

GAA YouthReps 2019 – Profiles

Name: Sheona Leydon

Age: 19

Club: Shamrock Gaels

County: Sligo

Code: Gaelic Football



Favourite Player:

Johnny Cooper- best back in Ireland, heavily involved at College level.

Best GAA Memory:

Lots of Club Finals, wasn't part of Féile team as too old but got to be there with them on the field & bus and when they won.

Finals - as a family- always supporting.

GAA Hero:

Cora Staunton - female role model, influential, tries everything (Australia), headstrong, unreal player!

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Inclusion: having young players voice heard and opinions appreciated.
- More games: Club, County and School level.

Name: Naoise Marron

Age: 16

Club: Sarsfields

County: Cork

Codes: Gaelic Football, Hurling

Favourite Player:

Daniel Kearney - local Clubman. Always gives 100% and very genuine.

Best GAA Memory:

Winning U.16 County Double.

GAA Hero:

Denis Kelleher - constantly in the Club, a worker whose work goes unnoticed.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Participation
- Chances to play



Name: Aoife Kane

Age: 16

Club: Raheens

County: Kildare

Code: Gaelic Football



Favourite Player:

Daniel Flynn and Grace Clifford- big impact players.

Best GAA Memory:

Winning Minor Championship.

GAA Hero:

Aidan O'Shea - constantly loses but keeps making it back to All-Ireland Finals.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Hard working
- Belief
- Consistency

Name: Eimhin Boland

Age: 21

Club: Ferbane

County: Offaly

Favourite Player:

Henry Shefflin - he's unparalleled in GAA and also his displays of sportsmanship.

Best GAA Memory:

When Offaly hurlers drew with Galway in Croke Park in 2010 after an extraordinary goal from Shane Dooley.

GAA Hero:

Gooch Cooper. Not only is he a legend of the game but he is everything that the GAA stands for, i.e. his contribution to community, charities etc.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- To be listened to in terms of fixtures, Club meetings, management etc.



Name: Christina Bradshaw

Age: 19

Club: Naomh Bríd

County: Carlow

Code: Camogie

Favourite Player:

Brendan Maher – leader.

Best GAA Memory:

2016 All-Ireland Hurling Final with my Dad.

GAA Hero:

Eoin Kelly.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Balance



Name: Eoghan Gately

Age: 19

Club: Lucan Sarsfield's

County: Dublin

Code: Hurling

Favourite Player:

Austin Gleeson - Works hard, extremely skilful and is revolutionising the centre back position.

Best GAA Memory:

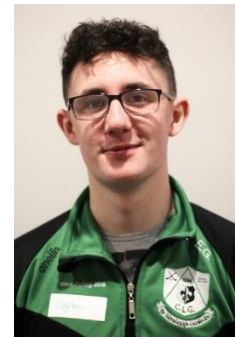
Scoring 4-6 against Binn Éadair at U.13

GAA Hero:

Derek McGrath - great manager & motivator, brought huge success to Waterford Hurling.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Proper player development
- Mitigation of verbal abuse
- Better opportunities for games @ post primary level



Name: Paul Fahy

Age: 17

Club: Athenry

County: Galway



Favourite Player:

Brian Fenton - He always plays with heart.

Best GAA Memory:

Winning Féile with my Club.

GAA Hero:

Paidí Ó Sé - He was a passionate player and I admire his love for the County

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- To enjoy the games
- Make new friends
- And winning

Name: Joe Leydon

Age: 16

Club: O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Club

County: Kilkenny

Code: Hurling

Favourite Player:

Paddy Deegan - I've known Paddy since I was young as he is from my Club.

Best GAA Memory:

Scoring the winning goal in our U16 County Final last year.

GAA Hero:

Henry Shefflin (GOAT) – I aspire to be as good as him or even better.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Practice key skills
- Better attitude towards Club rather than Development Squads
- Importance of good mentors in training and in Club life



Name: Áine O’Neill

Age: 17

Club: Midleton

County: Cork

Code: Camogie



Favourite Player:

Aisling Thompson - style of play, attitude, decisions on and off the pitch.

Best GAA Memory:

Winning Football Championship - dad was my coach.

GAA Hero:

Colm O’Neill - my uncle, played Gaelic Football for Cork

Kieran O’Connor – my cousin, played Gaelic Football for Cork

Both influenced my playing career

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Support
- Building Confidence

Name: Brian Rogers

Age: 17

Club: St. Enda's

County: Antrim

Code: Hurling

Favourite Player:

Shane Dowling, Limerick - powerful, fast, changed All-Ireland Semi Final 2018.

