

A COUNTY LEGEND

By **JASON BYRNE**

GAA CORRESPONDENT

DECLAN BONNER has hailed Michael Murphy as Donegal's GOAT after he announced his shock inter-county retirement on Wednesday night.

Murphy, 33, declared that he could no longer give his best for the county after 16 seasons in green and gold.

The 2012 All-Ireland winner spent his last five years as a Donegal player under Bonner, who quit in July.

And the ex-Tír Chonaill boss says there is no question that his long-serving captain was hands down the county's Greatest of All Time.

Bonner told Sun-Sport: "I have no doubt. I know we have different generations or whatever else, but he was the overall package."

"He's a big and powerful man, great ball skills and his handling was top class. He's so strong physically, he's quick, could kick scores and was the complete package."

"A lot of greats wore that jersey but without a doubt he's the best that ever wore the green and gold of Donegal."

"When you talk about Michael Murphy, everyone goes on about what you see on match days, and his performances were always at the top level because the preparation was at the top level."

"Every training session he took part in was at Championship pace and I could count on one hand how many he missed. He was always first on the pitch and last off it."

"That leadership quality that he offered on and off the field and everything around it, he's a colossal loss to Donegal."

"He won five Ulsters and an All-Ireland and he won three senior championships with his club. What he has contributed to Donegal football has been immense."

Murphy made his Championship debut in an All-Ireland SFC qualifier in 2007 when he was just 17, kicking 1-1 against Leitrim.

His side needed extra-time to win that match 1-14 to 1-12 but those on the terraces in Carrick-on-Shannon knew they were watching something special.

Donegal did not win a game in the Ulster Championship in any of the next three seasons and while Murphy did kick six points in an All-Ireland quarter-final in 2009, the Tír Chonaill men were beaten out of sight by Cork, 1-27 to 2-10.

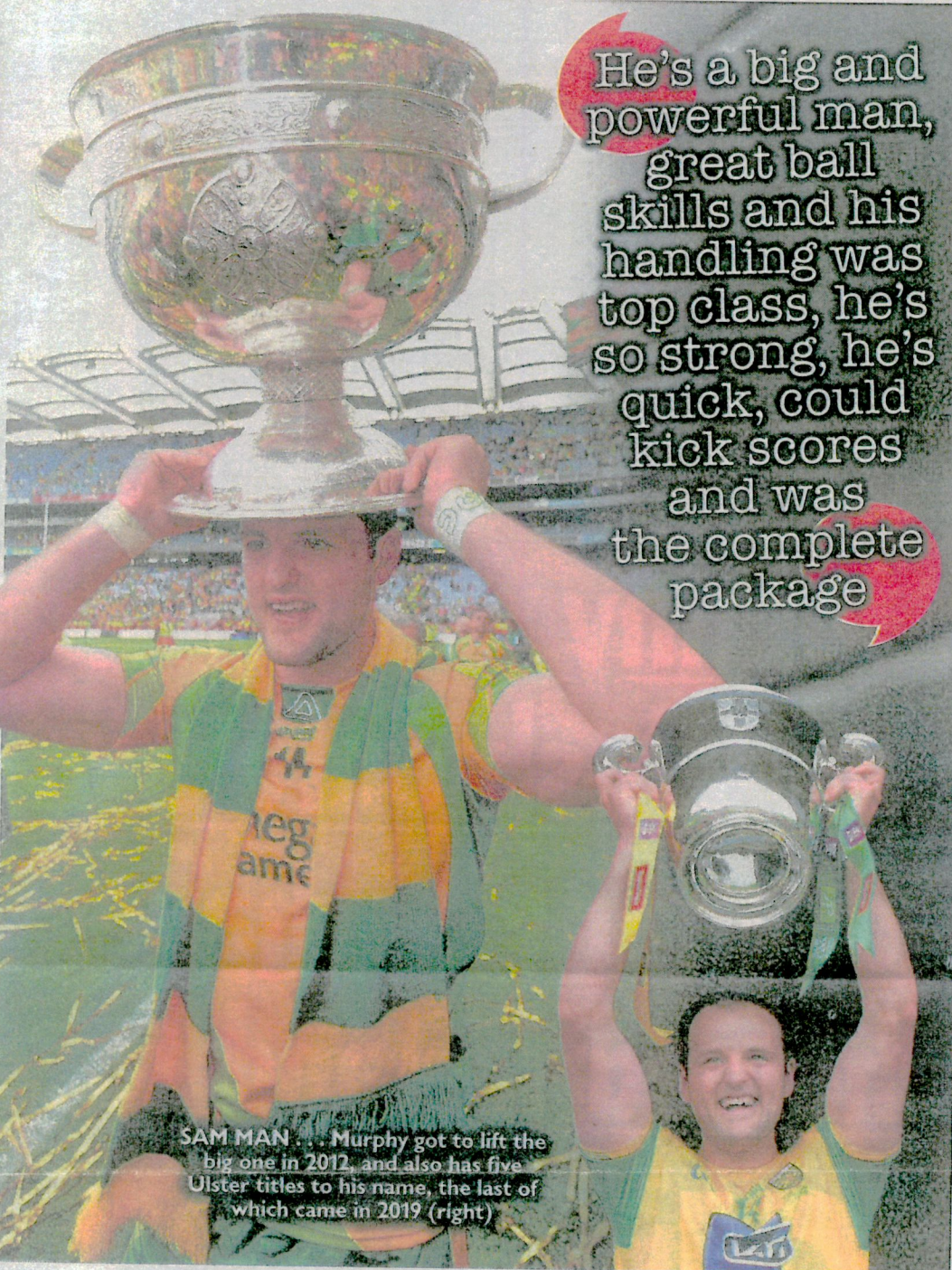
But when Jim McGuinness took the reins ahead of the 2011 campaign, he spoke about winning All-Irelands.

