

IRELAND SQUAD INFO PACK



#1 Ayeisha McFerran

Position: Goalkeeper

Age: 25

Caps: 105

1st cap: January 11, 2014, Spain

Hometown: Larne, Co Antrim

Date of Birth: 10 January 1996

Current Club: SV Kampong (NED)

Former Clubs: Larne, Randalstown, Pegasus, University of Louisville

Education: Larne Grammar School

Job: Professional hockey player

Instagram: @ayeisha96

Twitter: @Ayeeshaa

MAJOR HONOURS

International

2014: Champions Challenge I – silver

2015: World League Round 2 – gold

2015: EuroHockey Championships II - gold

2017: World League Round 2: gold

2018: World Cup – silver

2019: FIH Hockey Series – silver

Club

2014-15: Irish Hockey League winners (Pegasus)

University

2015: NFHCA All-American (University of Louisville)

2016: NFHCA All-American (University of Louisville)

2017: NFHCA All-American (University of Louisville)

2018: NFHCA All-American (University of Louisville)

BIOGRAPHY

One of world hockey's best last lines of defence, the Larne woman was named Goalkeeper of the Tournament at the 2018 World Cup and nominated for the FIH World Goalkeeper of the Year on two occasions. She became the second goalkeeper from Larne to line out for Ireland after Anne Laing who was the number one between 1961 and 1974. McFerran took up the game aged seven and was still a pupil at Larne Grammar School when she made her senior debut for Ireland. In addition to playing field hockey, in her youth McFerran was an Irish dancer and played the flute.

Randalstown was her club side when she made her senior debut before switching to Pegasus for one season, winning the Irish Hockey League in 2015. She was also named as the league's best goalkeeper. Next on the agenda was a move to the Louisville Cardinals with former Dublin-based man Lucas Piccioli scouting out her talents. Between 2015 and 2017, she was named three times as an NFHCA All-American. On completion of her studies in the US, Dutch outfit SV Kampong came calling.

For Ireland, McFerran made her senior debut for Ireland against Spain on 11 January 2014, the day after her 18th birthday. At that stage, she was largely deployed as a shoot-out specialist, replacing Emma Gray for the endgame of the 2015 World League Round 2 final against Canada and coming up trumps. She would reprise that role in a shoot-out against China with Olympic qualification on the line last summer in Valencia but the efforts came up just short. She was also a member of the Ireland team that won the 2015 Women's EuroHockey Championship II, defeating the Czech Republic 5–0 in the final.

In January 2017 she was also a member of the Ireland team that won a 2016–17 Women's FIH Hockey World League Round 2 tournament in Kuala Lumpur, defeating Malaysia 3–0 in the final.

At the 2018 World Cup, she conceded just three times in five games leading up to the final, including a shoot-out semi-final win over Spain. And her most recent shoot-out heroics came in the 2019 Olympic qualifiers following back-to-back clean sheets against Canada in normal time.



#2 Lizzie Murphy

(TRAVELLING RESERVE)

Position: Goalkeeper

Age: 23

Caps: 13

1st Cap: October 2017 vs Scotland

Hometown: Dublin

Date of Birth: 28 June 1998

Current Club: Loreto

Former Club: Hermes, Hermes-Monkstown

Education: St Kilian's German School

Job: Student

Instagram: @lizzy_murphy2898

Twitter: @Lissibissi2898

BIOGRAPHY

Lizzie Murphy will travel to Tokyo as the reserve goalkeeper, waiting in the wings as Ayeisha McFerran's understudy. She forced her way into the reckoning in 2019 and has been the second goalkeeper at the 2019 and 2021 EuroHockey Championships as well as the Olympic qualifiers against Canada.

She saw pitch time in one of the games in that Euro tournament in Antwerp in 2019, backing up her impressive performances across the 2017 and 2019 Junior European Championships for the Irish Under-21s.

Her hockey history saw her develop at Hermes and at St Kilian's and she is the first past pupil from the school to play senior international hockey. She attended the school from kindergarten right up to Leaving Certificate.

On the club front, she has played in a series of European club competitions, contesting the 2017 EuroHockey Club Cup in Den Bosch with Hermes-Monkstown, the 2018 Euro Trophy in Dublin with Monkstown and then the Cup again with Loreto in 2019, giving her a taste of the atmosphere at the Wagener Stadium.



#4 Zara Malseed

(P-ACCREDITED RESERVE)

Position: Forward

Age: 24

Caps: 2

1st Cap: June 2021 vs England

Hometown: Hollywood

Date of birth: 11th June 1997

Current club: Ards

Former club: University of Edinburgh

Education: Sullivan Upper

Job: Medical Student

Instagram: @zaramalseed

MAJOR HONOURS

Club

2018 – National League, National Cup, National Championship treble (Edinburgh University)

BIOGRAPHY

The Ards striker said earlier this year she is taking “everything as a win” following her hugely impressive first year as part of the Irish senior women’s panel following a meteoric rise. She made her debut in the fourth game of June’s EuroHockey Championships in Amstelveen against England and scored her first international goal a day later against Italy in a 3-0 win.

Prior to that, the Ulster woman showed her goalscoring instincts when she netted three times in three appearances against Spain in Murcia in January despite breaking her thumb in the second game, continuing her incredible rise from obscurity to genuine contention for an Olympic spot.

An Irish Under-18 international six years ago, her move to Edinburgh for university was far from an instant success as she found herself dropped to the second team in her second year.

It is why she considered international hopes “were a dream I thought were dead a long time ago” before a remarkable rise. It started in Scotland with a first team recall leading to captaincy and then a domestic club treble for Edinburgh University.

Since returning to Ireland, she netted over a goal a game for her original club, Ards, who have the added benefit of Irish assistant coach Gareth Grundie in their setup, witnessing her exploits first-hand despite playing outside the top tier EY Hockey League.

That got her foot in the door in February 2020 with an invite for trials but last March’s abrupt hiatus came at the right time to allow her to focus on building the physical side. And it provided Irish coach Sean Dancer with extra justification for her inclusion in Ireland’s carded panel of 23 for 2021.



