

The Echo

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The Echo: It's all be done before

Sporting thought for the week:

"He's pulling him off. The Spanish manager is pulling his captain off" - RTE's George Hamilton

Mirror Mirror on the Wall

Wannabe hypnotist Ronan Gaughan has this week removed all the mirrors from his house following a number of unfortunate trance related instances.

The Mayo native has twice managed to hypnotise himself while shaving, as well as once while just standing admiring himself in the hallway mirror.

Further problems have been caused while socialising, with several of his favourite pubs having large mirrors behind the bar, sending Ronan into a hypnotic state when seated on the high stool (below).



Sadly too, Gaughan has had to split with one long term lady-friend, who was known to enjoy a somewhat adventurous bedroom lifestyle, after Gaughan hypnotised himself while staring up at the mirror she had fixed to her bedroom ceiling.

The lady, who did not wish to be named, told *The Echo*: "Ronan wasn't exactly blessed with stamina at the best of times, but the mirror was like a drink of Horlicks to him. He was out like a light as soon as he looked at it. He's a lovely bloke, but you'd need to be into necrophilia to have a relationship with him."

Feline Rather Silly

The Echo can this week exclusively reveal the lengths that Farney-boy Claretian Daithi Colton is prepared to go to disguise himself, following his county's humiliating exit from the Ulster Championship at the hands of under-achieving neighbours Cavan.

Malachy O'Rourke's Monaghan team were hot favourites to progress in the recent encounter between the two southern Ulster football rivals, but following the embarrassing four-point defeat in Breffini Park, Colton has taken to disguising himself in order to avoid the abuse he was receiving.

Colton, who is said to have endured a particularly torrid WhatsApp exchange with Cavan man Sean McGorry during and after the game, has decided that he is going to change allegiances for the remainder of the Champion-

ship, pinning his hopes on hurling giants Kilkenny in the small ball game instead. He confirmed this decision by deciding to get a small Kilkenny emblem on his face to show his support.

Sadly the Emyvale teacher failed to appreciate that the face painters at the fair in Southall last weekend were no aficionados of the GAA, and when he asked the artist to turn him into a cat, meaning a Kilkenny supporter, the painter from Bangladesh duly obliged and turned Colton into a tiger.

In a further unfortunate twist, it appears that the face painter was on his first day on the job and used the permanent paint designed for wall murals instead of the washable paint intended for faces.

A visibly annoyed Colton told our reporter: "I was expecting a couple of black and amber stripes on



Colton: Not feeling feline

my cheeks. Something simple that I could wear down the pub at the weekend for the Kilkenny game. How was I to know that Bangladeshis don't follow hurling?"

"It was bad enough getting humiliated by Cavan, but this face painting thing is just twisting the knife in the wound completely. I look bloody ridiculous."

Healy's Helmet

Claretian mum-of-three Patricia Healy has revealed to *The Echo* the story behind her number-one son Liam's meteoric rise to become the club's first choice goalkeeper.

In an exclusive one-to-one interview, Patricia detailed the painstaking path that "her little goalie" has followed in order to claim the yellow jersey for himself.

"People think that Liam has been an overnight sensation" she began in her familiar Laois accent. "But the truth is, it has taken Liam 16-years of selfless dedication and discipline to hit the heights he is hitting now.

"There's very little Liam hasn't explored in terms of hydration and diet in order to get into tip-top shape."

However, there is much more to Liam's story than merely watching what he eats and drinks.

"He was instinctively a goalkeep-



Helmet-head Healy: Keeper to-be

er. He was obsessed by it" she added. "Right from when he could walk, he was throwing himself around the place, smashing into everything and falling over all the time. Indeed, there were times when he'd ask his brothers to throw him from the top of the stairs so that he could practice his diving... or at least that's what Matt and Conor told me.

"He'd been to A&E so often with concussions that we ended up having to get him to wear a helmet all the time, just to stop social services bothering us. They were constantly at the door.

"But that's all in the past now. Now he is at the top of the pile and the first name on the team sheet. I couldn't be prouder of my little number one" she concluded.