

REBELS UNVEIL NEW MANAGER

BY MICHAEL SCULLY

BRIAN CUTHBERT says he's standing on the shoulders of giants - and will do everything in his power to emulate their success.

Cuthbert pipped John Cleary in the race to be Cork's new senior football boss on Tuesday night, winning the county board vote to succeed Conor Counihan.

The 38-year-old primary school principal has been handed a two-year tenure and will bid to earn the Rebels a first All-Ireland title since 2010.

"We're one of the most successful counties in the country," Cuthbert, who is also the head of Cork's GAA development squad committee, said. "People expect high standards - people expect success."

"I'm the exact same as everybody else in that regard."

"On a given day, I think Cork are as good as anyone. I'd like to think there is young talent coming through."

"I look at the list of names who have gone before me like Conor, Larry (Tompkins) and Billy Morgan."

"These are household names in Cork and then there's me, who to be fair isn't a household name. But all I can guarantee is I'll do my absolute best. I'll give this everything I have."

While Cleary brought sustained success to the Cork under-21s, Cuthbert guided the minors to a Munster title in 2010. They were losing All-Ireland finalists that same year. The Bishopstown native was a selector under Counihan this year so understands the set-up.

Perhaps the biggest issue he will have to deal with in the coming months is the threat of losing some of the dual players who were on the football panel in 2013, including Aidan Walsh and Ciaran Sheehan.

With Cork's hurlers reaching the All-Ireland final this year, that may be an attractive move for some dual players.

Cuthbert did say that if some wanted to combine the two, it's something both camps can try to accommodate.

The Rebels have won the Sam

Maguire Cup just twice since their 1989 success, the last time under Counihan three years ago and Cuthbert said: "Underachievement has to be looked across a much broader spectrum."

"One of challenges facing us is for Cork to be consistent and to be challenging, as they have been in the last number of years."

"The way I look at it, success would be our supporters looking at our team as something they're immensely proud of, for them to be able to say, 'that's my team because they give 100 per cent of themselves'."

"If we marry that to a strong ethos and a scientific approach we can be successful. Any time anyone gets a Cork team in any age group, you want to be All-Ireland champions."

HANDS UP IF YOU WANT THE CORK JOB



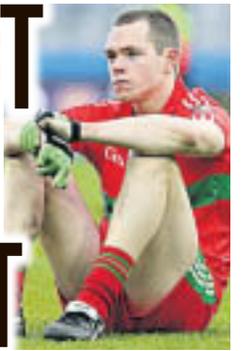
MINOR MATTER
Cuthbert dons the bainisteoir bib for Cork minors and, above, Brian Hurley after defeat to Dublin

New boss Brian proud to lead his county..& he's got Sam in sights

THE LIFE OF BRIAN..
JOB: Primary school principal
CLUB: Bishopstown
CAREER: Captained Cork to All-Ireland MFC 1993, managed Cork to Munster MFC title in 2010 and 2011. Currently chairman of the county Development Squad Management Committee

INTERNATIONAL RULES

DEAN NOT ROCKING THE BOAT



BY EAMON DONOGHUE
ALL-IRELAND winner Dean Rock believes that club will always come before country in the GAA.

The build-up to this year's International Rules series has been overshadowed by fixture clashes with a number of club Championship games, most notably the Donegal senior final on Sunday which involves Ireland captain Michael Murphy.

Ballymun Kickham's star Rock (above) feels that if faced with the same dilemma as Murphy he would put his club first.

"It's all about the club and winning club championships is what it's all about growing up," he said. "And I'm sure that's the way he feels too."

Rock and Murphy were team-mates in DCU for the last three year years, winning a Sigerson title together in 2012.

Rock, 23, added: "He's unfortunately in a tricky situation, where he's captain of the team. I think it's a pity

it's on at that time of year, a lot more people would be able to make themselves available and it would be a much better competition if Ireland had their full compliment of players."

Surprisingly only three of Rock's All-Ireland winning Dublin panel made Paul Earley's 29-man Irish panel this year, but a number of the Dubs made themselves unavailable.

Rock said: "A lot of lads are carrying niggles and it's not the sort of game to be going into carrying niggles."

Attendance figures for the Series have dwindled since the highs of 2006 when both Pearse Stadium, Galway and Croke Park reached maximum capacity.

"I suppose it's died off and the crowds and attendances as well have gone down as a result," commented Rock.

However, Rock's father Barney, played in the first Rules tests back in 1984 and Dean admitted: "I'd definitely be interested in playing in the future".

AUSTRALIAN SKIPPER NAMED

ALL WELLS IN AUSSIE CAMP



BY AHMER KHOKHAR
THE AFL has confirmed that North Melbourne veteran Daniel Wells will captain Australia in the two Test International Rules series starting in Cavan on Saturday.

Wells (left), playing in his third series, said: "There's a few young guys in the team and the onus is on the more experienced players to set a high standard of play".

AFL superstar forward Lance 'Buddy' Franklin was initially named captain of this year's Indigenous team, but has not yet arrived in Ireland.

LEITRIM CONFIRM BACKROOM TEAM

RIDGE BOSS PUTS HIS MEN IN PLACE

BY JAMES McDONALD
NEW Leitrim manager Sean Hagan has finalised his backroom team for 2014.

It was revealed yesterday that Christy Carroll has agreed to come on board as a selector alongside Aidan McCarron who will act as a selector and the trainer under Hagan (inset).

Their support team will consist of John Keenan, Peter Flynn, John Mulvey, Brian Blake and Brendan Doyle (player analyst).

Strength and conditioning will be in association with Cathal Cregg and the Connacht Centre of Excellence.

The minor team management team for 2014 will comprise of Enda Lyons, Joe Cox, Gareth Foley, Martin Doonan and John Russell (physio).

The Leitrim County Board rubber stamped these management teams after Barney Breen & George Dugdale's term ended.

