

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



George Geraghty

by Michael O'Dwyer

George Geraghty was born on 6 September 1938 at Eveleen Nursing Home, Eccles Street, Dublin. He was the second son of John 'Jack' Geraghty and Eileen Geraghty (née Kenny). His parents got married on 31 January 1934 in St Bride's Church, Ballintubber, County Roscommon. When George was born they were living at 16 Lower Drumcondra Road, Dublin. His grandfather George N. Geraghty was arrested in April 1916 at the time of the Easter Rising, while he was working on the construction of the church steeple at the Sacred Heart Church in Roscommon town. On that occasion he was sent to Wakefield prison, in Yorkshire, from where he was released later that year. He was again arrested in 1918 as part of the 'German Gun Plot' and was interned in Usk prison, in south Wales, from where he and three others successfully escaped on 21 January 1919. After George Geraghty's mother died in 1944 he was raised in Ballintubber and in the mid to late 1940s his father moved to Nenagh where he was manager of the Lipton's shop before opening his own grocery on Kenyon Street. George attended Ballintubber National School, and Cistercian College, Roscrea, where he excelled in athletics and rugby. At the Irish schools athletics championships he won the senior high jump in both 1956 and 1957, and also won the 120 yd hurdles in 1957. In the latter year Cistercian College, Roscrea and Blackrock College shared the coveted College of Science Cup as top school at the championships. After joining the newly-formed athletic club Nenagh Olympic, George Geraghty was the first from the club to win an individual title at the national championships when he won the high jump with 5 ft 10 in. (1.78 m) at the Irish youths championships on 30 June 1957 at Dundalk, and the following month he won the high jump with 5 ft 11 in. (1.80 m) at the Irish senior championships on 28 July 1957 at Crumlin, Dublin. The previous year he was the first international athlete from the club when he represented Ireland in the high jump at the Catholic Students Games in Lisbon, earning sixth place. Another sport he excelled in was Gaelic football and playing for Roscommon he marked Mick O'Dwyer when they were beaten by Kerry in the 1962 All-Ireland final. George won Connacht medals with Roscommon in 1961 and 1962, and a Railway Cup medal in 1958. In early 1961 he emigrated to London and joined the Garryowen GAA Club with whom he won a London senior football league medal in 1961. The following year he returned to Ireland and took up a job with Roadstone in Dublin. He played football with the Sean McDermotts GAA Club and won a Dublin senior football league medal in 1963. He won two Mayo senior championship medals with Castlebar Mitchels in 1969 and 1970, and a Westmeath senior championship medal with Athlone in 1973. He came out of retirement in 1978 at the age of forty to win a Roscommon intermediate football title with St Croan's. George also played handball, golf and table tennis. His father was men's club captain at Nenagh Golf Club in 1953. George Geraghty died on 4 February 2014 at Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe, aged seventy-five, and is interred in St Coman's Cemetery, Roscommon.

