

In Seville, Spain on the 21st September Sam Lynch magnificently retained the Lightweight Mens Single Scull World Championship title – a very proud day for Sport in Ireland and an achievement extremely rare in Irish Sport.

There have been many profiles written on Sam Lynch and yes he is a Limerickman, his club is St. Michaels Rowing Club and he is currently studying Medicine in Trinity College.

In the sport of Rowing he is currently targeting the Athens

Olympics in the Lightweight Mens Double Scull and will hopefully continue his successful and winning ways.

Sam is now 27 and a look back at his achievements on the International waterways of the World for the past three years, are truly exceptional and merited his nomination for Male Rower of the Year 2002 by FISA the World Rowing Organisation, the fact that the prize went to Cracknell and Pinsent of GB is incidental – the nomination into the last three was an honour in itself.

Add to the above statistics the fact that he has never competed in Lucerne International Regatta (Rowings Wimbledon) since 1996 without being in the final.

Three consecutive Gold Medals in Lucerne. Unbeaten for the last two years in the Lightweight Mens Single Sculls, worldwide.

Fourth place in the Lightweight Mens Coxless Four in the Atlanta Olympics.

Winner of the 1996 European Olympic Qualifier in Lucerne.

The curriculum vitae of Sam Lynch the rower can continue but his achievements as a International rower, an Irish athlete and with his education are truly exceptional.

Sam wants to continue to achieve and his work with his great friend and coach Thor Nilsen will endeavour, in the most professional of ways, to produce more great moments and results for Ireland, Rowing, his city, club friends and his very proud and supportive family.

From all in Irish Sport – Well done and the best of luck in the future.



SAM LYNCH GOLD AND MORE

GOLD!

Sams achievements:

2002

World Championships, Seville, Spain
Lightweight Mens Single Scull **GOLD**

World Cup, Lucerne, Switzerland
Lightweight Mens Single Scull **GOLD**

World Cup, Munich, Germany
Lightweight Mens Single Scull **GOLD**

2001

World Championships, Lucerne, Switzerland
Lightweight Mens Single Scull **GOLD**

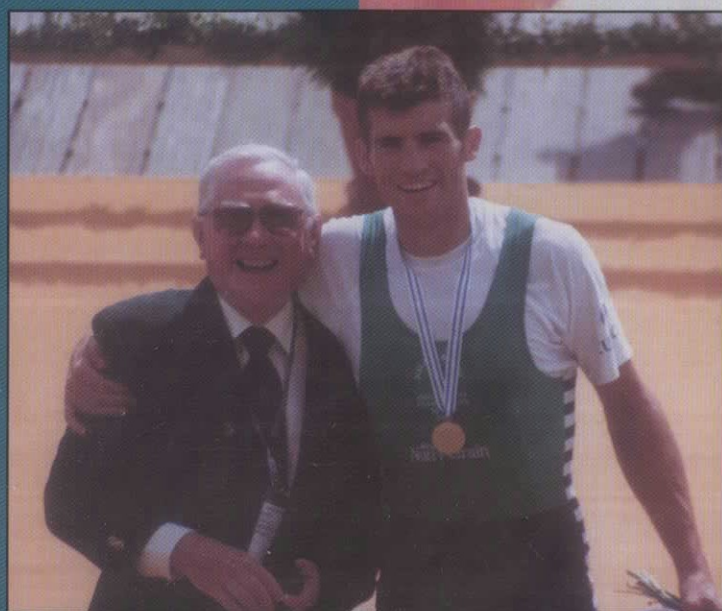
World Cup, Munich, Germany
Lightweight Mens Single Scull **GOLD**

World Cup, Seville, Spain
Lightweight Mens Single Scull **GOLD**

2000

World Championships, Zagreb, Croatia
Lightweight Mens Single Scull **SILVER**

World Cup, Lucerne, Switzerland
Lightweight Mens Single Scull **GOLD**



In this, the third edition of Olympic News & Views, with a new name, we address the success in Irish Sport in 2002 and salute the Gold Medal achievements of Rowing, Equestrian and Olympic Trap Shooting.

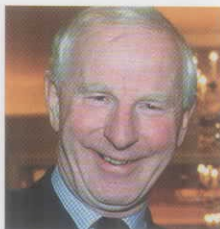
Additionally, we profile some top athletes, produce the OCI programme to Athens and a little beyond, and present the Qualification System for Entry to the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Shortly, National Federations will be asked to accept venues and facilities for training camps in 2003 and 2004. The work that has gone into creating this situation is outlined and the results we hope will be more than acceptable.

The first Multi-Sport Training Camp is reported on and many other aspects of the life in the Olympic family.

The next issue will be due out in May 2003 and I appeal to all National Federations to give information for inclusion.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS



2002 has been a great year for Irish sport and we look forward to further success in 2003 and 2004. Can we hope for Olympic success? Of course we can but we must not paint any picture that is unrealistic or any scenario that will in any way spoil the ambition of athletes. We have a lot to look forward to and we must look forward with confidence.

World Gold medals in rowing, equestrian and shooting, European Silver for athletics and excellent performance in many other sports give to Ireland a superb standing in international and Olympic sport. Throughout this edition of our OCI magazine we acknowledge and salute these terrific sporting achievements.

The intensive and ongoing work of the OCI Executive Committee is beginning to produce results and, as we can clearly see from this issue, the programme for the Athens Games and the qualifications for entry are addressed.

In place for the Athens Games is the Chef de Mission, Willie O'Brien. The Assistant Chef de Mission & Training Camps manager is Dermot Henihan. The OCI has the utmost confidence in both individuals to manage, in a very professional way, the 2004 Irish Olympic Team and all the essential preparatory work that is necessary in such a major nationally important undertaking.

Next July, in Paris, Chef de Mission Tom Rafter and Assistant Chef de Mission Billy Kennedy will manage the European Youth Olympic team. A welcome addition to the team's preparation is the Multi Sport Camp being held in Limerick from the 3rd to the 5th of January 2003. With Tom and Billy at the helm, our Youth Team will be well prepared for the 2003 Olympic Youth Games.

On two occasions the Sydney Review has been publicly updated. In some areas the workload has been more than originally anticipated but I feel that excellent progress has been made in all areas.

Finally, on my own behalf and on behalf of all the Council Members may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy and Successful 2003.

Pat Hickey
President

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