#5 Michelle Carey

(P-ACCREDITED RESERVE)

Position: Midfield

Age: 22

Caps: 5

1st Cap: June 2021 vs Netherlands

Hometown: Dublin

Date of Birth: 5th May 1999

Current Club: UCD

Former Club: Railway Union

Education: Colaiste Íosagain

Job: Student

Instagram: michellecarey3

MAJOR HONOURS

Club

2020 - Irish Senior Cup 2020 (UCD)

BIOGRAPHY

Michelle Carey made her formal international debut at the EuroHockey Championships against the world number one side the Netherlands in front of their home crowd at the Wagener Stadium in June. She was an ever-present in that competition, playing a part in midfield and up front in all five games.

It is a far cry from this time last year when Carey's main focus was on the Dublin Junior A ladies football championship with Ballinteer St John's, whom she helped to that particular trophy.

Last September, however, she starred in the Irish Senior Cup final for UCD as they saw off Pegasus to win the delayed 2020 final. Around the time, she was invited by Sean Dancer to train with the Irish senior setup on an ongoing basis having dipped in and out of the squad.

She previously played for Ireland – alongside her twin sister Niamh – at all underage levels, doubling up with spells with the Dublin ladies football youth teams.

Her career veered toward hockey at the age of 16 with the European Under-18 championships in Cork taking her focus as she decided to step away from the Dublin minor panel. In 2021, she played her first senior international games in January in an uncapped series against Spain. Her uncle is GAA President Larry McCarthy.



#6 Róisín Upton

Position: Defence/Midfield

Age: 27

Caps: 81

1st Cap: Scotland November 2016

Hometown: Janesboro, Limerick

Date of Birth: 1 April 1994

Current Club: Catholic Institute

Former Clubs: UConn Huskies, Cork Harlequins

Education: Crescent College Comprehensive

Job: Primary School Teacher

Instagram: @roisinuption

Twitter: @roisinuption

MAJOR HONOURS

International

2017: World League Round 2: gold

2018: World Cup – silver

2019: FIH Hockey Series – silver

Club

2012: Big East Conference winners (UConn Huskies)

2013: Big East Conference & NCAA Division I (UConn Huskies)

2014: Big East Conference & NCAA Division I (UConn Huskies)

2015: Big East Conference winners (UConn Huskies)

School

2010 & 2011: Munster Schools Senior Cup winners (Crescent Comprehensive)

BIOGRAPHY

Upton's international career took a while to lift off after a number of false starts, but the Limerick native has gone on to become one of the pivotal members of Ireland's defence in a sweeper role. From Raheen, Upton attended An Mhóidh Scoil and Crescent College before studying at the University of Connecticut where she gained a BA in Psychology. In 2019 she completed her two years Masters in Primary education in Mary Immaculate College Limerick. As well as playing field hockey in her youth, Upton also played ladies' Gaelic football for Mungret St Paul's and women's association football for Janesboro. Her formative hockey years were with Crescent and Catholic Institute, winning two schools Junior and Senior Cup titles apiece, going on to be named the Munster and Ireland youth player of the year in 2011. It earned her a scholarship to University of Connecticut. During this time she was a prominent member of the UConn Huskies teams that won the 2013 and 2014 NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championships. Upton captained the team during the 2014 season and in 2014 and 2015 was nominated for the Honda Sports Award. Upton also helped the team win four consecutive Big East Conference Field Hockey Tournaments between 2012 and 2015.

On her return to Ireland, she began playing for Cork Harlequins in the Women's Irish Hockey League. Upton, along with Yvonne O'Byrne and Naomi Carroll, played for Harlequins in the 2017 Irish Senior Cup final, losing 1–0 to UCD. In 2017–18 she helped Harlequins finished as runners up in both the Women's Irish Hockey League and the EY Champions Trophy. She re-joined Catholic Institute in 2018, helping them to promotion to the top tier in some style.

For Ireland, together with Emily Beatty and Katie Mullan, Upton represented Ireland at the 2010 Youth Olympic Games. Graham Shaw first included Upton in an Ireland squad in 2015 and then again in January 2016 but, on both occasions, Upton had to withdraw because of injuries. She eventually made her senior debut on 6 November 2016 against Scotland. In January 2017 she was a member of the Ireland team that won a 2016–17 Women's FIH Hockey World League Round 2 tournament in Kuala Lumpur, defeating Malaysia 3–0 in the final. Upton scored four goals in the tournament. She scored a hat-trick in a 10–0 against Singapore.

Upton represented Ireland at the 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup and was a prominent member of the team that won the silver medal. Upton provided an assist for Anna O'Flanagan. In the quarter-final against India, she was the first Ireland player to score in the shoot-out. She would repeat that trick in the most dramatic of fashions in the 2019 Olympic qualifiers, flicking in from the baseline when the ball looked to be running out of play.

At the 2019 Euros, she was Ireland's top scorer with four goals in five games, all of them coming in an 11-0 win over Belarus.



#9 Katie Mullan (C)

Position: Midfield/Forward

Age: 27

Caps: 198

1st Cap: August 2012 Vs Wales

Hometown: Coleraine, Co Derry

Date of Birth: 7 April 1994

Current Club: Ballymoney

Former Club: UCD, Der Club an der Alster (Germany)

Education: Dalriada

Job: Visualisation Engineer

Instagram: @katiemullan1

Twitter: @katiemullan11

MAJOR HONOURS

International

2014: Champions Challenge I – silver

2015: World League Round 2 – gold

2015: EuroHockey Championships II – gold

2017: World League Round 2: gold

2018: World Cup – silver

2019: FIH Hockey Series – silver

Club

2013-14: Irish Hockey League winners (UCD)

2013-14: Irish Senior Cup winners (UCD)

2016-17: Irish Hockey League winners (UCD)

2016-17: Irish Senior Cup winners (UCD)

2017: EY Champions Trophy winners (UCD)

2017-18: Irish Hockey League winners (UCD)

2017-18: Irish Senior Cup winners (UCD)

BIOGRAPHY

Ireland's captain since 2016, the Coleraine woman's beaming smile in the pre-match ceremonies was a feature of the Green Army's joyous run to World Cup silver in 2018. Her sporting origins came initially in camogie for CLG Eoghan Rua with whom she was a member of the team that won the 2010 All-Ireland Intermediate Club Camogie championship, beating Laois Harps 3–8 to 2–3. In 2013 Mullan scored two goals in the Derry Senior Camogie Championship final victory against Slaughtneil. She also scored 1–1 in the Ulster Senior Club Camogie Championship final against Rossa. Eoghan Rua retained the Derry Senior Camogie Championship title in 2014 and Mullan scored 1–4 in the final win over Slaughtneil.

