

Death of Paddy Dooley, renowned oarsman and business leader

THE death occurred last weekend of one of Limerick's best known sportsmen and businessmen, Paddy Dooley (82), who captained the Irish eight rowing team at the 1948 London Olympics.

He was born in O'Connell Street, Limerick in 1926, and educated at the Model School and CBS Sexton Street, and later at UCD.

As a youngster his life-long interest in rowing began while coxing clubs on the Shannon.

At UCD, Paddy quickly established himself as a top class oarsman and sculler and was part of the first ever UCD crew to win the IARU Senior Eights championship, in 1947.

The following year, UCD repeated the feat with Paddy as stroke and captain. That sum-

mer, he had the honour of captaining the Irish eight at the 1948 Olympic Games in London.

When he returned to Limerick after college, he continued to coach at different levels in the sport.

Paddy married Noreen Gardiner from Borrisokane, Co Tipperary, in 1954, and has five children and eleven grandchildren.

Tragedy visited Paddy's life in 1980, with the sudden death of Noreen in a car accident, but he faced up to the difficult challenges in the following years with characteristic bravery and dedication to his young family.

In 1993, Paddy knew once more great happiness when he married his current wife, Gerry Regan, and he lived a very active and happy

retirement in the village of Garrykennedy on Lough Derg.

In business, Paddy is best remembered as being the proprietor of the Bedford Row-based Dainty Dairy retail and bakery business, which he ran with his late brother, Jimmy, for many years, until the early 1980s. Later, he went on to found the catering business that still bears his name, Paddy Dooley Catering, which he sold and retired from in 2000.

In retirement, he returned to active involvement in rowing and founded the Limerick Masters Rowing Club, and also became a key official of Castleconnell Boat Club. His proudest moment in recent years was the opening, in May of this year, of the major renovation of the Castleconnell boat-



house, a project in which he was the prime mover and fundraiser.

He had an active interest in the arts and was known to be a generous sponsor.

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Seaman injured

A SEAMAN injured in an accident on board a ship off the west coast was airlifted to shore and brought to the Mid-Western Regional Hospital in Limerick.

The man, a Burmese national, fell 12m into the hold of the 'Anna Rickmers' ship. Because of the distance and refuelling needs involved, a total of four aircraft took part in the rescue.

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