

Although a native of Fedamore, he seemed to have played hurling with two other clubs, Grange and Bruff, as well as Fedamore whose jersey he really loved wearing. Maybe it is because of grades Fedamore were not eligible for. He was with Grange in 1942, playing in a "thrilling south final against Hospital, a game abandoned because of crowd encroachment". A year later he won a south minor medal with Bruff.

He was back with Fedamore in 1947, a very good team which he said

Stokes, Tom Boland, Con Crowley, J. Martin, Paddy O'Grady, Con O'Connell, and Michael Brosnan, corner forward.

He made the senior team for the 1949 Munster championship, but athletics was now taking up a lot of time, and he left hurling in 1951 with regret.

Mick had his first introduction to athletics when he had a high jump long jump double at the u/16 in Raheen in 1941. He won the first of his fourteen county titles in 1945, again the

Irish sprint champion and passed on ahead.

Competing every Sunday, he always came home with at least two prizes, and sometimes four if there was a relay. In Croom in 1953 he won the long jump with 23.6, the high 5.7 and was runner-up in both sprints. In 1952, in Nenagh, where Olympic champion Bob Tisdale presented the prizes, Brendan O'Reilly, who later competed in the Olympics in 1960, won the high jump. Mick was runner-up but got the better of O'Reilly in the

sprints for the long jump and 46ft 2ins for the hop, step and jump, translated into today's metric figures, 7.03m and 14.07m, would have him placed 4th and 3rd in this year's Irish championships, and these were on synthetic surfaces.

There are not many in Ireland today clearing 7m in the long jump and 14m in the triple jump on synthetic tracks. It shows what a wonderful athlete he was.

He never entered the Irish championships, something he regretted

electrification. As well as winning a Clare county championships long jump in 1955, he met Monica Kenny, from Corofin. She became his wife very best friend for fifty-three years. Someone said that once Mick retired from the ESB, the only time he was seen without Monica was when he went for a rare Pitch and Putt outing.

He was a great family man, extremely proud of his children, Miriam, Declan, Kieran and Fergal. He adored his eleven grandchildren

The late Mick Brosnan was a natural athlete and achieved success in several sporting codes

and great-grandchild and they loved him. The huge attendance at his funeral on both days is testimony to his popularity. This included a who's who

from athletics and the GAA. This was a great consolation for his family and much appreciated. May he rest in peace.

Paddy O'Connell

Joe Casey

IN a year when many of our local and well respected sportsmen passed on to their eternal reward they were joined in late August by Joe Casey a legend in Irish football, just seven months after the demise of his esteemed brother Paddy.

Joe belonged to a generation where one was measured by their honesty, courage, kindness and compassion. In these respects he came along and raised the bar for everyone else. His work in CIE was paramount, football just recreation.

When the definitive history of Limerick soccer is eventually written Joe Casey's name will rank among the greatest local players ever produced. He will be remembered as a true professional and a character in his own right. His life evokes in me a thousand childhood memories.

He began his career with Caledonians in the minor team, u18s grade, and after many outstanding displays he signed for Pike Rovers and he featured on the Minor League winning team and the successful Cromer Cup junior side, the first trophies won by the Hoops club. Many more honours followed in quick succession and he was skipper of the 1946 Saxone Cup winning eleven, the last survivor of that winning team.

His one regret was he left Pike Rovers the year they reached the final of the FAI Junior Cup but it had its compensations as he captained a very talented CIE side to lift the North Munster Cup in the top flight of the Junior League.

It was inevitable that his consistent brilliant displays would attract the attention of Limerick's LOI team and when

he put pen to paper he made his debut against the north Dublin Tolka Park side, the famous blue and gold of Drumcondra. He quickly established himself as the number one full-back and was an ever present for many seasons, but tradition dies hard and once again reverted to the forward line where he first began in the outside right position and was Limerick's leading goalscorer in 1950/51.

He returned to Pike Rovers when they entered senior football and his experience was instrumental in their winning the Munster Senior League, reaching the FAI Intermediate Cup final and participation for the first time in the blue riband of Irish soccer the FAI Senior Cup proper. His overall displays led to Waterford making an offer to entice him back to League of Ireland football and soon he was an integral part of a dream team that thrilled the nation and broke every attendance record at almost every venue.

Of course, I speak of the great Eddie McIlvenny, Jimmy Gauld, the Fitzgeralds, Hales and Barrys era of Irish football and the great sadness of it all was their vintage football, goalscoring feats and record breaking wins never yielded the silverware and honours that their efforts deserved.