On the hockey front, she was brought into the sport at Dalriada School where her PE teacher and hockey coach was Bridget McKeever, a former Ireland women's field hockey international. She also played for Ballymoney and rose through the Irish underage ranks.

Mullan started playing for UCD in 2012 and was part of Irish Senior Cup wins in 2014, 2017 and 2018. She scored UCD's third goal in the 2018 final when they defeated Pegasus 4–0. With UCD, she also won Irish Hockey League titles in 2013–14, 2016–17 and 2017–18. In 2017 UCD completed a treble when they also won the EY Champions Trophy after defeating Hermes-Monkstown in a shoot-out.

Mullan represented Ireland at Under-17 and Under-18 levels before making her senior debut against Wales in August 2012. Together with Roisin Upton and Emily Beatty, Mullan represented Ireland at the 2010 Youth Olympic Games.

In March 2015 Mullan was a member of the Ireland team that won a 2014–15 Women's FIH Hockey World League Round 2 tournament hosted in Dublin, defeating Canada in the final after a penalty shoot-out. She was also a member of the Ireland team that won the 2015 Women's EuroHockey Championship II, scoring in the final as they defeated the Czech Republic 5–0. She again scored in the final of 2017 World League Round 2 as Ireland defeated Malaysia 3–0.

Mullan took over as Ireland captain from Megan Frazer, who was kept out of the side through injuries. She remained captain throughout Ireland's 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup campaign, leading them to the silver medal.

Away from the field, Mullan used the time created by the delayed Olympics to develop her work as a visual engineer with Axial 3D, creating PPE and medical supplies solutions to aid the fight against Covid-19



#10 Shirley McCay

Position: Defence

Age: 32

Caps: 311

1st Cap: January 2007, South Africa, v Canada

Hometown: Drumquin, Co Tyrone

Date of Birth: 7 June 1988

Current Club: Pegasus

Former Clubs: Omagh, Randalstown Ulster Elks, KHC Dragons, Old Alex

Education: Omagh Academy

Job: Ulster Hockey Talent Coach

Instagram: @shirleymccay

Twitter: @shirleymccay

MAJOR HONOURS

International

2009: Champions Challenge II – bronze

2015: World League Round 2 – gold

2015: EuroHockey Championships II – gold

2017: World League Round 2: gold

2018: World Cup – silver

2019: FIH Hockey Series – silver

Club

2014-15 Irish Senior Cup winners (Ulster Elks)

2015-16 Irish Senior Cup winners (Ulster Elks)

2018-19 Irish Hockey League winners (Pegasus)

2018-19 EY Champions Trophy winners (Pegasus)

School

2005 Ulster Schools Senior Cup

2005 Kate Russell All-Ireland Schoolgirl Championships

BIOGRAPHY

Ireland's most capped sportswoman, Shirley McCay was first encouraged to play hockey by her PE teacher, Mary Swann at Omagh Academy. In 2005 she was a member of the Omagh team that won the Ulster Senior Schoolgirls' Cup and the Kate Russell All-Ireland Schoolgirls Championships.

On the club front, she started off at Randalstown before linking up with Ulster Elks where she had stints, the latter of which brought a pair of Irish Senior Cup titles in 2015 and 2016. That sandwiched a spell in Dublin with Old Alex while she studied a masters in journalism. After Elks, she moved to Pegasus whom she played a key role in their 2018/19 success in the Irish Hockey League.

She made her senior Irish debut in January 2007 against Canada. She captained Ireland in her 100th appearance in April 2011 while her 200th cap arrived in June 2015; she surpassed the Irish caps record previously held by Nikki Symmons (209) later that summer against the Czech Republic. Cap number 250 arrived at the 2017 European Championships in the Wagener Stadium.

On the medals front, she was in the World League Round 2 gold winning sides in 2015 and 2017 and also the 2015 EuroHockey Championship II success.

She had initially indicated the 2018 World Cup run to silver would be the scene of her final international appearance. She excelled, scoring a peach of a goal against the United States and was named player of the match in the pool game against India.

She was tempted back into the fray in 2019 by the lure of one more bid for an Olympic berth which came to fruition at Donnybrook in front of a record-breaking crowd. McCay indicated June's Euros in Amstelveen would be her "eighth and last", putting her in a rare bracket of players in the world to have played so frequently in the continent's top tier.



#12 Lena Tice

Position: Defender

Age: 23

Caps: 114

1st Cap: 3rd November 2016 against Scotland

Hometown: Glenealy, Co Wicklow

Date of Birth: 16 November 1997

Current Club: Old Alex

Former Clubs: Loreto, UCD, North Harbour Hawks, Canberra Strikers

Education: St Gerard's School

Job: Student

Instagram: @lenatice

Twitter: @lenatice

MAJOR HONOURS

International

2017: World League Round 2: gold

2018: World Cup – silver

2019: FIH Hockey Series – silver

School

2014-15: Leinster Senior Cup (St Gerard's)

Club

2016-17: Irish Hockey League winners (UCD)

2016-17: Irish Senior Cup winners (UCD)

2017: EY Champions Trophy winners (UCD)

2017-18: Irish Hockey League winners (UCD)

2017-18: Irish Senior Cup winners (UCD)

2018: New Zealand Hockey League (North Harbour)

2018: Australian Hockey League – bronze (Canberra Strikers)

BIOGRAPHY

A cricket international at the age of 13, a World Cup silver medallist at 20, Lena Tice's career is already an extraordinary one with plenty of miles still to run.