Best GAA Memory:

Meeting the Kilkenny team when I was 8

GAA Hero:

Brian Hogan

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Incorporated in the GAA in decision-making structures
- Provided with sufficient opportunities for their development, not just in playing but coaching, admin, leading



Name: Tommie Carroll

Age: 18

Club: Tullylease

County: Cork

Codes: Hurling and Gaelic Football

Favourite Player:

Diarmuid Byrnes- Limerick, has a 'Do or Die' attitude

Best GAA Memory:

Our Club captain Stephen Stokes scoring 2-2 in added time of a Championship game vs our rivals Freemount.

GAA Hero:

Joe Deane- proved his doubters wrong.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Discipline
- Passion
- Practice



Name: Niamh O'Leary

Age: 19

Club: Mallow

County: Cork

Code: Gaelic Football



Favourite Player:

Briege Corkery - Her dedication to Cork and determination in playing to the highest level for so long. Such a versatile player.

Best GAA Memory:

2004 All-Ireland Final - after the match being brought onto the pitch and into the dressing room with Sean Óg, or playing in Croke Park at half-time of League Final.

GAA Hero:

Juliet Murphy - She led Cork to All-Irelands and brought her Club from Junior B to Senior in a short amount of time.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Be committed

Name: Laura Fennell

Age: 18

Club: West Clare Gaels

County: Clare

Code: Ladies Football

Favourite Player:

Noelle Healy

Best GAA Memory:

Clare winning the All-Ireland Hurling Final

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Balance
- To have fun



Name: Emma Meyler

Age: 18

County: Dublin



Favourite Player:

Sinead Finnegan- I've gotten to know her well and she's made enjoying Ladies football even more enjoyable than it already was.

Best GAA Memory:

Dublin Ladies Football winning the All-Ireland in 2017.

GAA Hero:

Philly McMahon- came from a tough upbringing to become one of the best players in Ireland.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Media Coverage
- Protection

Name: Dara Kelly

Age: 19

Club: Parke/Keellogues/Crimlin

County: Mayo

Code: Gaelic Football

Favourite Player:

Lee Keegan - I play in the same position, he is helpful.

Best GAA Memory:

Captaining my Club Minor team into their first ever A County Final.

GAA Hero:

Lee Keegan - Inspirational.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Keep player burnout to a minimum
- Fix the Club calendar



Name: Anna McCaffrey

Age: 16

Club: Naomh Eoin

County: Aontroim

Codes: Camogie and Gaelic Football



Favourite Player:

Lee Chin - displays tremendous amount of skill and brings new life to the GAA.

Best GAA Memory:

Senior Camogie winning the Antrim Championship when I was younger.
Encouraged me to keep playing.

GAA Hero:

Henry Shefflin - grown up with family supporting him and passed to me. Inspires me to do my best

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Respect
- Enjoy the game
- Encourage others to get involved

Name: Shauna Kelly

Age: 20

County: Wicklow

Favourite Player(why?):

Joe Canning- his skill

Best GAA Memory:

Wicklow winning the U21 All-Ireland

GAA Hero:

John McGrath, Wicklow - Came back to play Senior County after having cancer.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Fair treatment from coaches



Name: Orna Rea

Age: 20

Club: Crecora

County: Limerick

Code: Camogie

Favourite Player:

Austin Glesson - skill and consistency.

Best GAA Memory:

Limerick winning the All-Ireland in 2018.

GAA Hero:

Davy Fitz – Passion.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Don't feel bad saying no to a manager if you are tired of training
- Learning about injury prevention
- Everyone has off days



Name: Áine McParland

Age: 21

Club: Killeavy

County: Armagh

Code: GAA/LGFA

Favourite Player:

Ashling Moloney – She plays both football and camogie. She is unbelievable, down to earth and inspires so many girls to play.

Best GAA Memory:

DCU winning the O’Connor Cup in 2018 – I cried that day.

GAA Hero:

My dad- because he inspired me to play, to get involved and has supported me the whole time, in whatever I do regarding GAA/LGFA.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Empowerment- having a voice
- Balance- enjoyment, fun, competition, fixtures
- Respect



Name: Brooklyn Flanagan

Age: 16

Club: Tecconought

County: Down

Code: Gaelic Football



Favourite Player:

Mandy Madine because she is always competitive no matter what team we are playing and overall she is an inspiration.

Best GAA Memory:

The best memory I have would definitely be when my team won the 7's tournament in Ballykinler.

