larkin, R. Tierney, R. Barron, G. Carthy, C. Kehoe, K. O'Grady, B. Brosnan (0-5, 11), N. Hughes (0-2), D. Flood (1-2), K. Rowe (0-1), K. O'Connor (0-1), Subs: S. Donohoe for Larkin, D. Murphy (0-2) for Hughes, P. Byrne for Barron, W. Furlong for Rossiter.
CARLOW IT: S. Murphy, J. Herdy, C. Lawlor, D. Smyth, C. Ward, W. Young, E. Lynch, B. Murphy (0-1), T. Nolan (0-1), A. Dever, A. Forde (0-1), B. McHugh (0-2, 11, 145), L. Boland (0-4, 3), C. Healy. Subs: T. Sheils (0-2) for Ryan, J. Illings for O'Grady, T. O'Connell for Forde, G. Haran for Healy.
Referee: G. McCormack (Dublin).