

# TIPPERARY ATHLETES



## **Frank Moynihan**

by **Michael O'Dwyer**

Frank Moynihan was born on 20 August 1907 at Church Street, Cahir, County Tipperary. He was the eldest son of Malachy Moynihan, a national school teacher, and Margaret Moynihan (née Fogarty). His father was native of Coolnacupogue, Bunane, Kenmare, County Kerry and his mother was native of Drom, County Tipperary. They got married in Drom church on 31 July 1906. Frank Moynihan was educated at Cahir National School, Cistercian College, Roscrea and Trinity College Dublin. At Roscrea the sports he was most successful in were hurling, rugby and handball, and he helped the school win the Leinster colleges senior hurling championship in both 1923 and 1924. At Trinity College he participated mainly in athletics and hockey and was awarded a university pink in both sports. His main discipline in athletics was the long jump and his best performances in the Irish senior championships were second in 1927 with 21 ft 7¼ in. (6.58 m), second in 1928 with 21 ft 11½ in. (6.69 m), and third in 1930 with 21 ft 11 in. (6.68 m). At the Irish universities athletics championships he won the long jump in 1927 and 1928, and was third in 1929 having spiked his foot on his second jump. Frank Moynihan represented the Irish universities athletics team against the Atalanta Club (combined Scottish universities) in 1927 and 1929. For Ireland, he competed in the long jump against the Achilles Club (comprises of current and former members of Oxford University AC and Cambridge University AC) in 1927, and against Scotland and England in a triangular contest in Glasgow in 1930. He was also picked for Ireland in the Tailteann Games in 1928 but it is not known if he competed. In hockey, he was goalkeeper for Ireland when they beat England and won the Triple Crown in 1930, and also in a draw against Scotland in 1931. Gaelic football, soccer, cricket and shooting are other sports he participated in. At Trinity College, where he was a sizar in Irish and obtained a moderatorship in modern literature, he graduated with a BA in 1930 and an MA in 1962. Frank Moynihan taught for two terms as an assistant master at St Stephen's Green School, Dublin before leaving at the end of July 1930 to take up a teaching position at Worksop College, Nottinghamshire. He bought Eastbourne House, a school in Acocks Green, Birmingham in 1947. He built it up from around twenty pupils to more than a hundred in little over a year. Frank Moynihan died on 29 January 1981 at his residence, Eastbourne House, aged seventy-three, and his ashes are in the garden of memory at Bickenhill church, near Birmingham.