GAA Hero:

My GAA Hero would definitely be my dad as he encouraged me to start Gaelic Football. He has helped me through a lot like my not so good times. And he's been at every match so overall he is my inspirational GAA Hero!

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- If you don't put effort in your sport then you shouldn't expect to become better. It is like a money box what you put in is what comes out.
- We all make mistakes and one day may not be your day but don't worry, we can't be perfect all the time
- There is ALWAYS room for improvement.

Name: Jack Mulligan

Age: 17

Club: Colmcille GFC

County: Longford

Code: Football

Favourite Player:

Barry McKeon - the local County player.

Best GAA Memory:

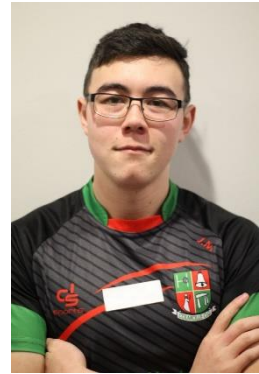
Winning Minor Player of The Year

GAA Hero:

Aidan O'Shea - need him to win an All-Ireland.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Nutrition, Mental Health, Gym



Name: Michael Smollen

Age: 20

Club: Ramor United

County: Cavan

Code: Football



Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Time Commitment
- Balance with other sports

Name: Aoibhe Barrins

Age: 20

Club: Castleconner

County: Sligo

Code: Gaelic Football

Favourite Player:

Kevin McDonnell, Sligo - from the same Club, works extremely hard and balances College and Football well.

Best GAA Memory:

Winning the County Final with my Club.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Belief and Confidence
- Support

Name: Shaun Mc Gilloway

Age: 17

Club: Letterkenny Gaels

County: Donegal

Code: Gaelic Football

Favourite Player:

Diarmuid Connolly - He's a class footballer

Best GAA Memory:

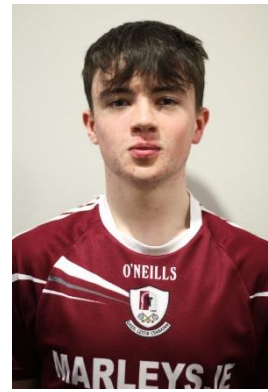
Donegal winning their first All-Ireland in 20 years against Mayo in 2012.

GAA Hero:

Jim McGuinness - the man who saved Donegal football and got them to 2 All-Irelands in 4 years.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Make underage games less competitive to make sure less people (young players) don't fall away from the sport.



Name: Seán O' Sullivan

Age: 16

Club: Seán Connollys

County: Longford

Codes: Gaelic Football, Rounders

Favourite Player:

Micky Quinn - my PE teacher!

Best GAA Memory:

Winning the U16 County Title.

GAA Hero:

Colm Cooper - very skilful.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Keep Practising
- Enjoy it!
- Try your best



Name: Aisling Walls

Age: 16

Club: Killgarry

County: Cavan

Code: LGFA

Favourite Player:

Diarmuid Connolly - determined, skilful player

Best GAA Memory:

Winning 2 All-Irelands with Loreto in one week. U16 and Senior A 2018

GAA Hero:

Cora Staunton - good forward, committed, female role model, inspirational.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Be healthy, take care of your body
- Have fun
- Don't take it too seriously. Be positive on the pitch and encourage other players



Name: Leanne Hanafin

Age: 20

Club: Austin Stacks, Tralee

County: Kerry

Code: Football

Favourite Player:

Paul Geaney

Best GAA Memory:

2009 All-Ireland or 2017 Semi-Final

GAA Hero:

Davy Fitz

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Off the field opportunities
- Balance between playing and outside life
- Recovery



Name: Louise Coen

Age: 16

Club: Sylane Hurling, Kilconly GAA

County: Galway

Codes: Camogie and Football

Favourite Player:

Lee Chin, Wexford - because (unlike myself) he doesn't involve himself in arguments on the pitch, he's a great hurler (and good looking) and he stands up against racism.

Best GAA Memory:

The 2015 All-Ireland Semi-Final against Tipperary. It was a really narrow game that Galway won by 1 point.

GAA Hero:

My dad for bringing me to all the Galway matches and for being my harshest performance critic when I play my own Club matches.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Don't take any notice from older team/ Club members that try to put you down



Name: Amy O'Neill

Age: 16

Club: Midleton

County: Cork

Code: Ladies Football



Favourite Player:

Marie Ambrose

- Really skilful, defensive player
- Great Attitude
- Good decision making

Best GAA Memory:

Captain of Midleton U.16 when we won County Final.

