



## **2004 AIB Provincial Player Awards announced**

**1st February 2005**

The 2004 Waterford Captain Ken McGrath will add an AIB Provincial Player Award to the All-Star he has already received for his performances in a county shirt last year, when the 2004 Provincial Awards are presented next month. McGrath was inspirational for club Mount Sion, who were on the losing side of a 1pt Munster Final against Toomevara last November.

McGrath, who picks up his second provincial title, (he was a previous winner in 2003 when he led Mount Sion to their first Munster title since 1981) is the only one of the eight award winners who will not contest the upcoming AIB Club Championship semi-finals.

This is the ninth year of the AIB Provincial Player Awards. The winners are selected by GAA media around the country, based on player's performances in the 2004 AIB Provincial Club Championships.

"It is the skill and dedication of players around the country that ensures the AIB Club Championships continues to be one of the most thrilling and exciting competitions in Irish sport," said Billy Finn of AIB, speaking at the announcement of the awards earlier today. "We in AIB are delighted to be able to acknowledge the contribution of all the players, by honouring the eight award winners in the AIB Provincial Player Awards."

Other winners from the provincial hurling championships include Athenry's Joe Rabbitte, who beat off stiff competition from within his own club for the award, with previous winner Eugene Cloonan in particular another strong contender.

James Stephen's Eoin Larkin was the runaway winner in Leinster, after his high scoring contribution to the Kilkenny clubs success in taking their 3rd Leinster title, and first since 1981, while Rossa's Jim Connolly took the Ulster Award.

In football, Laois star Colm Parkinson took the Leinster award for his role in leading Portlaoise to their 6th Leinster title, and their first in 17 years. Ballina's Enda Devaney was the Connacht winner, with Crossmaglen's Johnny Murtagh taking the honours in Ulster.

John Daly was clear favourite for the Munster award, after his role in securing Kilmurry's first ever Munster title, and only the second title ever for Clare.

The players will be presented with their awards at a function in AIB, IFSC on March 7th, where the two Coaching & Games Development awards will also be announced

Football Awards

Enda Devaney, Connacht, Ballina

Colm Parkinson, Leinster, Portlaoise

John Daly, Munster, Kilmurry

Johnny Murtagh, Ulster, Crossmaglen

Hurling Awards

Joe Rabbite , Connacht, Athenry

Eoin Larkin, Leinster, James Stephens

Ken McGrath, Munster, Mount Sion

Jim Connolly, Ulster, Rossa

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