ELITE SPORT
DEVELOPING MAXIMUM SPORTING PERFORMANCE
ALONGSIDE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
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   DIT win the Rustlers Colleges Football Association of Ireland (CFAI) Cup
WHAT better way to wrap up the second semester than to showcase the fantastic achievements of our Elite Athletes and DIT Sports Teams, in this Annual Edition of the DIT Elite Sport digital magazine!

DIT has an enviable and proud track record of success in Elite Sport and its Elite Sport initiatives are designed to strengthen that reputation and support our aspiring elite athletes to achieve recognition in their chosen sports at Olympic Games and Paralympics, World Championships, World University Games and European Championships. Over the course of the last 12 months our elite athletes have set new national records, personal bests, achieved Podium Finishes, demonstrated inspiring sportsmanship and made many wonderful, memorable moments both on and off the field of play.

Team DIT’s sporting highlights will be captured in this action packed interactive digital magazine with video footage of some of our elite athletes and DIT Sports Team’s competing at the highest levels in Sport. Our success over the years in high profile tournaments – such as Gaelic Football’s Sigerson Cup, Hurling’s Fitzgibbon Cup and Soccer’s ‘College and Universities Football League’, and outstanding wins in Inter-varsity Waterpolo, Hockey and Basketball – raises our profile and brings huge pride to the Institute, inspiring the next generation of athletes.

And it is not just about the sport and great performances, as equally important is the support and professionalism shown by the superb DIT Sports Coaches and Team Managers and their back room squads as they lead our elite-athletes and sports teams to their respective successes and achievements and bringing home silverware, medals, awards and recognitions in the 2017-18 sporting year.

Our success in sport is the sum of all the parts and an integral part of this equation is the belief, commitment and financial support of Senior Management in DIT to Elite Sport to help create an environment that enables DIT Elite Athletes to realise their full potential. To date 28 academic mentors have been appointed to ‘Champion’ our Elite Athletes in their respective School and College environments. At the moment there are currently more than 150 elite athletes being afforded flexible learning options, utilising our modularised and semesterised systems to their fullest, to balance the demands of their academic workload with the requirements of top-level sport.

On behalf of the wider Sport and Recreation Service Team I would like to acknowledge and thank the tremendous talent and effort of the DIT academic staff members in support of our DIT Elite Athletes achieving both sporting and academic excellence.

And finally, I must mention the very experienced team of service providers that provide a very comprehensive range of athlete-led support services to support our elite athletes to achieve excellence in sport, including; physiotherapy and medical assistance; nutritional and fitness monitoring; sports psychology and strength and conditioning; the latter taking place in our own High Performance Gym, under professional supervision.

Looking forward to what will hopefully be another successful summer of sport for TEAM DIT!

Yours in Sport

Niamh O’Callaghan
DIT Sports Officer
DIT has an enviable and proud track record of success in Elite Sport and its Elite Sport initiatives are designed to strengthen that reputation and support our aspiring and current elite athletes to achieve recognition in their chosen sports at Olympic Games and Paralympics, World Championships, World University Games, European Championships and as intercounty players in all codes of Gaelic Games.

Some of Ireland’s Top Sporting Figures who have been supported or who are currently being supported as elite athletes studying at DIT include:

- **IRISH PARALYMPIC BRONZE MEDALLIST**
  Ellen Keane

- **IRISH OLYMPIC DIVER**
  Oliver Dingley

- **IRISH ALPINE SKIER**
  Cormac Comerford

- **IRISH INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY PLAYER**
  Kate Lloyd

- **IRISH RUGBY 7’S PLAYER**
  Katie Heffernan

- **IRISH INTERNATIONAL RUGBY PLAYER**
  Dave Kearney

- **IRISH INTERNATIONAL RUGBY PLAYER**
  Jordi Murphy

- **ATHLETICS, EUROPEAN CHAMPION 400M**
  David Gillick

- **IRISH OLYMPIC BOXER**
  Darren O’Neill

- **DUBLIN SENIOR FOOTBALLER**
  Kevin McManamon

- **KILKENNY SENIOR CAMOGIE PLAYER**
  Denise Gaule

- **TIPPERARY SENIOR HURLER**
  Kieran Bergin

- **MAYO SENIOR FOOTBALLER**
  Aidan O’Shea

- **IRISH INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY PLAYER**
  Lee Cole

- **DUBLIN SENIOR LADIES FOOTBALLER**
  Sinéad Goldrick
COLLEGE OF ARTS & TOURISM

SUPPORTING 28 ELITE ATHLETES ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF SPORTS AS WELL AS A WIDE RANGE OF ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES

Seven appointed academic mentors to ‘Champion’ elite athletes in an academic environment

SCHOOL OF CULINARY ARTS & FOOD TECHNOLOGY
Frank Jacoby
James Sheridan

SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT & TOURISM
Fiona Faulkner
Colin O’Connor
Zhen Yao

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES, LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
David Williams

SCHOOL OF MEDIA
Hugh McAtamney
Ellen Keane is one of the most engaging sports stars we have in Ireland! Recently she has been selected as the sole Irish participant on the latest Sky Sports Scholarship Programme, following in the footsteps of Katie Taylor, one of the most iconic figures of Irish Sport.

