

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Ned Tobin

by Michael O'Dwyer

Ned Tobin was born on 23 November 1911 at Rehill, Ballylooby, County Tipperary. He was the third son of David Tobin, a farmer, and Alice Tobin (née Clifford). Ned grew up with four brothers and two sisters. His second eldest brother Fr Thomas Tobin was ordained in 1933 and was parish priest at Powerstown, Clonmel when he died in 1974. He had been curate there for two previous periods, he was first appointed to Powerstown in 1946, to Ardfinnan in 1951, and back to Powerstown in 1954 until his appointment as parish priest in 1971. Ned Tobin was educated at Burncourt National School and joined the Garda Síochána in August 1933. Standing at six feet five inches, he won thirty-seven national titles including two all-round titles won in Killarney in 1936 and Carrick-on-Suir in 1937. He won his first titles on 1 July 1934 at the championships held in Fermoy when he won the discus, 56 lb weight for distance and 56 lb weight over the bar events. Later that year he won five events at the Tipperary athletics championships in Thurles. He was the outstanding performer in all four throwing events and he also won the long puck. Amazingly, he equalled this feat at the Irish athletics championships held in Thurles on 16 July 1939, winning the shot-put, discus, both 56 lb events and the 120 yd hurdles. Ned Tobin's discus throw of 152 ft 6½ in. (46.49 m) in Thurles was an Irish record until beaten by Galway-native Cummin Clancy in August 1949. The previous record holder was Paddy Bermingham from County Clare, and before that it was held by Paddy Quinn from Erinagh, Capparoo, near Nenagh. Ned Tobin's best marks in the 56 lb weight for distance and 56 lb weight over the bar, 29 ft 1¾ in. (8.88 m) and 15 ft 5 in. (4.70 m) respectively, were world records. Both were thrown on 15 August 1943 at the Ballina sports in County Mayo. Ned Tobin was promoted to sergeant in May 1950. He died on 16 February 1987 at his residence in Dublin, aged seventy-five, and is interred in St Fintan's Cemetery, Dublin. He was the recipient of the Knocknagow hall of fame award at the 1972 Cidona Sports Awards. In 1992 a monument in his honour was erected in Ballylooby. He was president of the Tipperary Association Dublin from 1984 to 1987.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

National Athletic and Cycling Association Championships

1934	Discus	135 ft 4 in.	(41.25 m)	
1934	56 lb Weight for Distance	25 ft 9 in.	(7.85 m)	
1934	56 lb Weight for Height	15 ft 0 in.	(4.57 m)	
1935	Discus	143 ft 5 in.	(43.71 m)	
1935	56 lb Weight for Distance	27 ft 1¾ in.	(8.53 m)	
1935	56 lb Weight for Height	15 ft 1½ in.	(4.61 m)	
1936	Discus	143 ft 0 in.	(43.58 m)	
1936	56 lb Weight for Distance	27 ft 8½ in.	(8.44 m)	
1936	56 lb Weight for Height	15 ft 7 in.	(4.75 m)	
1936	All-Round Championship	5,467 pts		
1937	Discus	146 ft 5 in.	(44.63 m)	
1937	56 lb Weight for Distance	28 ft 1 in.	(8.56 m)	
1937	56 lb Weight for Height	14 ft 0 in.	(4.27 m)	TIE
1937	All-Round Championship	6,136 pts		
1938	Discus	142 ft 7 in.	(43.46 m)	
1938	56 lb Weight for Distance	27 ft 8 in.	(8.43 m)	
1938	56 lb Weight for Height	15 ft 0 in.	(4.57 m)	
1939	120 yd Hurdles	16.6		
1939	Shot-Put	42 ft 6½ in.	(12.96 m)	
1939	Discus	152 ft 6½ in.	(46.49 m)	
1939	56 lb Weight for Distance	28 ft 9½ in.	(8.77 m)	
1939	56 lb Weight for Height	15 ft 0 in.	(4.57 m)	
1940	56 lb Weight for Height	14 ft 6 in.	(4.42 m)	
1941	Discus	130 ft 3 in.	(39.70 m)	
1943	Discus	135 ft 10 in.	(41.40 m)	
1943	56 lb Weight for Distance	28 ft 7 in.	(8.71 m)	
1943	56 lb Weight for Height	13 ft 6 in.	(4.11 m)	
1944	Discus	145 ft 8½ in.	(44.41 m)	
1944	56 lb Weight for Distance	28 ft 8¼ in.	(8.74 m)	
1944	56 lb Weight for Height	15 ft 1 in.	(4.60 m)	
1945	Discus	143 ft 11½ in.	(43.88 m)	
1945	56 lb Weight for Distance	27 ft 7½ in.	(8.42 m)	
1945	56 lb Weight for Height	14 ft 0 in.	(4.27 m)	
1946	Discus	130 ft 9 in.	(39.85 m)	
1946	56 lb Weight for Distance	28 ft 5½ in.	(8.67 m)	
1951	Discus	141 ft 4 in.	(43.08 m)	
1951	56 lb Weight for Height	14 ft 3 in.	(4.34 m)	