His words raised eyebrows and even produced a few giggles. The county had not won a provincial title since the year of their then-sole Sam Maguire success in 1992 and were struggling to shed their 'party boy' image.

But they went on to conquer Ulster in back-to-back seasons and in September 2012, Murphy climbed the steps of the Hogan Stand and lifted Sam as captain after blowing Mayo out of the water in the final.

His third-minute goal into Hill 16 was the first score of the game and it set them on their way to their second title.

Murphy scored 1-4 but it was only one of many dazzling performances for the



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SAM MAN... Murphy got to lift the big one in 2012, and also has five Ulster titles to his name, the last of which came in 2019 (right)

team across his 177 senior appearances.

Bonner was on the Donegal side that reached the summit of the game 30 years ago when his point in the dying seconds of their 0-18 to 0-14 final win over Dublin was the clincher.

Three decades on, the last game of his second stint as boss was a ten-point qualifier loss to Armagh on June 12.

He knew leaving Clones that day that his own time was up - and had a feeling it was the end for Murphy, too.

Playing at the top level for so long has taken its toll but Bonner fully expects the Glenswilly legend back in the camp in the future in a coaching role - and maybe even as the boss.

He added: "It's a loss to the senior team but I'm sure it's not a loss to the county because I feel he will be back in some capacity in the not-so-distant future. He's so knowledgeable about the game, he's been involved in management with ATU in Letterkenny and the Glenswilly minor team."

"I knew myself coming out of Clones that day that I wasn't coming back in but I also had a feeling some of the more senior players wouldn't be back."

"Neil McGee retired after a massive career and what he offered to Donegal football was immense, too. I had a feel-

ing Michael was going to keep his options open and see how the body and mind were over the last few months but I did have a sense he was going to step down.

"It's a big, big loss. But time stands still for nobody and Michael just feels now is the right time."

"It's always a difficult call to make in terms of when is the right time to bow out. Some players let it go too long and all of a sudden they are on a downward spiral, but Michael has gone out at the very top."

Bonner has taken some welcome time out since walking away from the fold himself.

He recently spent time in Melbourne to visit his youngest son Cillian and is enjoying the break

from the demands of inter-county management.

Paddy Carr has taken the Donegal reins with Aidan O'Rourke as a coach - and even without their long-standing talisman, Bonner insists there is still enough talent in the dressing room to have a big say in 2023.

He said: "I enjoyed a couple of weeks in Australia. A break was badly needed because it was ten years full-on really, between starting out with the Donegal underage teams and going on with the Under-16s to minor and the Under-21s."

"I enjoyed it but when you step back you wonder how you got the time to do it, but I wouldn't have changed it for anything."

"There are two big personalities gone next year in Michael and Neil, and Patrick McBrearty is the only player left in the group with an All-Ireland medal."

"But there are still a lot of good young lads there who have come through the ranks and now is the time to stand up."

