

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Tommy Headon

by Michael O'Dwyer

Tommy Headon was born on 21 June 1918 at Ballyporeen, County Tipperary. He was the youngest son of Sergeant Patrick Headon, Royal Irish Constabulary, and Mary Headon (née Cullen). His parents got married in St Michael's Church, Athy on 27 September 1909. At one year of age, Tommy, and family, moved to Dublin after his father got promotion. He was educated at O'Connell School, Dublin, and competed in athletics in the shot-put and discus. In his last year at the Christian Brothers school he completed a hat-trick of wins at the Irish schools athletics championships on 1 June 1936 when he won the intermediate shot-put title, and both the senior shot-put and discus titles. From there he studied at UCD, where he gained first-class honours in chemistry and mathematics. At the Irish universities athletics championships, in his first year he came second in the shot-put and discus, and won both titles in 1938 and 1939. Tommy Headon became an Irish champion when he won the shot-put at the Irish athletics championships held in Drogheda on 10 July 1938. He also played rugby and won the Leinster Senior Cup with UCD when they beat Clontarf by 6–3 in the final at Lansdowne Road. The following Saturday at the same venue he was again on the UCD team that won the Bateman Cup final when they beat Young Munster by 16–6. Tommy Headon was capped as a prop forward for Ireland in two international matches. He made his debut in the green shirt in a 12–3 victory against Scotland on 25 February 1939 at Lansdowne Road. His second game was a fortnight later in a 7–0 loss to Wales at Ravenhill, Belfast. During the war years he also played for an Irish XV side that lost 9–6 against a British XV side on 7 February 1942 at Ravenhill. He was later managing director of Urney Chocolates Ltd and a director of other companies in Ireland, and also in South Africa. Tommy Headon died on 21 August 1966, aged forty-eight, and is interred in St Maelruain's Cemetery, Tallaght.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

National Athletic and Cycling Association Championships

1938	Shot-Put	42 ft 2½ in. (12.86 m)
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