In 2011 she made her senior international cricket debut, aged just 13 years and 272 days. As a result, after Pakistan's Sajjida Shah, Tice became the second youngest player in the history of cricket, male or female, to make their international debut playing in an official One Day International or Twenty20 International. She also represented Ireland at the 2014 ICC Women's World Twenty20 and appeared 60 times for Ireland all told. Along with Louise McCarthy, she holds the record for the highest tenth-wicket partnership in a Women's Twenty20 International, with an unbeaten 23 runs. She made her last WODI appearance for Ireland against South Africa on 14 January 2014 and her last WT20I for Ireland against Australia on 22 August 2015.

Hockey-wise, she was the star of St Gerard's ground-breaking schools team, scoring their winner in a 1-0 win over Alexandra College in 2015 to win the Leinster Schoolgirls' Senior Cup final.

After a couple of seasons with Loreto, she linked up with Deirdre Duke, Gillian Pinder and Katie Mullan as a member of the UCD team that won a treble during the 2016–17 season, winning the Irish Senior Cup, the Irish Hockey League and the EY Champions Trophy. Tice played a crucial role in securing the league title for UCD when she scored two penalty corners to inflict a first league defeat on Hermes-Monkstown. The result saw UCD overtake Hermes-Monkstown on the final day of the campaign. Tice also helped UCD retain both the Irish Senior Cup and Irish Hockey League titles during the 2017–18 season.

Internationally, Tice represented Ireland at Under-16 and Under-18 levels before making her senior debut on 3 November 2015 against Scotland. At the time she was only 17 and was still a student at St Gerard's. Coach Graham Shaw would famously recall she texted him to say she was available for the Hawkes Bay Cup in New Zealand despite its proximity to her Leaving Cert.

In January 2017 she was a member of the Ireland team that won a 2016–17 Women's FIH Hockey World League Round 2 tournament in Kuala Lumpur, defeating Malaysia 3–0 in the final and she has been an ever-present at the 2017, 2019 and 2021 Euros as well as the 2018 Women's Hockey World. In the wake of that silver medal success, she went on to win medals in both the Australian Hockey League and New Zealand Hockey League.



#13 Naomi Carroll

Position: Forward

Age: 28

Caps: 115

1st Cap: 2012 v Wales

Hometown: Cratloe, Co Clare

Date of Birth: 13th September 1992

Current Club: Catholic Institute

Former Clubs: Hermes, Cork Harlequins

Education: St Patrick's Immaculate School, Shannon

Job: Maths and coding teacher

Instagram: @naomicarroll13

Twitter: @NaomiCarroll13

MAJOR HONOURS:

International

2014: Champions Challenge I – silver

2015: World League Round 2 – gold

2015: EuroHockey Championships II – gold

2017: World League Round 2: gold

Club

2015-16: Irish Hockey League winners (Hermes)

2015-16: EY Champions Trophy winners (Hermes)

BIOGRAPHY

The multi-talented Cratloe native played her first capped games in June 2021 at the EuroHockey Championships, ending a long journey since being named as a reserve for the 2018 World Cup. It had been a long and winding road back as she endured an ACL injury when lining out for Clare in ladies football action before starting her hockey recovery with the Irish indoor hockey team in January 2020. In tandem with excellent club form with Catholic Institute, she earned a recall to Sean Dancer's panel and is in line to add to her 111 caps.

Her sporting beginnings are primarily at Cratloe, playing with the boys teams in hurling and football as the club had no girls section at the time. She played with the likes of Podge Collins and Conor McGrath up until she was Under-16 with the club not allowed field females beyond that age.

On the representative front, she has the quirk of playing for both Clare and Limerick. As Cratloe had no girls teams, she played camogie for Na Piarasigh and earned a call-up to the Limerick county side as a result, playing alongside Roisin Upton at times. She also won the 2013 Munster Ladies Senior Club Football Championship with Clare and played in the 2010 All-Ireland minor camogie final.

Hockey came later in her sporting life, taking up the game at the age of 14. She says she "initially hated it" but stuck at it and rose quickly to play in Irish underage teams and made her debut six years later. Her club career started at Catholic Institute before moving to Dublin and a successful stint with Hermes, winning the Irish Hockey League and EY Champions Trophy. And she was a near ever-present in the international golden period between 2014 and 2017 which garnered the Champions Challenge silver medal in Glasgow, golds in World League events along with the European second division in 2015. Her comeback came at the Euros this summer and she scored the only goal in a 1-0 win over Scotland.

In addition to playing Gaelic games and field hockey, in her youth Carroll also represented the Republic of Ireland women's national football team at schoolgirl level. Her teammates included Deirdre Duke and Dora Gorman.



#17 Hannah McLoughlin

Position: Defence/midfield

Age: 22

Caps: 19

1st Cap: 2018 vs Scotland

Hometown: Dublin

Date of Birth: 2 December 1999

Current club: UCD

Former Clubs: Avoca, Loreto

Education: Loreto Foxrock

Job: Student

Instagram: @Hannahmc2011

Twitter: @Hannahmc2011

MAJOR HONOURS

Club

2017/18 – EY Champions Trophy winners (Loreto)

2019/20 – Irish Senior Cup (UCD)

BIOGRAPHY

One of a quartet of young guns making their debut in an international ranking event at the EuroHockey Championships in June, Hannah McLoughlin playing a key role in the defence for Ireland this summer. She impressed in Amstelveen and will reprise the role in Tokyo.

While she made her international debut in 2018 when just 18, she was probably a little bit on the outskirts of the panel at this stage last year.

But the delayed Olympic Games has allowed her to become a far more central role in the panel, particularly off the back of her player of the match performance in last September's Irish Senior Cup final.

Her earliest hockey club was Avoca in Blackrock who helped her develop to get onto the Irish Under-16s before she moved to Loreto with whom she would win the EY Champions Trophy, starring in the final against Cork Harlequins.

