

Cork
Football
Club of
Boston

The Cork Football Club of Boston

1940's and 1950's



As has been written in other articles the Cork Football Club of Boston had its beginnings in the late 19th Century and continues to flourish in these recent times into the 21st Century.

The purpose here is to fill in a gap in the recorded record that has to do with the happenings and the people of the 1940's and 1950's.

Following on from the New England Championship teams of the 1930's were such names as Florrie McCarthy, John Collins, John Regan, John Cahalane, Pat Goggin, Tom Glavin, Pat Sullivan, Mike Hurley and John Coleman, all of whom served the club in either a playing capacity or as members of the committees or both in the 1940's.

Continuing on into the late 1940's and early 1950's, some newer, younger names were added. Among these were Frank Daly, Johnnie and Connie Cahalane, Finbarr Callanan, Pat Kelleher, Dan Connors, Jerry Geaney, Pat McCabe, The Sullivan Brothers - Bob, Billy and Paul, Jim Wallace, Mike Drummey, and the Driscoll Brothers - John, Frank and Dan. Most of these were regulars on the football teams during that period and several continued on into the 1950's when yet another infusion of new talent was added.

Adding to the backbone of the team in the persons of Frank and John Driscoll were the following: Pat McCarthy, Bernie and his brother John Joe Reilly, Sonny Donovan, Richie Fleming, Pat Woods, Barry McCarthy, Eddie Walsh, Cyril Flynn, Fenian Santry, Eddie Hamill, Dave Geaney.

The committee was augmented by the addition of Kerry Sheehan, Jack Cahill and Billy Howe, who though more involved with the Hurling team, was always available to the football club for advice. During the later half of the decade the permanent working members of the committee were: Jack Cahill - President, Mike Hurley - Vice President, Pat Sullivan, John Collins, John Regan, Kerry Sheehan, Pat Woods - Secretary.

During the 1950's the club won four New England championships in '53, '55, '58 and '59. A new feature was added in the form of a Victory Dinner/Dance after the end of the football season. This was to celebrate a victory and/or to invite wives and girlfriends to participate in the club festivities for their loyal support during the football season. From small beginnings in the Metropolitan Hall in Brighton Center (a complete sellout) it was necessary to move to larger quarters in subsequent years.

During the 1950's a new style of play was incorporated in line with the change in style that was evolving in Ireland. This was an emphasis on speed and movement particularly in the forward line.

All of the above served as a solid foundation for the club to continue on into the 1960's and beyond. The club today is a credit to the many, many people who gave of their time and talents in the 30's, 40's and 50's to ensure the proud football traditions of Cork football.

LONG MAY IT FLOURISH!

The Cork Football Club of Boston

Centennial Souvenir Program The Spirit of '84

The history of 'The County Cork Football Club of Boston' had its beginning in the days of the 'Irish-American Wake' and presently exists in the days of instant communication and jet-air travel across the Atlantic. This making of the world into a 'global village' beginning in the post World War II period together with the new United States immigration policy of drastically reducing the quota for Irish immigrants in the mid 1960's introduced major change in our life and times within and without the Club.

Nonetheless on this the Centennial Year of the Gaelic Athletic Association we rejoice with our member clubs of the New England Division in celebrating this historic event at home and around the world. As the saying goes - "it's a long way to Tipperary," more particularly to Thurles 1884 from Boston 1984. In this one hundred years, the G.A.A. has enjoyed growth and expansion at home and in her sons and daughters immigrating around the world. Abroad, Boston was the first to play host to this great game of Irish-Football and nothing less than famous Boston Common was the site in June of 1886, planting as it were, in the words of one well-known Irish radio host "Old Ireland In New England."

The County Cork Football Club of Boston was founded in the closing years of the 19th century. And on the strength of the saying that a picture is worth a thousand words we present for your enjoyment and interest our championship teams from 1915 through 1969. And as can be seen in these pictures, not all who

went into the making of these teams were from 'The Banks of Our Own Lovely Lee.' Many from other counties in Ireland and from this country of 'America the Beautiful' were proud to wear the red sweater and be known as members of the Cork Club and we are glad for it being so.

Since 1969, to the present, though Cork has failed to win the New England Divisional Championship, each year we have come close to the top and have won just about every other competition capturing many prized trophies and medals along the way and 1984 promises to be a banner year.

But to give the history of the winning record is hardly to tell the whole story of a great organization of players and personnel down through the years. Or to list the win and loss record on the field of the Cork team is hardly enough. More is to be told for more there is. Much that took place off the field and off the record in the way of the Religious, Social and Economic is very much a part of the life and times of the Club. For several decades prior to the mid 1960's the Mission Church on Wednesday night, Dudley Street on the week-end, and the nightly "Irish Hour" radio program were household words and vital centers of life and communication. But to go into these areas here would take us too far afield from our purpose. Suffice it to say that in 1984 George Orwell's novel entitled *1984* notwithstanding the County Cork Football Club is alive and well and living in Boston.



