TIPPERARY ATHLETES

Ned Fogarty

by Michael O'Dwyer

Ned Fogarty was born on 7 February 1926 at Sopwell, Cloughjordan, County Tipperary. He was the seventh son of James Fogarty, a farmer, and Mary Fogarty (née Clear). His parents got married on 17 January 1910 in Borrisokane church. Ned Fogarty came to prominence as an athlete during the golden period of cross-country running in Tipperary. On Sunday, 17 February 1952, he won the Irish junior cross-country championship at Dromin, Nenagh. The race was held in ideal conditions with 150 runners taking part. It was an inter-club contest that year and his club Moneygall finished in seventh place. The winning club was Mountpleasant from County Louth and the second-place finisher was Tom Sullivan, Inch, the Tipperary junior champion. Ned Fogarty ran the six mile course in thirty-five minutes and was 100 yards ahead at the finish. In the Irish senior championship that year he finished tenth and his club Moneygall was second. The following years the national championships reverted back to its inter-county format. Ned was runner-up in the Tipperary senior cross-country in March 1953 but did not compete in the national competition due to a hand injury. In both 1954 and 1955, however, he was a top-six scorer for Tipperary when the county won the Irish cross-country championship. Tipperary has not won the inter-county championship since. On 28 March 1954 at Belfield, Dublin he finished fourteenth and the other scoring members were Patsy Fitzgerald, Sean Hayden, Tom Kelly, Johnny Hanley and Mick Cleary. On 27 March 1955 at the same venue he finished ninth and the other scoring members were Paddy Fahey, Sean Hayden, Mick Cleary, John Joe Bourke and Pakie Ryan. Ned Fogarty competed in cross-country for Nenagh Olympic the following year. He started working as a postman in the Ballingarry area in 1954 and after seventeen years he was transferred to Aglish. He retired as a postman in 1991. He had a life-long association with Knockshegowna GAA Club as a player, trainer and masseur and he also helped out with other clubs. When Kilruane MacDonaghs won the All-Ireland club hurling championship on 16 March 1986 Ned Fogarty was a prominent and efficient member of the back-room team. He served as a gate checker with the North Tipperary Board for numerous years. Ned Fogarty died on 27 August 2006 at Bushy Park Nursing Home, Borrisokane, aged eighty, and is interred in Ballingarry cemetery.