In addition to bringing a strong ball-playing ability to the back lines, McLoughlin can also play an important role in penalty corners while her array of aerial and long-range passes makes her a key out-letting option.



#20 Chloe Watkins

Position: Midfield

Age: 29

Caps: 229

1st Cap: 25th July 2010 vs Scotland

Hometown: Killiney

Date of Birth: 7 March 1992

Current Club: Monkstown

Former Clubs: Hermes, UCD, Club de Campo de Madrid (Spain)
Hermes-Monkstown, HC Bloemendaal (NED)

Education: St Andrew's College

Job: Trainee accountant

Instagram: @Clowatkins **Twitter:** @Clowatkins

MAJOR HONOURS

International

2012: Champions Challenge I – bronze

2014: Champions Challenge I – silver

2015: World League Round 2 – gold

2017: World League Round 2: gold

2018: World Cup – silver

2019: FIH Hockey Series – silver

Club

2008: All-Ireland Club Championships (Hermes)

2011-12: Irish Senior Cup winners (UCD)

2013-14: Division de Honor Femenina (Club de Campo)

2013-14: Copa de la Reina (Club de Campo)

2015-16: Irish Hockey League (Hermes-Monkstown)

2015-16: EY Champions Trophy (Hermes-Monkstown)

2017: Gold Cup (HC Bloemendaal)

School

2005-06, 2008-09, 2009-10: Leinster Schools Senior Cup (St Andrew's College)

2010: Kate Russell All-Ireland Schoolgirls Championships

BIOGRAPHY

Ireland's second most capped women's hockey player, the Monkstown woman is the creative engine for the Green Army. Hailing from a famous hockey family, her father Gordon and brother Gareth also played for Ireland but not nearly to the same extent as Chloe. As such, much of her youth was spent going down to Monkstown to watch her brother – Gareth, also an international – in action and she was itching to hit the turf. At St Andrew's College, she played in four Leinster Schoolgirls' Senior Cup finals, winning the 2006 as a 13-year-old, scoring a goal against Loreto Beaufort to win 2-0. They beat the same opposition in the 2009 final and, in 2010, Chloe captained St. Andrew's as they defeated an Alexandra College team that featured Deirdre Duke and Emily Beatty. For good measure, they added the Kate Russell All-Ireland Schoolgirls title with a 3-1 win over Coláiste Iognáid, Galway 3-1 in the final.

In 2008, while still a 16-year-old schoolgirl, Watkins, together with fellow schoolgirls, Anna O'Flanagan and Nicola Evans, was a member of the Hermes team that won the All-Ireland Ladies' Club Championships. She began playing for UCD in 2010-11 and she won an Irish Senior Cup in her second season before doing a Spanish double while on Erasmus with Club de Campo de Madrid. 2015 saw a return to the now amalgamated Hermes-Monkstown along with Anna O'Flanagan and Nikki Evans, winning the Women's Irish Hockey League title and the EY Champions Trophy. Together with O'Flanagan, she spent the 2017-18 season playing for HC Bloemendaal in the Hoofdklasse in the Netherlands. They were coached by former world player of the year Teun de Nooijer and they helped Bloemendaal win the Gold Cup.

Internationally, she made her debut for Ireland, aged 18, in July 2010 against Scotland, just a month after completing her Leaving Cert. Highlights include a 2012 Champions Challenge bronze, bettered two years later by a silver in 2014 in Dublin. World League Round 2 gold came in 2015 and 2017. During the 2018 World Cup silver medal run, Watkins scored twice in shoot-outs. In the quarter-final against India she scored the winning effort to send Ireland through to the semi-final. She also scored in the shoot-out in the semi-final against Spain. In the final against the Netherlands, Watkins made her 200th senior international appearance for Ireland. And her prowess in shoot-outs continued to the Olympic qualifiers in 2019 when she coolly slotted her effort on the backhand to keep the contest alive against Canada, leading to that famous "Watkins wink" directed at goalkeeper Ayeisha McFerran.

Watkins revealed last summer that she had undergone surgery after she experienced heart palpitations at a training camp in South Africa. She says she was lucky to have caught it in time with the elective surgery likely to have been put on hold had it been during lockdown time.



#21 Lizzie Holden (née Colvin)

Position: Midfield

Age: 31

Caps: 201

1st Cap: June 2008 v France in Celtic Cup

Hometown: Portadown

Date of Birth: 4th January 1990

Current Club: Belfast Harlequins

Former Club: Armagh, Loreto, HGC (Netherlands)

Education: Portadown College

Job: Solicitor

Instagram: @lizzie_colvin

Twitter: @lizzicolvin1

MAJOR HONOURS

International

2015: World League Round 2 – gold

2017: World League Round 2: gold

2018: World Cup – silver

2019: FIH Hockey Series – silver

Club

2008-09: Irish Hockey League – winners (Loreto)

2009-10: Irish Senior Cup – winners (Loreto)

BIOGRAPHY

A product of the remarkable era at Armagh Hockey Club – under the tutelage of current Irish assistant coach Mick McKinnon – Colvin was part of a side who won six successive promotions, going from the seventh tier of Ulster hockey to the very top. This was all while still in her teenage years and under the coaching of Mick McKinnon who is now one of the Irish assistant coaches.

She moved to Dublin and Trinity for college, playing her club hockey for Loreto with whom she won the inaugural Women's Irish Hockey League title. The midfield dynamo was also a member of the Loreto team won the 2009–10 Irish Senior Cup alongside fellow internationals Nikki Symmons, Hannah Matthews, Ali Meeke and Nicola Daly.

She spent one season in the Netherlands with HGC while on Erasmus before returning to Ulster and Belfast Harlequins in 2017, linking up with Zoe Wilson and Barr twins Serena and Bethany.

Her senior debut came in June 2008 against France in the Celtic Cup and she has amassed 201 caps since then, becoming just the seventh Irish woman to do so. The big gap in that was between August 2013 and January 2015 when she was recovering from an anterior cruciate knee ligament injury.

