

# TIPPERARY ATHLETES



## Pat Hackett

by Michael O'Dwyer

Pat Hackett was born on 29 May 1908 at Lanespark, Ballynonty, County Tipperary. He was the third son of Tobias Hackett, a farmer, and Mary Hackett (née Croke). Both of his parents were native of Lanespark, and they got married at the Cistercian Abbey, Roscrea on 23 June 1904. His eldest brother John Hackett who was ordained a priest on 18 June 1939 was a monsignor when he died in Reseda, Los Angeles in 1988. His last parish was St Catherine of Siena, in Reseda, a parish he established in 1949. Pat Hackett is best remembered for his sparkling athletic performances in 1938, the year he reached his thirtieth birthday. He started off the year, at national level, in the Irish junior cross-country championship on 27 February in Belfast when he finished runner-up to Phil Healy. Pat Hackett's club Ballynonty AC finished third. The following month in the senior cross-country championship at Baldoyle Racecourse he finished in fifth position and Ballynonty AC again finished third. During the summer of 1938 he won four Irish titles on the track while competing for Killenaule. He won the 3 miles title at Feakle sports on 3 July, and the following week on 10 July at the Irish athletics championships in Drogheda he won the 4 miles title. A week later on 17 July at the Clare Garda sports in Ennis he won the 5 miles title. His time was 27 minutes and 32 seconds, and in second and third positions were Phil Healy and Jerry Fahey, Coolcree. Pat Hackett won his fourth national title at Blanchardstown sports on 28 August when he was first across the finish line to win the 2 miles title. In the Irish junior cross-country championship in March 1939 at Limerick both Pat Hackett and his club Killenaule finished in third place. He didn't participate in the senior race that year, but he did in 1940 when he finished seventh and his club Killenaule finished in third place. At the Irish athletics championships held in Fermoy on 4 August 1940 he regained the 4 miles title he lost the previous year to Toddy Maguire, also native of Ballynonty. An interesting story linked to that win is that on his way to Fermoy he crashed his car in Ballinure and despite the fact that he had some fragments of glass in a head wound he managed to put in a fine performance to take the title. He worked as an insurance agent with Irish Life in Killenaule where he lived with his wife and children, and they also had a shop/newsagency. They moved to Tramore in later years. Pat Hackett died on 3 January 1994 at St Patrick's Hospital, Waterford, aged eighty-five, and is interred in the cemetery adjoining Holy Cross Church, Tramore.

**Titles Won at Senior National Championships:**

**National Athletic and Cycling Association Championships**

1938	2 Miles	10:19.4
1938	3 Miles	16:15.0
1938	4 Miles	21:01.0
1938	5 Miles	27:32.0
1940	4 Miles	20:55.2