

BLACKROCK NATIONAL HURLING CLUB



**TIMMY
MURPHY**

STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

TIMMY MURPHY



4

COUNTY
CHAMPIONSHIPS

4

MUNSTER CLUB
CHAMPIONSHIPS

2

ALL IRELAND CLUB
CHAMPIONSHIPS

1

NATIONAL
LEAGUE

2

MANAGER
COUNTY CHAMPIONS



MILLENNIAL

Enthusiasm, hard work and a love for your club can be infectious qualities that form the bedrock of tradition and success. Timmy Murphy possesses these qualities in abundance and they go a long way to explaining the impact he has had on Blackrock National Hurling Club.

The net minder during a large part of a golden period for the club, Timmy's honours include four County titles, four Munster titles and two All-Irelands. He also added a National League medal with Cork in 1980. Timmy was as safe as houses in goal and an agile foe to the sharp shooters in the Cork County Championship. The Rockies' defenders could rest easy knowing that they could depend on the last line of defence.

Timmy's legacy goes well beyond his hugely successful playing days. His impact in a coaching capacity carried on the tradition of past players passing on their knowledge to subsequent teams of hurlers. A barron spell for the club was interrupted in 1994 when an unfancied minor team under Timmy's guidance fought back from 8 points down with ten minutes to go for a famous win versus Midleton in the County Final. This moment reminded a new generation of the qualities required and expected of a Blackrock team and served as the catalyst for another period of success. Three senior counties would follow with Timmy at the helm for two of them. The soundtrack to the beginning of the millennium at Church Road was Timmy's voice bellowing out across the main pitch on Tuesday and Thursday nights as he enthusiastically instilled the traditions of our great club into the next generation of Rockies.

THE INDIVIDUAL

Timmy Murphy

What are your first memories of hurling for Blackrock?

My first memories of playing hurling are in the Blackrock/Ballinlough street leagues. Living at Lake Lawn I played with a Seamus Quirkles. These games were very exciting and a great foundation for a young player. Unfortunately we were never able to cope with the likes of Marian Park or the Village. Little wonder as they had very astute and wily mentors such as Tom Clancy, Jack O' Shea and Ned Kidney. Then on to Bord na nOg with Knockrea Rockies through juvenile, minor and on to Senior to my first County Final in 1973 vs Glen Rovers which we won.

What was your favourite position to play and why?

My favorite position was always in goal but I loved a run in the forward line especially when Ray Cummins or Eamon O'Donoghue were playing. They would put the ball in the palm of your hand and all you'd have to do was finish. Goalkeeping was a great experience because it offered unique challenges but I always had great defenders in front of me including Paddy Geary, Brian Tobin, John Horgan, Frank Norberg, Andy Creagh and of course Conor O'Brien. Another back who must be mentioned is of course Simon Murphy who was an inspiration and my fellow netminder, the outstanding Bernard Hurley.

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

I was a very enthusiastic player with a great love of hurling and a passion for my club Blackrock. I loved putting on the jersey and took great pleasure in defeating Glen or Barrs especially in a County Final.

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

The best advice ever given to me was always to prepare well and to stay cool and calm under pressure and to clear the ball as far away from the goal as possible. I was told never to take a short puck out or to receive the back pass especially from Conor O'Brien. I wonder why?

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

Undoubtedly Derry Cremin, sitting on his perch outside Driscolls' Shop in Ballinlough, was a major influence in the early days. He was always very encouraging and supportive. Then came Granduncle Jimmy Buckley (St. Johns Ambulance). He was always there for me and looked after my every need. The biggest influence, without doubt, was my Uncle Denis O'Keeffe (Uncle Dencie). He was a great mentor who always gave support and advice. Mossie Duggan, Joe Mc Grath, Jimmy O'Brien and Canon Michael O'Brien also had very positive influences on my playing career.



THE TEAM

Timmy Murphy

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

They would probably have seen me as enthusiastic and dedicated but a little too noisy. I had to do a lot of shouting to keep them on their toes. I was told to quieten down a few times but it didn't really phase me.

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

My teammates were superb, all bringing their own brilliant skills to the team effort. The one who stands out for me would be Pat Kavanagh. He had everything and was a brilliant team player.

Which characteristics do you most value in a teammate?

The characteristic I most valued in my teammates was honesty and in the Rockies team of the 70s we had it in abundance. Little wonder that it was a golden era for the club.

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

The Rockies team of the '70s were very successful because of the vast array of skills and talents they possessed. Superb forwards, gifted midfielders and teak tough defenders. Allied to this the collective attitude was always of the highest caliber and loaded with determination and will to win.

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

My first County Final success in 1973 was very special but to captain Blackrock to beat the Barrs in 1979 and to manage and coach the Rockies in 2001/2002 to back to back titles are my greatest sporting achievements and will live in the memory forever. Of course I had a team of great Rockies with me namely Jimmy O'Brien, Mossie Duggan, Allan Russell, Pat Deasy with Tom and Jim Cashman and fitness specialist Richard O'Flynn.



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THE CLUB

Timmy Murphy

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

Respect. Ambition. Hard-work.

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

I love to see respect, honesty, determination, hard-work and a love of the Rockies jersey as core characteristics of all Blackrock teams. On these characteristics the club becomes great again.

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

I would simply like to be remembered as one who played his part in this great club.

What does Blackrock National Hurling Club mean to you?

Blackrock National Hurling Club means everything to me. It is a club with a rich tradition and a great reputation. Playing for the club in any grade marks you out as being very special. I am very fortunate to be part of this magnificent club and most grateful to have been part of such a fantastic team. I am proud to be a Rockie.

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