

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Mick Slevin

by Michael O'Dwyer

Mick Slevin was born on 5 May 1924 at Kilenagoona, Borrisokane, County Tipperary. He was the seventh son of Timothy Slevin, a farmer, and Annie Slevin (née Reddan). His parents got married in Borrisokane church on 7 February 1910. Mick came from a large family with seven brothers and three sisters. He went to school through the fields to Kyle, when he was not helping with the turf. The Slevins saved turf commercially. Mick Slevin was a member of Ballinderry Athletic Club when on 1 February 1948 he came third in the Tipperary junior cross-country championship, behind the winner Jim Savage (Nenagh McDonagh), and John Treacy (Ballysloe). The next month he followed this up at Thurles Racecourse with a fifth place finish in the national junior cross-country championship. The winning county at this junior championship was Tipperary and the six scoring members were Jim Savage, John Treacy, Tom Fogarty, Tim Ryan, Mick Slevin and T. J. Hogan. In the Tipperary senior cross-country championship the same year Mick Slevin finished in eighth position. During the next three years he competed for Moneygall Athletic Club in the Tipperary senior cross-country championship and his finishing positions were seventh (1949), sixth (1950) and fourth (1951). He was a scoring member of the winning Moneygall team each of those years. Also, he was a scoring member of the winning Tipperary team in the national senior cross-country championships in 1950 and 1951. The first year it was held at Blackrock, Dublin and Mick finished in seventh place, and the second year it was held at Belfield, Dublin and he finished in eighth place. The six scoring members for Tipperary in 1950 were Mick Cleary, Mícheál Ryan, John Shanahan, Mick Slevin, Patsy Carroll and James O'Brien, and the six scoring members for Tipperary in 1951 were Mick Cleary, Sean Hayden, Mick Fogarty, Mick Slevin, John Shanahan and Patsy Carroll. After leaving school, Mick Slevin worked on threshing machines, and for many years he drove bulldozers. He was very good with driving and repairing/building machinery of all kinds, and later on retrained as a welder. Mick got married on 27 April 1960 to Bessie Stanley, Coolbawn. He loved music and dancing. Family was very important to him, and he spent a lot of time visiting his relations and enjoying his own family. Mick Slevin died on 6 April 1984 at St Joseph's Hospital, Nenagh, aged fifty-nine, and is interred in Terryglass cemetery.