We used to call him "Ter" after his famous rugby international uncle of Young Munster fame. Joe was what we call a players' player and a supporters' player, a tremendous favourite with all the fans both home and away. Encouragement from the terraces such as "good boy Joe" and "well played Joe" were popular expressions at every match and his perfection of the sliding tackle gave him



Joe Casey on the ball in his soccer heyday - he was a favourite of fans and players alike

almost a great advantage over most other footballers.

His physique and fitness level was the envy of many an athlete and his rubber ball agility made Real Madrid's Hugo Sanchez look like your

grandmother. One colourful anecdote in a glittering innings with "the Blues" was an FAI Cup semi-final - he scored a penalty, which is forgotten, missed a penalty that is remembered and conceded a

Local footballing legend who is remembered for his honesty and courage both on and off the pitch

penalty to prevent a certain score after the goalkeeper made a dreadful error.

Joe, though small in stature was one of the larger than life people who left an indelible mark on all whom he came in contact with. He had a generosity of spirit and attitude. He was loved by the entire community.

Many a football fan may not be aware of his numerous successes. They include: being capped for Munster in the Junior Inter-provincials; a League of Ireland Championship medal in 1959/60; FAI Senior Cup runners-up medals in 1965, 1966; Dublin City Cup and Munster Cup winners; LOI Championship and Shield runners-up with Waterford; won two inter-league "caps" with the League of Ireland against the Hessen League on a tour of Germany in 1955; won a Munster Junior Cup medal with Fairview Rangers in 1969 in addition to numerous junior and inter-firm trophies in a glorious career.

In 1987 Joe was honoured with the "Player of the Tournament" award in the Over 40s when playing with Fairview a club he gave great service to when he retired from the senior grade.

Joe has never spared himself during his career in his efforts to support all charitable sporting events. In the formative years he captained the Soccer XV v. the Rugby XV in an annual Hurling Exhibition and of late he was very involved at committee level and on the playing field organising the "Golden Oldies" fixture to raise funds for local charities against their Cork counterparts. In the aftermath of such happy occasions Joe's rendition of Song of India was often the

highlight of many a sociable evening.

He played with and against the greats at home and across channel and it would be remiss not to mention his great tussles with Frank O'Neill, Maxie McCann, Paul O'Donovan, Leo Ward, Rosie Henderson, Johnny Armstrong, Denny Fitzgerald, Johnny Vaughan, Francie Callan, Gerry Malone, and Joey Wilson to mention a few.

Joe was a wonderful man of the highest standards whose Christian duties were foremost in his long and fruitful life. Of all the God given gifts bestowed on Joe was the value and respect he had for the gift of speech. Never was an offensive word or expletive ever heard coming from his mouth.

The beautiful funeral Mass was a celebration of Joe's happy life. The family tributes, Olive O'Brien's exquisite singing, the tinkling on the ivories of "Whispering Hope" and the final farewell to his resting place.

His beloved wife Irene, so loyal and devoted to Joe, Jean, Michael, Gary and Niamh his loving Children, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends will profoundly miss him.

Joe's dear friend Willie Coffey, his football contemporaries Kevin Fitzpatrick, Des McNamara, Mike Doyle, Dick O'Connor, Brian Hanrahan, Tommy Murphy, John O'Brien, Des Kennedy, Tadg Bennis, Tom O'Donoghue and Dennis Linnane and many others all come to say a last farewell.

If ever a Hall of Fame of local sporting heroes becomes a reality, the name of Joe Casey, sportsman supreme, will surely be there among the leading contenders.

Brian O'Brien

family, neighbours and friends. Reposing in Cross's Funeral Home on Friday from 6pm until removal at 7pm to St Munchin's Church. Requiem Mass on Sunday at 10am, with burial afterwards in Mount St Lawrence Old Cemetery.

DUNWORTH, John Joe, of Drewscourt, Ballyagran, Kilmallock.

DWANE, Brother Brendan Cathal, of Adare. Reposing in Thompson's Funeral Home on Thursday, from 6pm until removal at 8pm to Holy Trinity Abbey Church. Requiem Mass on Friday at 12noon. Burial afterwards in the Old Cemetery, Adare.

EGGERS, Joe, of Mill Hill, Kilfinane. On September 16.

