

DE LA SALLE - SAID & DONE

Defender Kevin Moran

Looking back on a season of firsts...

"I've had a bit of success with WIT and with Waterford it's only in the last few years that we've begun to think that we can beat the best and that we will beat the best. The success of the senior [inter-county] team has influenced everyone in the county to believe that.

It's been an absolute rollercoaster ride... We didn't do anything different from what any other team would do. We just went out and put in a huge effort. We're very fit, we're able to hurl, there's a good spirit and if you all give 100 per cent, that's a great nucleus to have.

The All-Ireland final was tough, but we knew we had a good chance with the club so we got back into it straight away and we didn't really have time to dwell on it... You hear every year 'oh the Waterford team is gone' but there is serious potential in Waterford... I think the future is good for Waterford hurling.

We had a close County Championship last year and the few years before that and every other club must be thinking, well if De La Salle can do this, why can't we and that can only be good for the club scene and the inter-county scene."

Getting over the penultimate hurdle...

"Unbelievable game. Cushendall were so intense. We knew they'd be like that and we knew it would go down to the wire and that's exactly what happened. It was a game of pure intensity and great hurling throughout.

We were lucky to get the draw after full-time and once we did get the draw, we dug deep. I knew we'd win it in extra time and thankfully we came through. We're a little lucky to



Kevin Moran signs autographs for pupils at St Declans School the day after their County final victory. | PHOTO: MAURICE HENNEBRY

be in the final but we're there now. It was a great team effort, the hurling mightn't have been up to scratch today but the camaraderie, team spirit and everything good that's associated with a team was definitely there.

Look, we played poorly, we know that and maybe we should have been beaten but we're there, we're in the final... We're there, it's a dream and we're looking forward to it now... We won't be going up there thinking we can't win it and we'll give it our best shot.

This is the best day of my life. Winning with your county is special, but winning with your friends and the boys you went to school with is extra special.

It was a pretty dismal display in the first half, a display in which showed we were a bit nervous. But we showed how good a team we were in the second half and we came back fighting. We've been showing our battling qualities all year. People have been writing us off all year...

But if you'd have said to me at half-time that we'd have gone on to win it; I'd probably have laughed at you, to be honest. And if you'd have told me in January that we'd be Munster champions or even county champions for that matter, I'd probably have done the same thing.

But that's what makes the GAA so special, that the underdog can go on and achieve the way we have today... Any other team would have thrown in the towel - we didn't.

You can see that in the support that's here today. There are people up here from West Waterford, which is great. I've been getting texts and calls from people up the west and around the county and that's what makes Waterford hurling so special, the way they come out and support their own.

We don't want the bus to stop here. We want to go on and represent our club and Waterford on Patrick's Day because it's the best part of 30 years since a Waterford team has been in the final, so hopefully we can achieve that."

[Dermot Keyes]

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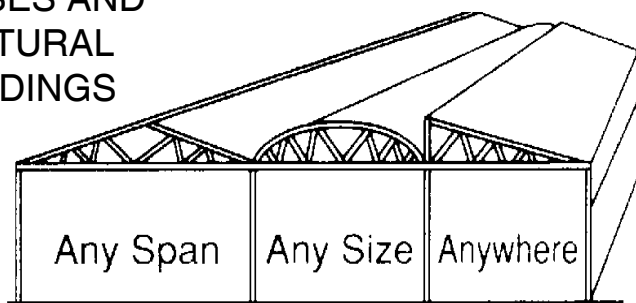
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