

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Mick Healy

by Michael O'Dwyer

Mick Healy was born on 12 November 1907 at Coolcree, Two-Mile-Borris, County Tipperary. He was the second son of Tommy Healy and Anne Healy (née Treacy). His parents got married in Two-Mile-Borris church on 18 February 1901. His father Tommy Healy scored the very first goal in an All-Ireland hurling final. This happened in the 1887 final, when Tipperary played against Galway. The Tipperary team which won that inaugural final was represented by Thurles, and the Galway side by Meelick. Both were county champions that year. The final was played on Easter Sunday, 1 April 1888, at Birr and the attendance was estimated at 5,000. In athletics Mick Healy's first big win was at the Tipperary divisional Garda sports in Clonmel on 18 August 1929 when he won the Munster 2 miles steeplechase title. Later that year he won the Munster 5 miles title at Clonmel sports. On 3 February 1934 he came second in the Irish junior cross-country championship in Dublin with both his club Galteemore Harriers and O'Callaghan Mills Athletic Club sharing first place. A few weeks later on St Patrick's Day in the Irish senior cross-country championship in Thurles both Mick Healy and his club finished in third place. He gained international recognition for this performance by qualifying for the Irish Free State team (as it was then known) for the International cross-country championship in Ayr, Scotland. Although the Irish team travelled, they did not compete as a protest over the inclusion of the Northern Ireland team, but were awarded their green singlets. Mick Healy's biggest victory was on 1 July 1934 when he won the 4 miles at the Irish athletics championships in Fermoy. In 1935 he was a member of the Galteemore Harriers team that finished second in the Irish senior cross-country championship and he also came second in the 4 miles at the Irish athletics championships. He played a leading role in the establishment of Coolcree Athletic Club in 1936, and was elected its first chairman. On 2 April 1939 he was a scoring member of the Coolcree team that won the Irish senior cross-country championship at Thurles. Mick Healy died on 6 September 1968 at his residence, New Hill, Two-Mile-Borris, aged sixty, and is interred in Two-Mile-Borris cemetery.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

National Athletic and Cycling Association Championships

1934	4 Miles	20:47.4
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