She was back in time to win gold at World League Round 2 in March 2015, beating Canada in the final and she helped repeat the feat in 2017, beating Malaysia 3-0 in that final. Her most famous goal is the one that ultimately got Ireland to the 2018 World Cup, scoring the winner in a 2–1 win against India. Ireland's seventh-place finish in at the tournament eventually saw them qualify.

Colvin represented Ireland at the 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup and was a prominent member of the team that won the silver medal. She featured in all of Ireland's games.

Between 2014 and 2016 Colvin worked as a trainee solicitor with A&L Goodbody in Dublin. After qualifying as a lawyer in 2017 she began working as an employment law specialist with DWF in Belfast.



#22 Nicci Daly

Position: Midfield/Forward

Age: 33

Caps: 196

1st Cap: Belgium 2010

Hometown: Rathfarnham

Date of Birth: 3 April 1988

Current Club: Loreto

Former Club: Glenanne, Holcombe (England), Muckross

Education: High School Rathgar

Job: Data engineer

Instagram: @niccidaly22

Twitter: @niccidaly22

MAJOR HONOURS

International

2014: Champions Challenge I – silver

2015: World League Round 2 – gold

2015: EuroHockey Championships I – gold

2017: World League Round 2: gold

2018: World Cup – silver

2019: FIH Hockey Series – silver

Club

2009-10: Irish Senior Cup winners (Loreto)

2010-11: EuroHockey Club Champions Challenge II winners (Loreto)

2017-18: EY Champions Trophy winners (Loreto)

BIOGRAPHY

Motorsport was the sporting outlet of choice long before hockey came into Daly's life. Her father Vivion was a former Formula Ford racing driver while her uncle Derek Daly is a former Formula One driver; Nicci's first cousin Conor Daly, the IndyCar driver. In addition to playing Gaelic football and hockey, Daly spent many weekends during her youth at Mondello Park watching her father compete. And she carries that passion through to this day, working as a data engineer with motorsport teams while she attended the School of Applied Sciences at Cranfield University where she gained an MSc in Motorsport Engineering and Management.

Daly represented Dublin ladies footballers at under-14 level alongside Lyndsey Davey and she made her debut for the Dublin seniors in 2009. She learned her hockey initially at The High School in Rathgar alongside fellow World Cup silver medallist Ali Meeke. She did not play in a club until Graham Shaw – the 2018 World Cup coach – suggested she link up with Glenanne in 2008 where she scored on debut. The next season, she again linked up with Shaw at Loreto who won the 2010 Irish Senior Cup. After spells with Holcombe in England and Muckross, Daly re-joined Loreto for the latter half of the 2017–18 season. She subsequently scored the opening goal as Loreto defeated Cork Harlequins 2–1 to win the 2018 EY Champions Trophy.

Her senior Irish debut came in 2010 against Belgium and she played her part in World League Round 2 gold medal wins in 2015 and 2017 as well as Euro B division gold in 2015. In that same 2015 summer, she scored a contender for Ireland's best ever goal in a victory over South Africa in the 2016 Olympic qualifiers. Daly represented Ireland at the 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup and was a prominent member of the team that won the silver medal. She featured in all of Ireland's games throughout the tournament.

In interviews, Daly has revealed how Mariah Carey's All I Want for Christmas Is You became the team's unofficial theme song. Daly explained that some of the younger members of the team had said that the excitement and anticipation they experienced during the tournament "felt like Christmas Eve." The team subsequently began singing the song during training sessions and again during their homecoming celebrations.

Just two weeks after playing for Ireland in the 2018 World Cup final, Daly made her debut as a motor racing driver at Mondello Park. Daly drove as part of the Formula Female team in an event celebrating the track's

50th anniversary. She also co-founded the team. Daly was raising money for the Irish Cancer Society in honour of her father who had died of cancer on 15 November 2002, aged 48.



#23 Hannah Matthews

Position: Defender

Age: 30

Caps: 152

1st Cap: Italy in 2014

Hometown: Dublin

Date of Birth: 24 March 1991

Current Club: Loreto

Former Club: n/a

Education: Loreto Beaufort

Job: Teacher

Instagram: @hannahmatthews17

Twitter: @hmatthews5

MAJOR HONOURS

International

2015: World League Round 2 – gold

2015: EuroHockey Championships II – gold

2017: World League Round 2: gold

2018: World Cup – silver

2019: FIH Hockey Series – silver

Club

2008-09: Irish Hockey League winners I (Loreto)

2009-10: Irish Senior Cup winners (Loreto)

2011: EuroHockey Champions Challenge II winner (Loreto)

2018: EY Champions Trophy winners (Loreto)

School

2007-08: Leinster Schools Senior Cup (Loreto Beaufort)

BIOGRAPHY

A model of defensive consistency, Hannah Matthews is something of a rarity in the panel as a “one-club” player, lining out for Loreto following her successful school days at Loreto Beaufort, scoring the winning goal in the Leinster Schoolgirls Senior Cup final in 2008 in a 2-1 success against Alexandra College. In the 2009 final Matthews captained Loreto, Beaufort as they faced a St Andrew's team featuring Chloe Watkins and Gillian Pinder. This time, St Andrew's won 2-0 after extra time.

With Loreto, she won the inaugural Women's Irish Hockey League title in 2009 and, a year later, took the Irish Senior Cup final win against Railway Union; Matthews scored the winning penalty stroke after the game had finished 2-2 in normal time.

Continuing a habit of scoring on big stages, Matthews also scored for Loreto in the 2011-12 cup final but this time they lost 3-2 against UCD. In June 2011, she scored in the EuroHockey Club Champion's Challenge II final as Loreto defeated HC Olten of Switzerland 7-1. In 2014 she captained Loreto to third place at the European Club Championship Trophy tournament hosted by Leicester Hockey Club. And in May 2018, Matthews captained Loreto as they won the EY Champions Trophy.