A Profile Of A Footballer



Denis O'Connor

A Champion

In County - All Ireland - National Competition

We, The County Cork Football Club of Boston, are proud to have in our ranks Denis O'Connor, a superstar, winning fame in his home town of Millstreet County Cork and going on to make it in Ireland and the United States of America. This quiet, unassuming strong gentleman, gifted as a footballer in style and grace and natural ability enabled him to achieve the pinnacle of success in 1945 by winning an All-Ireland Championship medal as a member of The Cork Football Team. This is how it was written about in **The Cork Examiner**. "County Cork Footballers yesterday achieved something which has been a dream for 35 years. They won the All-Ireland Football Championship at Croke Park in defeating Cavan, the Ulster Champions by 2 goals and 5 points to 7 points. It was a very exciting game throughout."

In 1950 he was at Croke Park again playing against Cavan again but this time to the sound of a different drummer as described by one newspaper in the following way - "Come on

New York" roared the crowd at Croke Park yesterday. And fifteen exiled Irish footballers from New York responded to the cheers to beat Cavan in a National Football Final which opened a new page in G.A.A. history." The New York team in winning took the first G.A.A. title to America.

In 1948 it was another first for Denny and Millstreet in winning the County Cork Football Championship by defeating Saint Vincent's. In this triumph it was said of him that he not only was an outstanding player but also acted as "Father" to the team.

In April of 1949 he emigrated to Boston where he played with the County Cork team of Boston until his retirement in 1952.

On his return visit to Ireland with the New York Team for the 1950 National League final the following write-up appeared in the local newspaper. - "His Millstreet neighbors knew him as 'Denny Connors' hero of many a thrilling Gaelic football game for Club and for County Cork 'til his emigration a short time ago. On his passport was his correct name Denis O'Connor. The popular exile is now back home on a visit, but he is going to miss the Munster final at Cork today. Instead of watching his former team-mates facing the Kerry challenge in the provincial decider, he'll be toting himself at Croke Park to be left full-back for New York in the league game against Cavan. The Cork man got two important medals five years ago; he was left-fullback in Cork's winning of the Munster and All-Ireland Championships of 1945.

His friends are hoping that he'll carry back with him to the U.S. a league final.

And so he did and we are proud of you, Den. Alone among footballers he holds as a champion an All-Ireland medal with Cork, a National League medal with New York, a County medal with Millstreet, giving him the place of honor in the County Cork Football Club of Boston in Centennial 1984.



1953 NEW ENGLAND CHAMPIONS — CORK FOOTBALL TEAM

Front Row Left to Right:

J. Lavelle; T. Murray; D. Driscoll; J. Geaney, *Captain*; J. Driscoll; P. McCabe; J. Wallace; J. O'Connor.

Rear Row Left to Right:

F. McCarthy; R. Dundas; J. Coleman; J. Lordan; J. Twomey; J. Cahalane; T. O'Leary; M. Drummey;
P. Kelleher, *Vice-Captain*; F. Driscoll; J. J. Counihan.



Cork Football Team - 5-1-49

The. O'Connell
Conroy
J. Gray
B. Dineen
Lynch
Drumney
E. Sullivan
J. Callaghan
Gairney
Sullivan
Dunne
Finn

Conroy
O'Brien
Conroy
Callaghan
Sullivan
Dunne



1963 NEW ENGLAND CHAMPIONS CORK FOOTBALL TEAM



CORK FOOTBALL TEAM — 1959 CHAMPS

Front Row, L. to R.: Bernie O'Reilly, Dave Gaaney, Sonny Donovan, Pat Woods, Capt. Pat McCabe, Eddie Walsh, John Slater.

Second Row, L. to R. Pat Sullivan, Mgr. Jack Cahill, Pres. Danny Driscoll, Bobby Sullivan, Frank Driscoll, Cyril Flynn, Fenian Santry, Pat McCarthy, Vice Capt. John Collins, John Regan.

Back Row, L. to R.: Joe Driscoll, Jimmie Wallace, Paul Sullivan, Luke Tunney, John Joe Fleming, Dick Coughlin, Richie Fleming. Missing from picture John Driscoll.



1964 CORK FOOTBALL TEAM

Back Row (L to R): Kieran Sheehan - Manager, ???, Arthur Cusack, Michael Cronin, John J. Fleming, Bernard Mahoney, ??, Noel Canning,
Pat Griffin, Ollie Collins

Front Row (L to R): ???, Dennis Duggan, John Cusack, Mickey Coyne, Brendan Fleming, Billy Duggan, Stephen Powers,
Michael Cahillan, John H...



1986 NORTH AMERICAN SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPS

Standing Left to Right: John O'Brien, President, Jerry Murphy, Mattie Cahalane, Cathal O'Regan, Vincent McCarthy, Tom Harrington, Patsy Keohane, Jerry Hanley, Pat McCarthy, Manager.

Seated Left to Right: Anthony Delaney, Vincent Moore, Pat McCarthy, Famon Desmond, Captain, Jerry O'Shea, Trainor, John Barry, Brendan Syrls, Bernard O'Mahoney, Treasurer.

Missing from Picture: John Donlon, Pat Twomey, Mark Delaney, Brendan Driscoll, Teddy Crowley, Dennis Walsh, Liam Holland, Jim Dunlea, Mike Cotter, Mick Lynch, Dennis Cronin, Barry Harte, John Walsh.



CORK FOOTBALL TEAM - 1966