

**BLACKROCK NATIONAL  
HURLING CLUB**



**TOM  
CASHMAN**

**STANDING ON THE  
SHOULDERS OF GIANTS**

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# Tom Cashman



4

COUNTY  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

3

MUNSTER  
CLUB  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

2

ALL-IRELAND  
CLUB  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

4

INTER COUNTY  
ALL-IRELAND  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

8

INTER COUNTY  
MUNSTER  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

2

NATIONAL  
LEAGUES

3

ALL STAR  
AWARDS



# ARTIST

They say hurling is the fastest, most skilful game on grass in the world. The history of the sport is filled with stories of great players who have dazzled crowds with displays of skill but the fact remains that only a select few truly mastered the art. Tom Cashman is among them.

Cash was a hurling genius. Nobody read the game like him. A natural hurling brain meant he was always in the right place at the right time. A stylist on the ball, Tom's countless hours of practice contributed to exemplary wristwork and striking technique. Cash was slotting over sideline cuts before it became fashionable and he was a consistent contributor on the scoreboard from distance.

In 1971, as a young boy, Tom played in goal for the Blackrock Féile team that won the first ever All-Ireland title at that level. From this moment on, success would never be too far away. Minor medals with Blackrock and Cork would follow and his first Senior County came in 1975 with The Rockies. The first of four All-Irelands was won in 1977 and by the time he won his fourth in 1986, Tom was Cork's captain and one of the most famous and decorated hurlers in the country.

Tom gave many years to coaching with Blackrock and Cork and is an All-Ireland winning selector with Cork at both minor and senior levels. He was chosen as Cork manager in 2001. In the subsequent years, he spent time passing on his expertise to Rockies of all ages in a quiet unassuming manner that belied his status as a genuine hurling superstar.

# THE INDIVIDUAL

Tom Cashman

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

Like many young Rockies, my earliest memories are playing in the Blackrock parish leagues. Later the memory of playing in Thurles to win the Féile in 1971 stands out for me.

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

Centre back, No.6. Full control and view of the play. Best position to read the game.

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

The 1986 All Ireland. Being captain (thanks to my club) and also playing with my brother Jim meant it was a great occasion for our family, especially my father, Mick.

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

The Canon, Fr. Michael O'Brien. He was a young priest in Blackrock parish when I was growing up. I won a senior county, minor & senior hurling All-Irelands under his leadership. A brilliant hurling brain.

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

Always keep your eye on the ball. The time to mark your man is when you're winning. Practice, practice, practice.

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

Quick striking and reading the game were probably my greatest attributes.



# THE TEAM

Tom Cashman

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

I'm not sure but hopefully they saw me as reliable.

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

Ray Cummins had an incredible hurling brain. While others were thinking about it, Ray had it done.

**Which characteristics do you most value in a teammate?**

100% honesty.

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

Different times. We had class players all over the field. Played to each other's strengths. The Rockies teams of the '70s had skill and physical strength, respect for each other and great leaders on the pitch.

*"Ray Cummins had an incredible hurling brain. While others were thinking about it, Ray had it done."*



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

Tradition. Successful. Rockies.

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

There can be no excuses. 100% effort is the minimum required.

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

As a player who left everything out on the field.

*"Without these great committed members, our club would not be in the position it is in today, famous all over Ireland. We players get all the credit playing in Pairc Ui Chaoimh or Croke Park, but they are the real Rockies."*

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

Memories of past years, of great men who gave their all for our club. Men like Tom Clancy, Ned Kidney, Noel O'Flaherty, Derry Cremin, Andy Hayes to mention a few. These unsung heroes unknown to most young Rockies in our club ate, drank and slept Blackrock National Hurling Club. They and many other club men (coaches) right up to today give their time and experience bringing young Rockies up through the ranks. Always in the background. Without these great committed members, our club would not be in the position it is in today, famous all over Ireland. We players get all the credit playing in Pairc Ui Caoimh or Croke Park, but they are the real Rockies.