Her international career started at Mori in Italy in June 2014 having previously represented Ireland at Under-18 level. In March 2015 Matthews was a member of the Ireland team that won a 2014-15 Women's FIH Hockey World League Round 2 tournament hosted in Dublin, defeating Canada in the final after a penalty shoot-out. That summer, she also won gold at the Women's EuroHockey Championship II, defeating the Czech Republic 5-0 in the final but Olympic qualifying in Valencia proved tantalisingly out of reach.

She was also a member of the Ireland team that won a 2016-17 Women's FIH Hockey World League Round 2 tournament in Kuala Lumpur, defeating Malaysia 3-0 in the final. In June 2018, Matthews made her 100th senior international appearance for Ireland during a series of games against Canada.

Matthews represented Ireland at the 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup and was a prominent member of the team that won the silver medal and she passed the 150-cap mark at the 2021 Euros. She is the daughter of Phillip Matthews, the former Ireland rugby union international, and his wife, Lisa Flynn. Her maternal grandfather, Kevin Flynn, was also an Ireland rugby union international.



#23 Sarah Torrants

Position: Forward

Age: 22

Caps: 26

1st Cap: January 2017 vs Scotland

Hometown: Knocklyon

Date of Birth: 14 February 1999

Current Club: Loreto

Former Club: Corinthian

Education: Loreto St Stephen's Green

Instagram: @sarah_torrants

Twitter: @sarah_torrants

MAJOR HONOURS

Club

2018: EY Champions Trophy winners

2020: Jacqui Potter Cup

BIOGRAPHY

Knocklyon's Sarah Torrants is looking forward to finally getting her major international debut after a series of close-run things in recent years.

In 2018 as a teenager, she came within a whisker of being part of the World Cup silver medal winning squad after a whirlwind beginning to life as a senior international. Her gorgeous strike against Japan in one of the last warm-up games brought her to the brink of selection, ultimately named as one of three reserves alongside Emily Beatty and Naomi Carroll.

Her brief, though, was a watching one – featuring in RTE's fan clips from the Glenside in Churchtown with many of her Loreto club mates – before getting to rejoin her Irish team mates on the Dame Street stage for the silver medal homecoming.

Since then, though, she endured a frustrating 2019. She was due to captain the Irish Under-21s at the Junior European Championships but a freak injury 10 days out for the tournament ruled her out of not just that event but, also, contention for the Euro seniors a month later.

Torrants was also initially named in the Irish panel for this summer's European Championships but a late injury ruled her out but she has worked her way back to fitness to get this chance.

Her initial sporting history started with Corinthian Hockey Club's hugely impressive youth section which she took in alongside life as a sprinter with Dundrum South Dublin Athletics Club. She won numerous national medals, notably helping to break a national Under-16 4x200m relay record. She frequently competed against the likes of Ciara Neville and Sharlene Mawdsley on this stage.



#25 Sarah Hawkshaw

Position: Midfield/Forward

Age: 25

Caps: 38

1st Cap: January 2019 vs Chile

Hometown: Castleknock

Date of Birth: 4 November 1995

Current Club: Railway Union

Former Club: UMass Minutewomen

Education: Mount Sackville

Instagram: @sarahhawkshaw95

Twitter: @sarahhawkshaw

MAJOR HONOURS

International

2019: FIH Hockey Series – silver

BIOGRAPHY

One of the breakout stars of the team in 2019, Sarah Hawkshaw provides a driving presence, usually down the right flank.

In addition to playing hockey, in her youth Hawkshaw also played Gaelic football for Dublin up to Under-16 level and competed as a cross country runner.

In 2013 Hawkshaw was a member of the Mount Sackville team that won the Leinster Schoolgirl's Senior Plate final. She scored the winner from a penalty corner as Mount Sackville defeated a St Gerard's School team featuring Lena Tice 2–1.

Railway Union was her club side and, together with Cecelia and Isobel Joyce, Emer Lucey, Kate McKenna and Grace O'Flanagan, Hawkshaw was a member of the Railway Union team that played in the 2014 EuroHockey Club Champions Cup.

Between 2014 and 2018 Hawkshaw attended the University of Massachusetts on a sports scholarship and gained a BS in Public Health Sciences.

On her return to Ireland, she was soon incorporated into the Irish setup following the World Cup, making her debut in January 2019 against Chile.

She had previously represented Ireland at Under-16, Under-18 and Under-23 levels.

She made her major tournament debut at the 2018–19 Women's FIH Series Finals and has been an ever-present since then, playing at the 2019 Women's EuroHockey Nations Championship where Ireland finished fifth, equalling their best ever result, scoring two goals into the bargain.

Her younger brother, David Hawkshaw, is an Ireland under-20 rugby union international and in 2019 he captained Ireland to a Grand Slam.



#26 Anna O'Flanagan

Position: Forward

Age: 31

Caps: 212

1st Cap: July 2010 v Scotland

Hometown: Rathgar, Co Dublin

Date of Birth: 18 February 1990

Current Club: Muckross

Former Clubs: Hermes, UCD, Hermes-Monkstown, HC Bloemendaal (NED), Pinoké (NED)

Education: Muckross Park

Job: Strategy and Operations Consultant

Instagram: @annaoflanagan

Twitter: @annaof

MAJOR HONOURS

International

2012: Champions Challenge I – bronze

2014: Champions Challenge I – silver

2015: World League Round 2 – gold

2017: World League Round 2: gold

2018: World Cup – silver

2019: FIH Hockey Series – silver

Club

2008: All-Ireland Club Championships (Hermes)

2011-12: Irish Senior Cup winners (UCD)

2013-14: Irish Hockey League winners (UCD)

2013-14: Irish Senior Cup winners (UCD)

2015-16: Irish Hockey League (Hermes-Monkstown)

2015-16: EY Champions Trophy (Hermes-Monkstown)

2017: Gold Cup (HC Bloemendaal)

BIOGRAPHY

Anna O'Flanagan is Ireland's all-time record goalscorer with 83 goals to her name from her 212 international caps along with a series of other accolades.

In 2008, when still a schoolgirl at Muckross Park College, O'Flanagan was a member of the Hermes team that won the All-Ireland Ladies' Club Championships. Her teammates at Hermes included Chloe Watkins, Nikki Evans, and Deirdre Duke.