The programme runs for three years, bringing her up to 2020 when she will look to add another Paralympics Swimming Medal to the bronze she won in Rio 2016.

Ellen is currently busy preparing for the 2018 World Para Swimming European Championships which will be hosted in the National Aquatic Centre in the National Sports Campus in Dublin in August. She will compete in two World Series competitions travelling to Indianapolis in April and Sheffield in June in preparation for the Europeans in August.

Over 500 athletes from 40 countries are expected to compete, home favourite and Rio 2016 bronze medallist Ellen Keane is super excited about the Home Europeans. “Gold is the goal any athlete has when they’re competing,” said the 22-year-old. “And I have the opportunity to win it in front of a home crowd. I’m going to take this opportunity and make the most out of it,” she said.

Further ahead, Keane dreams of more Paralympic glory: “At Tokyo 2020 I want to be on the podium more than once,” she said.

Ellen Keane competed with the DIT Swim Team who placed 3rd in the Annual Intervarsity Swimming Championships hosted by UCD.

Sport for Business caught up with Ellen at Sky’s offices in Dublin recently to ask what difference the scholarship programme would make and how she went about securing it...

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Seán Waddilove DIT & IRISH INTERNATIONAL SAILOR

Seán sets his sights on qualifying for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics

Seán, a DIT Elite Athlete and first year International Business and Languages student has been a member of Irish Sailing’s Olympic Development Squad since 2016. A member of Howth Yacht Club and Skerries Sailing Club he has set his sights on representing Ireland at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Seán has competed for Ireland at World and European Championships in the 420 class where he finished a very credible 20th at the World Championships before transitioning into the 49er – Skiff Men, an Olympic class sailing event.

This year Seán will represent Ireland at the European Championships and U23 Junior World Championships in France and hopefully achieve pre-qualification for the 2020 Olympics at the World Championships in Denmark in August. Seán and his sailing partner are the only members of the Irish Olympic Development Squad still eligible to compete at the U23 World Championships.

Rachael Darragh IRISH INTERNATIONAL BADMINTON PLAYER

Rachel Darragh selected to represent Northern Ireland at the 2018 Commonwealth Games

Rachel Darragh, a niece of triple Olympian Chloe Magee, who is often described as ‘the poster girl for Irish badminton’, reached the quarter-finals in the Ladies Singles in Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia, while she was a semi-finalist in the Welsh International and reached the last 16 in the Ladies Doubles at the Scottish Grand Prix and Irish Open.

She also recently competed in the European Team Championships in Russia with the Irish Uber Cup Team.
Kate Lloyd  
**DIT & IRISH INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY PLAYER**

Ireland Women have qualified for the World Cup for the first time since 2002.

Kate, who has been capped 15 times for Ireland, will be immersed in the team’s preparation programme in the run up to the World Cup. This will involve not only the careful balancing of her academic workload with a demanding full-time training schedule but also playing in Single Nation Match Series against Scotland and Great Britain, the reigning Olympic Gold medallists, and a tri-nations tournament in Spain with Belgium.

Qualifying for the World Cup has revitalised Irish Hockey and to be selected to represent Ireland and be in contention for such a prestigious competition will be the highpoint of Kate’s hockey career to date.

Kate played for the DIT Women’s Hockey Team who placed 4th in the Chilean Cup in the Annual Intervarsity Hockey Championships which DIT hosted at Three Rock Hockey Club.

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Alison Twomey  
**DIT & DUBLIN SENIOR CAMOGIE PLAYER**

Ali Twomey Dublin Camogie and AIG poster girl leading the next generation of Dublin camogie players.

DIT ELITE  
Athlete and final year Event Management student Ali Twomey has been a constant feature for the Dublin senior camogie team throughout their League and Championship campaign. 2017 is a year that won’t be forgotten by Ali Twomey or Dublin camogie for many years to come. One of the stories of the summer saw David Herity’s Dublin Camogie side beat the much-fancied Wexford to book their first semi-final spot in 27 years. Unfortunately for the Dublin Camógs they were beaten by the All-Ireland Champions Kilkenny in the Semi-Final.

