



Carey's Corner

If you were asked to make a list of great Irish-American athletes, you would probably not begin with present-day players. For it would be difficult to name any Irish-Americans playing or competing today—let alone great ones.

So, let's go way back to the late 1800s and early 1900s to the days of the "Great John L" Sullivan himself, who claimed he could "lick any man in the house"—and he did until he met up with "Gentleman Jim" Corbett. At "Gentleman Jim's" victory party, Sullivan congratulated Corbett and said, "If I had to lose, I'm glad it was to an Irishman."

Staying with the early 20th century, let us take a look at a more civil sport: baseball and the "Grand Old Man of Baseball"—Cornelius McGillicuddy. Better known as Connie Mack, he managed the Philadelphia Athletics for fifty years (1901-1950) while wearing a suit, shirt, tie, and straw hat.

Sticking with baseball, there was John "Muggsy" McGraw, Gene Conley (who pitched for the Braves and the Red Sox in addition to playing center for the Celtics). Now, back to boxing for a minute—there was a tough local kid by the name of Tommy Collins. In tennis there was "Little Mo" Connolly, and in track there was Hal Connolly. Unfortunately, we have run out of space. So, we'll have to pick it up at another time.

May the road rise up to meet you and the wind be always at your back.

Until next time this is Dick Carey reminding you that, at "Carey's Corner," you always have someone in your corner.

