

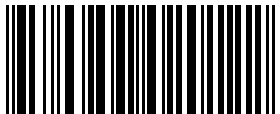


THE STORIES OF KERRY'S FOOTBALLING FEATS told by those gathered at the crossroads in Finuge filled the mind of a young Jimmy Deenihan with dreams of one day playing for Kerry in Croke Park and of maybe lifting the Sam Maguire Cup himself. In tandem with this dream grew a belief that sport is, as described by Hippocrates, 'the preserver of health'. *My Sporting Life* recounts how his dreams became reality, culminating when he lifted the Sam Maguire in 1981 as captain of the four-in-a-row winning Kerry team. Sport didn't end with retirement from competitive football; Jimmy describes his life as a physical education teacher, coach and trainer of all age groups. When he entered political life, he embraced the concept of sport for 'the many and not just for the few', undertaking extensive examination of the role of sport in the life of Irish people. He also details his organisation of sporting events involving his Dáil colleagues and their counterparts in other countries.

Jimmy's commitment to sport, not just as a participant at the highest level, but at all levels and at all ages in life, is evident throughout *My Sporting Life*.

JIMMY DEENIHAN was born in Finuge in North Kerry in 1952. He played Gaelic football at club level with Finuge, at County Championship level with Feale Rangers, and at inter-county level with Kerry, winning an All-Ireland U21 Championship medal in 1973 and five senior All-Ireland medals as part of the 'Golden Years' team. In 1981 he captained Kerry to their fourth All-Ireland senior football title in a row. Jimmy taught at Tarbert Comprehensive School from 1975 until 1983 when he was appointed to the Senate by Fine Gael leader and then Taoiseach Garret FitzGerald. He is currently Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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