Her switch to UCD brought plenty more trophies with 2012 and 2014 Irish Senior Cup crowns to go with a 2014 Irish Hockey League, scoring the winner in that 2012 3-2 victory over Loreto. O'Flanagan scored again in the 2014 final as UCD defeated Pembroke Wanderers 2-0. Her club-mates in UCD included Katie Mullan, Gillian Pinder, Deirdre Duke, Evans and Emily Beatty.

Along with Watkins and Evans, she joined Hermes-Monkstown in 2015 and they won the Women's Irish Hockey League title and the EY Champions Trophy. In the EY Champions Trophy final, O'Flanagan scored twice in a 3-1 win over Pegasus. A two-year spell in the Netherlands followed, taking a break from her legal career to prepare for the 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup. Her first year – coach by former world player of the year Teun de Nooijer – culminated in a Gold Cup win with HC Bloemendaal.

Internationally, she debuted in July 2010 against Scotland and her first goal arrived in April 2011 against France. Her trophy list features the 2015 and 2017 World League Round 2 golds while 2014 Champions Challenge silver is another highlight. Her 100th appearance came in May 2015, scoring in a 3-1 win against Canada.

She scored 12 goals at the Kuala Lumpur World League tournament, including one in the final, which saw her pass the 50 mark.

Her goalscoring ways continued into the World Cup. On 26 July 2018, she scored in the group game against India, securing a 1-0 win for Ireland and a place in the quarter-finals. On 4 August 2018 she also scored in the semi-final against Spain. This was her 65th international goal which saw her become Ireland's joint all-time top scorer, along with Lynsey McVicker. She was subsequently named player of the match.

2019 saw her land the Player of the Tournament gong at the World Series Finals in Banbridge and she was on Ireland's top scorer at the 2019 (joint-top) and 2021 Europeans.



#28 Deirdre Duke

Position: Forward

Age: 29

Caps: 146

1st Cap: June 2013 v Scotland

Hometown: Dublin

Date of Birth: 9 June 1992

Current Club: Old Alex

Former Clubs: Three Rock Rovers, Hermes, UCD, Northeastern Huskies (USA), Düsseldorfer HC (Germany)

Education: Alexandra College

Job: Trainee solicitor

Instagram: @deirdre_duke28

Twitter: @deirdreduke28

MAJOR HONOURS

International

2015: EuroHockey Championships II – gold

2018: World Cup – silver

2019: FIH Hockey Series – silver

School

2011: Leinster Schools Senior Cup (Alex College)

Club

2011-12: Irish Senior Cup winners (UCD)

2013-14: Irish Hockey League winners (UCD)

2013-14: Irish Senior Cup winners (UCD)

2016-17: Irish Hockey League winners (UCD)

2016-17: Irish Senior Cup winners (UCD)

2017: EY Champions Trophy winners (UCD)

2017-18: Irish Hockey League winners (UCD)

2017-18: Irish Senior Cup winners (UCD)

BIOGRAPHY

In addition to her hockey exploits, the multi-talented Deirdre Duke also won an All-Ireland Under-14 Ladies' Football Championship with Dublin and represented the Republic of Ireland women's national under-17 football team where her international teammates included Ciara Grant, Naomi Carroll and Dora Gorman. In her early years, she helped Alexandra College, in 2011 along with Emily Beatty, land the Leinster Schoolgirls' Senior Cup. In the final they defeated a St. Andrew's College team that included Gillian Pinder.

She subsequently went on to win a plethora of trophies with UCD – eight on the national stage – captaining them to a treble in 2017. That season, she scored the winner in the Irish Senior Cup final as UCD defeated Cork Harlequin. She was also captain a year later when UCD defeated Pegasus 4–0 to retain the cup.

Her UCD career was briefly punctuated by a year with the Northeastern Huskies. While in Boston, Duke was watching the 2013 marathon when the event was interrupted by a terrorist attack. She was standing close to the spot where the second bomb went off but had left the area just half an hour before the explosions.

Following her performances with Ireland at the 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup, Duke announced she would be joining Düsseldorfer Hockey Club for the 2018–19 season and she reached the German final four playoffs with the club.

For Ireland, Duke represented in green at Under-16, Under-18 and Under-21 levels before making her senior debut against Scotland in June 2013. Duke was a member of the Ireland team that won the 2015 Women's EuroHockey Championship II, defeating the Czech Republic 5–0 in the final.

But it was at the 2018 World Cup where she came into her own. On 21 July 2018 she scored twice against the United States as Ireland won their opening pool stage game 3–1. She also featured in further pool games against India and England, in the quarter-final against India, in the semi-final against Spain and in the final against the Netherlands.

This year, Duke was initially named as a travelling reserve for the EuroHockey Championships but stepped into the main panel when Sarah Torrans was ruled out through injury. She went on to score the official "Goal of the Tournament" for her strike against England.



#30 Sarah McAuley

Position: Defence

Age: 19

Caps: 1

1st Cap: June 2021 vs Italy

Hometown: Dublin

Current Club: Muckross

Former Club: Avoca

Education: Muckross Park

Job: Student

Twitter: @McAuley_Sarah5

Instagram: @sarah.mcauley

BIOGRAPHY

The 19-year-old Sarah McAuley has stormed into contention in recent times off the back of some supremely assured performances in challenge matches. It led to her inclusion as a travelling reserve for June's EuroHockey Championships and an eventual debut in game five against Scotland, recording a clean sheet in a 3-0 win.

Earlier in 2021, in the wake of injuries to Zoe Wilson and Barr twins Serena and Bethany, McAuley was drafted in as defensive cover for the uncapped series against Great Britain in March at Queen's.

The Muckross player was retained for the subsequent games against GB at Bisham Abbey and then again for a series against Scotland. In that time, she has shown coach Sean Dancer enough to earn a place in those European plans.

Her hockey beginnings were at Avoca Hockey Club and Muckross Park, winning the 2017 Leinster Schoolgirls Senior Cup with the latter.