GAA Hero:

Brian Cody

- Led Kilkenny to many All-Irelands
- Great motivator

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Local and nationwide role models
- Well supported Clubs/Schools

Name: Alana O'Brien

Age: 16

Club: Lacken Celtic

County: Cavan

Code: Camogie

Favourite Player:

Aaron Gillane - has skill and determination on the pitch

Best GAA Memory:

First camogie Final I won when I was 12 and I scored 3-1

GAA Hero:

Peter Duggan- point he scored in All-Ireland Semi-Final and his skill.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Enjoy the game as much as possible and have fun
- Look after nutrition
- Look after mental health



Name: Cormac Curtis

Age: 20

County: Dublin

Codes: Gaelic Football

Favourite Player:

Ciáran Kilkenny - Great ambassador for the game and he's a Gaeilgeoir.

Best GAA Memory:

Dublin vs Mayo in the All-Ireland Final/Cluxton's point vs Kerry to win.

GAA Hero:

Owen Mulligan - He displayed serious passion every time he played.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward (max.3):

- Staying confident and in the right mind-frame.
- Striking a balance between sports and studies.
- Enjoying the game and remembering that sport isn't everything in life.



Name: Áine Doyle

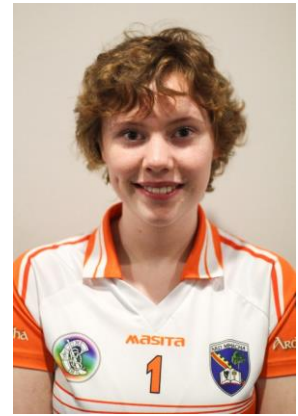
Age: 17

Club: Tullysaran

County: Armagh

Code/s: Camogie and Ladies Football

Favourite Player:



Jen O’Leary because she covers more ground than any other player; she’s always there and always seems to have the space, pace, skill and freedom to take on a score; she reads the game and can tell if her teammate is in a better position than her; she constantly encourages those around her, even if they’re on the opposition team; she does her own training, always in the mind-set that she wants to be better for the team’s benefit rather than her own; she’s a lovely person off the field.

Best GAA Memory:

Winning an All-Ireland title with the Armagh U16 county camogie squad. I’d never played goals so it was scary. It was a really tight game and we ended up only winning by a point but I’d pulled off a few saves and felt like I’d really contributed to the game. Celebrations were the best...

GAA Hero:

Noel McGrath because he has been through so much but came back from that. He now dedicates time to telling people about his struggle. He’s an outstanding player and a really nice and genuine person.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Understanding why and trying to prevent the rate of players and teammates quitting around U16/U18 age group

Name: Kerri Halpenny

Age: 16

Club: John Mitchels GFC

County: Louth

Code/s: Gaelic Football

Favourite Player:



My favourite GAA player is Andy McDonnell from my county of Louth. He always gives his best in every game, club and county. He is a valuable leader on the pitch and is the epitome of hardwork and dedication to the game.

Best GAA Memory:

My best GAA memory was the Leinster Semi-Final in 2010 when the Louth Footballers beat Westmeath in Croke Park. It was the game that qualified Louth for our first Leinster Final in 50 years (it ended quite controversially but we won't look back in anger!) My dad was on the pitch and I remember rushing down to see him with ecstatic excitement. That day was very special for me and my family I and it will be a day I will never forget.

GAA Hero:

My GAA hero is my dad. The GAA has been a huge part of my life for as long as I can remember. When it comes to GAA my dad is always someone I have looked up to. My dad is Chairperson of the Louth County Board and has previously held position of Secretary for 5 years. He was also Youth Officer. My GAA club, John Mitchels is also a huge part of his life. He always does his absolute best and constantly has the best interests of GAA at heart. He is exceedingly dedicated and committed to the GAA and my life would be completely different without GAA in my life because of him.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- Perfect Practice makes Perfect.
- Hard work, dedication, commitment.
- It all comes down to passion and a love for the game.

Name: Sam Victory

Age: 16

Club: St. Mary's GFC

County: Meath

Code/s: Gaelic Football

Favourite Player (why?):

Ryan McHugh (Donegal), a player I idolize, uses his pace and size to his advantage, never gives the ball away, always pops up with a score or two.

Best GAA Memory:

Playing in our Primary School's first Football Final in Páirc Tailteann, we lost but it was a great way to end my 8 years with all my mates!

GAA Hero:

My Dad. He gave me my love for football. Making him proud is a big reason why I play.

Key Items of Importance for young players going forward:

- More Youth Forums, they're class!
- Give young players more opportunities to develop on and off the pitch.
- Help young players to feel that they are valued and represented within the GAA.

