

BOSTON
SHAMROCKS
LADIES GAELIC
FOOTBALL CLUB

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LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL TEAM



Established in 1993, through the inspiration of "Joan O'Connor McDevitt, the idea was discussed after a training session for that "foreign" sport and with only a little bit of encouragement Joan said "ah sure", we might as well try it and try it she did. She, not only tried, but she threw herself into the whole scheme of things, with both body and soul. With the first meeting drawing a group of 25 ladies, this in itself was great encouragement, and along with that there was the then Chairman of the Division, Joe Lydon. Shortly after another meeting was held, where a board was formed, during which the birth of the *Boston Shamrocks* took place.

Initially in Boston, there were no other teams, so automatically the Shamrocks represented the 'New England Division' (as it was then known), only to loose to San Francisco in the quarter finals, unlike most men's teams, most of these ladies had never played football before, therefore, this was a great starter for the Shamrocks. Each year since their formation, they have secured a place in the North American Finals, only to be defeated each time. Over the next few years, some competition would emerge in Boston, which only improved their game performance, and have, each year won the North Eastern Division Title. As with every other club too, we have grown in strength and numbers, also to loose some players/members, however, it must be realized that this happens for game promotion. With the numbers growing steadily over the years, a Shamrocks Junior team was formed and represented the Division in the 1998 North American Finals in Washington, D.C., to loose to a much more experienced side of Florida. That same year, the Shamrock Seniors once again participated in the finals only to suffer defeat by Chicago. This defeat, it was vowed would not happen again, therefore, at the onset of 1999 Season, to get to the North American Finals would mean, hard labor, along with the right combination of 'fresh talent' introduced from Ireland, but first there was Boston to succeed in. After months of rigorous training sessions, and prevailing in Boston - it was onto Chicago for the North American Finals. It was their dream at the onset of the season to bring the North American Senior Ladies Football Cup back to Boston - a dream which was pulled off, to beat Chicago by a close

margin, described in the Irish Echo, as "the best game of the weekend, ... a five year dream had come true".. **Boston Shamrocks were the North American Senior Ladies Football Champions, 1999.** Throughout the years since the clubs formation, there has been a steady influx of people involved with the club, for whom, without them, there would be no club. Special thanks goes to the managers, coaches, members and players alike. At the 1998, International Competition, Dublin, Ireland. Four Shamrocks players represented the North East Division, namely; L. Morrissey; K. Rohan. J. Reen; and B. Guiney, their manger K. O'Donnell.

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1999 NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONS

Back Row: L to R: G. O'Shea; M. Nulty; E. Griffin; D. Sugrue; P. Callaghan; L. Morrissey; K. O'Donnell; A. McInerney; M. Griffin; Manager; Toosie Carr;

Front Row: L to R: Manger: Rocky Gallagher; K. Rohan; C. Curran; L. O'Shea; J. Reen; C. Elliott (MVP); M. Guirke; S. Walsh; D. Levins; D. Kelly (Missing are N. O'Sullivan; F. O'Shea; L. Dooley)

First Ladies Football Team in the North Eastern Division - Boston Shamrocks (1993)