



The Fairytale in New York: The Story Behind Cavan's Greatest Victory

Paul Fitzpatrick

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In this recently-published book, Paul Fitzpatrick brings to life Cavan's finest hour - when they triumphed over Kerry in the only All-Ireland senior final played outside the country. His trawl on both sides of the Atlantic tells the story of how Cavan won in the Polo Grounds in 1947. The book has been described as "brilliantly constructed" by GAA writer and All-Ireland winning manager Eugene McGee. The Fairytale in New York, a 248-page book which brings to life one of the most famous All-Ireland championships of all time, is the result of an exhaustive trawl on both sides of the Atlantic and tells the story of the action on and off the field, the politicking and logistics and the sheer wonder of what was billed at the time as "the greatest showpiece in Irish sporting history". "The whole idea of playing an All-Ireland in New York was deemed preposterous at the start but ended up turning into a fairytale - one of the greatest in the GAA's history," writes McGee in the foreword. "Finding real and diverse characters in this book was scarcely a difficult task for the author because their memory has never faded in their native place," says McGee. "The author has also adeptly encapsulated Irish life in those Spartan economic days by referring in this book to how life was actually lived in the period of the Polo Grounds. "You don't have to be from Cavan to enjoy this book because it is a microcosm of how Ireland lived, sported and played in those far off days." The book tells the story of the amazing Clare priest, Canon Hamilton, the legendary New York-based Kerryman John 'Kerry' O'Donnell and brings in the tale of the wonder horse Caughoo who won the 1947 Grand National at 100/1 and the little-known story of the Dubliner who was shot dead in the Polo Grounds in 1951.

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