

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Martin Healy

by Michael O'Dwyer

Martin Healy was born on 9 November 1911 at Coolcroo, Two-Mile-Borris, County Tipperary. He was the fourth son of Tommy Healy, a farmer, and Anne Healy (née Treacy). Coming sixth in a family of six boys and five girls, they all attended Two-Mile-Borris National School. The eldest brother, Johnny (1904–1984), and two sisters emigrated to the United States in 1925. The remaining boys, Mick (1907–68), Denis (1908–85), Martin (1911–82), Phil (1913–80) and Tom (1916–95), made a major contribution to the Coolcroo Athletic Club success story. From the club's foundation in 1936 to the early 1950s the club at senior and junior level won seventeen national cross-country 'team' titles. The club's first national title win was the NACA junior cross-country championship in February 1937 at Baldoyle Racecourse, Dublin. The following year they won the NACA senior cross-country championship at the same venue, and the year after that on 2 April 1939 the club again won the NACA senior cross-country championship, this time at Thurles Racecourse. Martin Healy was one of the six scorers in 1939 at Thurles. The six in order they finished were Tom Healy, Jimmy Sweeney, Jerry Fahey, Tom Bourke, Martin Healy and Phil Jones. The other sport Martin Healy had much success in was hurling and he played with the local Moycarkey-Borris team that won the senior county championship final in 1937 and 1940. In both finals they beat Cashel King Cormacs. His elder brother Denis won the senior county hurling championship final with Moycarkey-Borris in 1934. Martin Healy died on 28 August 1982 when his tractor was in collision with a car at Ballyerk, Two-Mile-Borris. He was aged seventy, and is interred in Two-Mile-Borris cemetery.