

BLACKROCK NATIONAL  
HURLING CLUB



# STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

DONIE COLLINS

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5

CORK COUNTY  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

1

KILKENNY COUNTY  
CHAMPIONSHIP

5

MUNSTER  
CLUB  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

1

LEINSTER CLUB  
CHAMPIONSHIP

4

ALL-IRELAND  
CLUB  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

1

INTER COUNTY  
MUNSTER  
CHAMPIONSHIP

2

NATIONAL  
LEAGUES

# MEDALIST SPECIALIST



Wherever Donie Collins went, success followed. Originally a native of Castlehaven, Donie settled in the city and luckily for Blackrock brought his winning mentality to Church Road.

After captaining Farranferris to an All-Ireland Colleges Championship, Donie would then go on to win a brace of All-Ireland U21 Championships with Cork. It was at this point that Donie embarked on one of the most remarkable club hurling careers - amassing no less than 4 All-Ireland Club Championship medals.

Donie was a vital cog in Blackrock's golden generation of the seventies at wing forward and picked up Munster and National League titles in the red & white of Cork.

Nearing the end of his career, work commitments brought Donie to Kilkenny and after staunch service to The Rockies he joined James Stephens. A young Brian Cody had the role of player/selector with James Stephens and incredibly Donie went on to win his 4th All-Ireland Club Championship giving him the distinction of reaching the summit with two different clubs.

Donie has since given service to various Blackrock and Cork teams from the sideline. His unique achievements will go down in history.



# THE INDIVIDUAL

Donie Collins

## **What are your first memories of hurling for Blackrock?**

Playing Minor for Blackrock in 1968. Prior to that I had to stay two years on the line as I was transferring from the Carbery Division to the City Division.

## **Besides your immediate family, who had the biggest influence on your hurling career and how?**

Fr. Michael O'Brien. He coached us to an All Ireland Colleges Championship in Farranferris. A huge influence during my formative years as a hurler.

## **What is the best advice you have been given in your hurling career?**

As a forward you need to work hard to get possession back and prevent defenders from getting soft clearances. This advice was given to me by Frank Murphy.

## **What was your favourite position to play and why?**

Right half forward was always my favourite position as I was in the scoring zone.

*"As a forward you need to work hard to get possession back and prevent defenders from getting soft clearances."*

## **What do you think was your greatest attribute as a player?**

Accurate striking of the ball.

## **Out of all your achievements, which one stands out as the most significant and why?**

I have to give two. The first was having the honour of captaining Farranferris to win the Dr. Harty Cup in 1969. The second standout achievement was beating the Barrs to win our first County in 1971 which was the beginning of an unprecedented era,



# THE TEAM

Donie Collins

**How do you think your teammates would have described you as a teammate?**

You would have to ask them but maybe they might say that I was good for a couple of scores.

**Who was the best teammate you ever had and what made him so special?**

I will have to give two here. Firstly, Frank Cummins, he was simply a colossus, Secondly, Ray Cummins. Incredible vision and an outstanding player. These two players were amongst the best of my era.

**What do you think made the teams you were part of so successful?**

We had some very good players, most of them had won All Ireland medals with Cork at one grade or another, and of course, we had the two exceptional players mentioned above.

**What characteristics did you most value in a teammate?**

Work ethic is valued above all else.

*"Work ethic is valued above all else."*



1975 Munster Club Champions



**What three words would you associate with Blackrock National Hurling Club?**

A Sleeping Giant

**What are the characteristics you would always want to see in a Blackrock team?**

Never say die attitude.

**How would you like to be remembered in Blackrock National Hurling Club?**

As a good clubman and a decent player

**What does Blackrock National Hurling Club mean to you?**

We had a lot of successes down through the years but at the end of the day what Blackrock means to me is the friendships that I made there.

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