

## 2010 All-Ireland SFC Quarter-Final

# Owen's goal: more success for Rossies!



### ■ Paul Healy

This is Owen McManus, an avid Roscommon supporter – and a former resident of the county town who has a long track record of ‘putting his shirt on Roscommon!’

Owen contacted the Roscommon People recently to very kindly offer some excellent competition prizes as All-Ireland quarter-final fever grips the county.

Owen lived in Castle Street, Roscommon during Roscommon's glory period (1977-1980) and he was a particular admirer of the exploits with the team of his friend, John O'Gara.

“The O'Gara name is synonymous with Roscommon football,” Owen said this week. “Indeed the O'Garas are associated with football, handball, other sports and of course business. John is a legend of Roscommon GAA both at county and Roscommon Gaels level, and of course John's brother, Larry, was also a very fine footballer.

“His late father, Jack, was an accomplished handballer like his grandchildren are. I have known the O'Gara family since they came to town in 1962 when I lived across the street from them.”

Owen was so thrilled to see John's son, David, emulate his dad by



winning a Connacht senior football medal that he has commemorated the feat by producing a once-off ‘replica’ jersey.

At the time of the 1980 All-Ireland final (when Roscommon played Kerry) Owen sponsored the Roscommon team with a full set of football bags. He also sold commemorative tops with now famous slogans such as ‘Royal O'Gara,’ ‘Jigger O'Connor,’ ‘Earley to Rise,’ and ‘Roscommon for Sam.’

“The best-seller was certainly a sun visor for car windscreens emblazoned with the ‘Roscommon for Sam’ slogan!”

They were great days for Roscommon football and Owen, who now commutes between his Co. Longford residence and his home in the UK, was very much a part of it.

Delighting in Roscommon's performance in the Connacht final, Owen is now sporting a new jersey celebrating David O'Gara's achievement in following in his father's footsteps.

“John O'Gara is an absolute gentleman and was a great player. I remember he used to say ‘sell him a dummy – and keep it in!’ I socialised with him for some time in Dublin and I think very fondly of the extended O'Gara family. I am delighted with David's progress.”

Owen is looking forward to Sunday's big game – and whatever unfolds on the day, he is confident that Roscommon's dashing young team will bring lots of joy to fans in the coming years.

## €100 and a Harrod's shirt & tie to be won!

Roscommon fan Owen McManus has kindly sponsored competition prizes for Roscommon People readers. First prize is a man's shirt & tie direct from Harrod's in the UK. Second prize is €100.

**To enter, just answer the following question: What position on the field of play are both John and (his son) David O'Gara most associated with?**

**Send your entries to: O'Gara football competition, Roscommon People, Abbey Street, Roscommon by 6<sup>th</sup> of August, 2010.**

Wishing Fergal and all the team the best of luck on Sunday in the All-Ireland Quarter Final from all at

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