FITZGERALD, Desmond, of Glin. 29th Knight of Glin. On September 15. Reposing at Glin Castle on September 24, from 4pm to 6pm. Funeral service on Sunday, September 25, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Glin, at 2.30pm.

FOLEY, Gus, of Rosbrien, Limerick. On September 16. Formerly of Ballinacourty, Dungarvan.

GALLAGHER, Mary, of Kildimo.

GALVIN, Margaret (Rita), of Shanabooly Road, Ballynanty. Deeply regretted by her husband Ger, sons Keith, Jeffrey and Gerard, daughter Melite, grandchildren Demmie-Leigh, Gerard, James, Chloe, Anthony, Ellie Leah and Gerard, mother Nancy, brothers, sisters and extended family. Reposing in Cross's Funeral Home on September 25, from 5.30pm until removal at 7pm to St Munchin's Church. Requiem Mass on Monday, September 26, at 11am, with burial afterwards in Mount St Oliver Cemetery.

KEANE, Bernard, of Mounthannon Road, Lisnagry, and New Line, Castleconnell. On September 17. Deeply regretted by his wife Joan, sons Andrew and Darragh, brothers, sisters, extended family, relatives and friends.

LEDGER, Catherine (Kitty), of Rose Court, Keyes Park. Deeply regretted by her husband Bertie, sons Tony, Bernard, Garry, Paul, Stephen and Christopher, daughters Marie, Valerie, Cathy and Bernadette, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brother, sisters, neighbours and friends.

WALSH, Ena (nee Spillane), of Whitethorn Drive, Caherdavin Heights. Formerly of Thurles. On September 15.

WATTS, John, of Ballinacarriga, Kildimo.

Colorado on September 19. A memorial service will be held in Monaleen Church, Limerick, December 2011.

NICOLL, John, of Galtee Avenue, Caherdavin. On September 18. Late of Achill Island and Scotland. Beloved husband of Kathleen and dearest father of Caroline, John, James, Aiden, Kevin, Michael, Jacqueline and Daniel.

O'DONNELL, Jenny, of Woodlawn Drive, Dooradoyle, Limerick. On September 14. Late of Killoughteen, Newcastle West.

PHAYER, Michael, of Coolraine Estate, Ennis Road. On September 18. Died peacefully at Milford Hospice. Late of Howmedica Ltd, Young Munster and Probus. Beloved husband of Rita, dearest father of Gerard, Gloria and the late Noel.

REIDY, Elizabeth (Betty) of Monaleen. On September 19. Late of Hazel Hall, Monaleen. Died peacefully at her daughter's residence in Monaleen Park. Beloved mother of Kay, Agnes, John, Joan, Delma, Eleanor, Pat and the late Anna. Requiem Mass on Thursday, 10.30am.

RYAN, James, of Limerick Road, Pallasgreen.

RYAN, Patricia (nee O'Sullivan), of Castletroy Heights, Castletroy. On September 14.

STACK, Teresa (Joan), of London, and late of The Hill, Upper Atha, Atha. On September 15. Survived by her loving sisters Nan (Hurley-Athea) and Lil (Green-Bristol), brother Tom Paul (Templeglantine) and extended family. Reposing in Kelly's Funeral Home, Atha, on Friday evening, from 6pm to 8pm, followed by removal to St Bartholomew's Church. Requiem Mass on Saturday at 12noon. Burial afterwards in Holy Cross Cemetery.

STAFFORD, Olive (nee Nestor), of Priory Park, Clancy's Strand, and late of Nestor Brothers, O'Connell Street. On September 19. Beloved wife of the late Frank and dearly loved mother of Anne, Alex and Caroline. Requiem Mass Thursday at 12noon, funeral afterwards at Mount St Lawrence Extension.

WALSH, Ena (nee Spillane), of Whitethorn Drive, Caherdavin Heights. Formerly of Thurles. On September 15.

WATTS, John, of Ballinacarriga, Kildimo.

Correction: Margaret Doran

In an obituary published last week on the late Margaret "Margie" Doran, we unfortunately omitted the name of Michael, one of her sons, when detailing members of the family. We would like to apologise for any upset caused by this omission.

Margaret Doran, late of South Claughan Road, Garryowen, and a former clerk of St John's Cathedral, is deeply regretted by her loving husband Michael (Mick); sons Michael, Ger, John and Trevor; daughters Chris, Linda, Regina, Yvonne and Gillian; brothers Michael, Noel and Tony, sister Helen, relatives and friends.

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24th SEPTEMBER 2010

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