

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Din Kennedy

by Michael O'Dwyer

Din Kennedy was born on 26 June 1913 at Coolcroo, Two-Mile-Borris, County Tipperary. He was the fourth son of Con Kennedy, a farmer, and Mary Anne Kennedy (née Champion). His parents got married in Gortnahoe church on 21 February 1909. On the Kennedy family in Jimmy Fogarty's excellent book on Moycarkey Coolcroo Athletic Club, *A Tipperary athletic club: 70 years of athletics in a County Tipperary parish*, he started with, 'In 1936, the Kennedy family, together with their close neighbours, the Healys, became the founding members of Coolcroo Athletic Club. All the male members of this family were known throughout the county as great hurlers and athletes, having captured All-Ireland medals in both disciplines. In fact, their Uncle Tom Kennedy was a member of the historic Two-Mile-Borris team, County Tipperary, Munster and All-Ireland Hurling Champions of 1900.' When Coolcroo won the Irish junior cross-country title in 1937 for the first time one of the team's six scorers was Din's brother Tom Kennedy (1912–1962). Two years later, in 1939, when Coolcroo regained the Irish junior cross-country title Din Kennedy was a scoring member, and he was also a scoring member when Coolcroo won the Irish junior cross-country title in 1948. His best year though was in 1946 when he was a scoring member of the Tipperary junior cross-country team that won the Irish inter-county title that year and the following month he was a scoring member of the Tipperary senior cross-country team that won the Irish inter-county title. The six scoring members of the Tipperary junior team were Patsy Fitzgerald, Pat Leatham, Din Kennedy, Mick Cleary, Tom Fitzgerald and Paddy Sheedy. The scoring six of the Tipperary senior team were Patsy Fitzgerald, Mick Blake, Larry Donnelly, Christy Ryan, Patsy Carroll and Din Kennedy. In both races Din Kennedy finished in seventh place. In the Tipperary senior cross-country championship he was runner-up in 1946. His brother Tom was a member of the Tipperary senior hurling team that won the All-Ireland final in 1937. Both Tom and eldest brother Bill won county senior hurling titles with Moycarkey-Borris. Din Kennedy died on 5 February 1990 at St Joseph's Hospital, Nenagh, aged seventy-six, and is interred in Two-Mile-Borris cemetery.