"The gaels of Donegal need to get behind Paddy Carr and his backroom team - 2023 is going to be a different dynamic but there's still a lot of good players there and hopefully next year is a successful one."

SWILLY SEASON... Murphy enjoys club glory after Glenswilly's 2013 county final success



JAMES IS BEST

JOHNNY MAGEE has labelled James McCarthy as "the best footballer ever to play for Dublin".

By **PAUL DOLLERY**
out on his feet but he had a couple of niggling injuries.

The Sky Blues fell short at the semi-final stage of last season's Championship, losing to Kerry.

"This year he was awesome. Against Kerry he was unbelievable."

Despite the one-point defeat to the Kingdom, McCarthy (right), 32, produced one of the greatest displays of his career.

Dessie Farrell's plans for next season have been boosted by the return to the panel of key duo Paul Mannion and Jack McCaffrey.

Speaking to Our-Game.ie, Magee said: "James McCarthy for me is the best footballer ever to play for Dublin - he's Mr Consistency."

Pat Gilroy has been added to the backroom staff.

"People wrote him off last year... saying he was

Dublin's chances next year, Magee added: "With Gilroy and the two lads coming back in, for me they're favourites for the All-Ireland going forward."



COLM TO YEATS

FORMER Donegal ace Colm McFadden has been added to the Sligo senior football backroom team.

By **PAUL DOLLERY**
keeping coach - and strength and conditioning coach Sean Boyle.

The 2012 All-Ireland winner (below) will work as forwards coach for 2023 under Tony McEntee in his third season

Having finished third in Division 4, Sligo suffered a 12-point defeat to Roscommon in this year's Connacht semi-finals.

During an inter-county playing career that spanned 15 seasons, McFadden also won three Ulster titles and a National League.

Wins over London and Leitrim sent the Yeats County into the last four of the Tailteann Cup, where they came up short against Cavan.

The one-time All-Star, who retired in 2016, joins a coaching ticket that includes assistant Joe Keane, selectors Noel McGuire and Paul Durcan

Next year's Championship campaign will begin with a trip to London, while Leitrim or New York will face the winners in a provincial semi-final.



Legal Notices

DROIS INVESTMENTS LIMITED
t/a Tradehouse Central Bar and Kitchen

- Job Location: Ballincollig, County Cork, Ireland
- Positions: 3
- Contract type: Permanent Full-time
- Career level: Experienced (Non-Managerial)
- Salary: 30000.00 Euro Annually
- Hours per week: 39

Job Description & Skills Required
Key deliverables and responsibilities: To ensure that all company systems, procedures and standards are adhered to. To ensure that all menu items are prepared according to menu specifications manual. To ensure that all preparation of foods is carried out according to menu preparation manual. To ensure new staff are trained to the highest possible standard and to introduce new staff in system. To ensure all daily/nightly/weekly cleaning schedules are completed. To attend training sessions both on job/off job. To attend all staff meetings. Check temperature records from previous day (first thing in the morning before open kitchen). Check all labels to ensure all food in on date. Check daily cleaning duties and closing duties and to make daily end of night report regarding staff working hours. Check wastage and introduce in system. Check par levels and fill up the daily production chart to ensure that all temperatures checks are completed by you and chefs and record them accurately.

Key Skills & Attributes: Minimum 2 years experience in a similar role. Ability to multi task. HACCP level 2. Excellent time keeping. Positive attitude.

Please forward CV to owen@theemporiumcompany.ie

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Mark Hughes & Emer Devery seek retention planning permission for modifications to previously approved two storey with attic detached house ref. no SD12A/0139 to include:

- Minor variations to external envelope and internal layout.
- Raised eave level of main roof.
- Additional roof lights.
- Omission of chimney and all associated development works at No. 9A Templeville Avenue, Templeogue, Dublin 6W, D6W W657.

This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am - 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

Maura Conway intend to apply for planning permission for development at 26 Albert Road Lower, Sandycove, Co. Dublin. The development will consist of:

1. Reduction of existing rear vehicular entrance width to 2m for pedestrian access and maintenance only.
2. Partial demolition of front boundary wall for new vehicular and pedestrian entrance.
3. Alterations to landscaping and ancillary and associated works.

The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Planning Authority, County Hall, Dun Laoghaire during its public opening hours. A submission/observation may be made on payment of €20 within a period of 5 weeks from the date the application is received by the planning authority.