

BLACKROCK NATIONAL HURLING CLUB

WAYNE SHERLOCK



**STANDING ON THE
SHOULDERS OF GIANTS**

Wayne Sherlock



3

COUNTY
CHAMPIONSHIPS

5

INTER COUNTY
MUNSTER
CHAMPIONSHIPS

3

INTER COUNTY
ALL-IRELAND
CHAMPIONSHIP

1

ALL STAR
AWARD

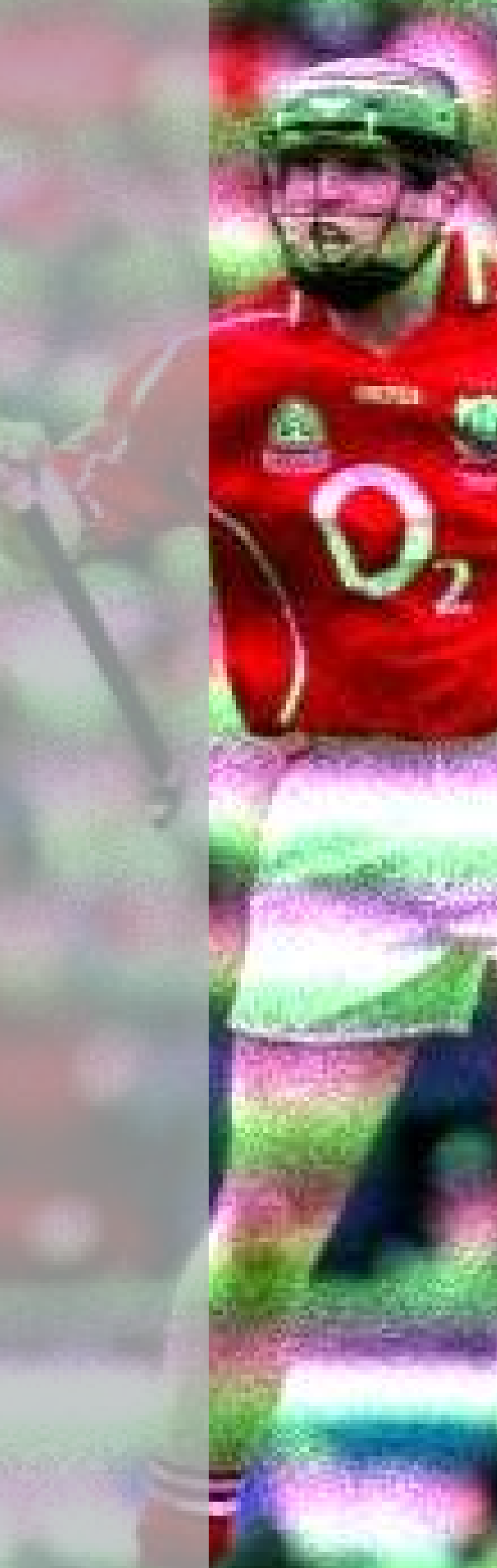
WARRIOR

The battles of Cork and Waterford in the Munster Championship in the early 2000s provided the Irish public with pulsating entertainment. The intense rivalry between the counties in a series of brilliant matches provided many sub plots one of which was the riveting exchanges between John Mullane and Wayne Sherlock arguably the best corner forward and best corner back in Ireland at the time. Two players in their prime displaying skill, bravery and ferociousness. Everything that is great about the sport. Wayne's reputation was as one of the toughest opponents any forward marked during the era - a reputation earned through a relentless intensity and will to win the ball.

Sherlock caught the eye early in Church Road and was introduced to the senior side straight out of minor. A team on the up, as Sherlock and his contemporaries matured, they became one of the great Rockies teams. Wayne was part of the U21 All Ireland successes with Cork in 1997 and 1998. 1999 was the breakthrough year at senior with his first County title for The Rockies and All-Ireland for Cork.

Sherlock at his peak was simply unplayable. Utter domination of forwards was par for the course as The Rockies saw off all challenges from across the county. He regularly cites the honour of captaining The Rockies in 2001 as his career highlight and he was given the personal recognition he deserved with an All-Star in 1999.

After all his success, Sherlock is ultimately a clubman. A coach at the club from the day he finished playing, one of the club's truly great players and one of the GAA's greatest ever competitors.



THE INDIVIDUAL

Wayne Sherlock

What are your first memories of hurling for Blackrock?

Walking from Mahon to the hurling club every sat morning. About 6 or 7 of us were brought to the club by one of the parents Michael Lucey. The excitement all week waiting for Saturdays to come and the walk up through the convent and into Blackrock. Great memories.

What was your favourite position to play and why?

I really enjoyed the freedom of playing Left Half Back.

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

For me it was different people at different stages. Al Coughlan for the Saturday morning coaching and my teachers in Holy Cross for starting me off. Three men who really instilled what Blackrock should mean to players were Jim Hennebry, Pat Roche and Pat Moylan, men who were ahead of their time and showed me what was needed and expected when playing for Blackrock. Timmy Murphy and The Canon were coaches who really gave me confidence in my ability but it was their passion for Blackrock that really struck me. I was so lucky with Cork that I had Bertie Og Murphy, JBM and Donal O Grady but it wasn't just coaches that influenced me it was people like Noely Flaherty, Roger Ryan, Jim O Brien and the Ladies Committee who gave unwavering service to Blackrock.

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

A simple yet effective piece of advice for a defender. "Get to the ball first."

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

I always felt that my ability to read the game stood to me but it was the enjoyment that I got out of defending which really drove me on.

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

Captaining Blackrock to a Senior County in 2001 will always be my greatest achievement. To captain Blackrock was the biggest honour for my family and me. As captain I got to lead out the team, walk behind the band on county final day and walk up the steps in Pairc ui Chaoimh to collect the Sean Og Murphy cup. It doesn't get any better than that.



THE TEAM

Wayne Sherlock

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

I don't know really but I'd like to think that I was a good teammate who gave the best I could every time I stepped on to the pitch.

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

It is nearly impossible to name just one because of the great players I played with but I have to say Adrian Coughlan having played with him since 12 years old. What a player for Blackrock over the years. He won vital ball when needed and when the pressure was on he got big scores for us every time. He always had time on the ball and made hurling look so easy. A pleasure to watch and play with. We had great defenders and forwards on our teams who got a lot of credit but for me without Adrian Coughlan these victories would not have happened. A top player.

Which characteristics do you most value in a teammate?

Honesty, trust, workrate, and always putting the team first.

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

We always trained with great intensity and drive. Everyone driving each other on and wanting to get better with every session. The competition in training was always very high. There was some great battles (even brothers breaking Hurleys off each other) so when it came to the big games we were ready to respond to the intensity.

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

Tradition, History and Pride.

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

Belief, honesty, attitude and workrate.

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

As someone who gave everything for the Blackrock jersey for as long as I could. A good teammate (I hope) but more importantly as someone who really loved hurling for Blackrock. Maybe as someone who never complained is probably pushing it!

What does Blackrock National Hurling Club mean to you?

Blackrock means everything to me. From the great memories I have to the lifelong friendships I have gained. It's where I've spent most of my life and and has helped me to develop not just in sporting terms but in life in general. To be a part of such a great club with some great people is something that gives me a tremendous amount of pride.

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