

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Paddy Fahey

by Michael O'Dwyer

Paddy Fahey was born on 25 August 1923 at Bealacoune, Hollyford, County Tipperary. He was the fourth son of John Fahey, a farmer, native of Bealacoune, and Bridget Fahey (née O'Dwyer), native of Loughnaskough, Upperchurch. His parents got married in the parish church in Upperchurch on 21 February 1916. Paddy Fahey was a cross-country and middle distance track runner of tremendous ability and was as great-hearted as runners come. His first win was at a boys' race at Upperchurch sports. During the early 1940s he competed for Hollyford Athletic Club and in 1947 he joined up with Coolcroo Athletic Club. The crowning glory for Paddy was the 1948 Olympics held in London's Wembley stadium when he was selected for the 10,000 metres track event. This was the first Olympics to be held since 1936 due to the Second World War. He represented Ireland in the International cross-country championships four times (1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951). His best performance was when it was held at Baldoyle racecourse in Dublin in 1949 when two Tipperary men finished in the scoring six for Ireland, John Joe Barry (14th) and Paddy Fahey (19th). Ireland finished third that day, winning the bronze medals, the first time Ireland medalled at the International cross-country championships since 1925. Paddy Fahey won five national individual athletics titles: one junior cross-country title, two senior track titles, and two senior cross-country titles. He also won two national junior team cross-country titles, and eight national senior team cross-country titles. In 1955, at both the Tipperary junior and senior cross-country championships, at Moyne and Portroe, respectively, he won both with his new club Moyne Athletic Club. In around 1958, Paddy Fahey bought a farm at Graigue, Moycarkey, and four years later he married Maura Costello from Milestone, near Upperchurch. He was the 1987 Knocknagow hall of fame award recipient at the Cidona Sports Awards (now Annerville Sports Awards). Paddy Fahey died on 26 February 2006 at his residence, aged eighty-two, and is interred in Moycarkey new cemetery.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

National Athletic and Cycling Association Championships

1955	5 Miles	26:22.6
------	---------	---------

Amateur Athletic Union Championships

1948	3 Miles	14:40.9
1949	Cross-Country (Inter-Club)	47:49
1951	Cross-Country (Inter-Club)	51:36