Not only did Ali star for Dublin but with DIT she was part of the 2017 victorious Purcell Cup Championship winning side and league team who were promoted to the Premier Third Level Championship the Ashbourne Cup this year. The rise of Dublin Camogie is definitely a positive for the College team and Ali enjoyed her college success with fellow Dublin and DIT players Fay McCarthy 3rd year Product Design student and Ellen Mc Govern, 2nd year Nutraceuticals in Health and Nutrition student and Mechanical Engineering student Orla Beagan.
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

SUPPORTING 70 ELITE ATHLETES ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF SPORTS AS WELL AS A WIDE RANGE OF ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES

Seven appointed academic mentors to ‘Champion’ elite athletes in an academic environment

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING & FINANCE
Declan Doran
Helen O’Brien Gately

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
Margaret Farrell

SCHOOL OF MARKETING
Laura Cuddihy
Anthony Buckley

SCHOOL OF RETAIL AND SERVICES MANAGEMENT
Bill Dwan

GRADUATE BUSINESS SCHOOL
Claire Mc Bride
Katie Heffernan  
IRISH WOMEN’S RUGBY 7’S PLAYER

2017 WAS an incredible year for Katie Heffernan, a second year Accounting & Finance student and member of the Irish Women’s Rugby Sevens team. The Irish team competed in the HSBC Sevens World Series across the World (Dubai, Sydney, Las Vegas, Japan, Canada and France) with 12 other countries and finished a magnificent 8th overall to ensure qualification for the 2018 World Series.

However the main highlight of the Irish Team was qualifying for the 2018 Rugby World Cup, following a 2nd place finish in the European Sevens Tournament in Russia. It was a great personal achievement for Katie to be part of the Team’s journey to qualification as she only first made her first World Series debut in Canada in May 2017 but has already cemented herself as one of the key players involved in Ireland’s World Series and the World Cup campaign this year.

Patrick (Bonner) Maher  
DIT AND TIPP SENIOR HURLER

DIT ELITE HURLER and first year Business Management student Patrick Maher made an immediate impact playing with the DIT Senior Hurlers this year. The former All-Star Tipperary hurler who played in last year’s All-Ireland Semi-Final defeat was influential in helping DIT to the Division 1 League Semi Final.

Leading the line from centre forward he helped DIT to victory over University Limerick in the League quarter-final. DIT enjoyed a run to this year’s Fitzgibbon Cup Semi-Finals which was in part driven by the tireless work rate of this Tipperary forward. A constant threat to opposition defences saw DIT defeat WIT and UCD before succumbing to DCU in the Fitzgibbon Semi-Finals. Patrick has continued where he left off with the Tipperary Senior squad and has heavily featured with Michael Ryan’s side during this year’s Division 1 National League Campaign.
Conor Loftus, a postgraduate student studying Strategic Management, has had an eventful year on the pitch to date. In 2016 he was influential from centre forward in guiding Mayo to the 2016 U21 All-Ireland Title. That same year he came on as a sub in the 2016 All-Ireland Senior football final against Dublin. A spate of injuries meant he didn’t return for Mayo until mid-way through the National league in 2017 but his form in the League carried to the Championship.

At the tender age of 21 he helped guide the Mayo Senior team through the qualifiers as they went on the scenic route to the All-Ireland Final in Croke Park. Mayo looked in trouble in the qualifiers against Derry when he came off the bench to score 1-1 to force extra time and eventually see Mayo over the line into the next round. Conor then featured against Roscommon, Kerry and Dublin in the final.

As a DIT GAA player he was involved in the College’s Division 1 League Campaign and the College’s run to the Sigerson Semi-Finals playing at centre forward. He has played in Mayo’s Division 1 League Campaign taking on the free taking duties. If he stays fit it promises to be a busy summer for Conor with Mayo in 2018.

Joe Doyle, DIT & TEAM IRELAND FOOTBALLER

DIT student Joe Doyle was presented with his first-ever International Football Cap

Joe Doyle played with the DIT Men’s Premier Team who won the CFAI Cup!
Sam Curtis | DIT & IRISH
INTERNATIONAL CANOE SLALOM

Sam Curtis prepares for Olympic Qualification in 2019

Conor Turner | DIT WATERPOLO PLAYER & IRISH INTERNATIONAL ICE SWIMMER

The Irish Ice Swimmer who made history

DIT ELITE Swimmer and postgraduate Strategic Management student Conor Turner was a member of the first team to successfully complete a marathon relay from the Isle of Man to the Irish Coast last summer. The 59km crossing from the Isle of Man to Down was his first attempt at channel swimming which took the team over 18 hours to complete and make swimming history.

Having been tapped up by the organisers, Infinity Channel Swimming, to take part, Conor instinctively said ‘yes’ straight away as he had already taken on the challenge of Ice Swimming, having broken free of the formalised bureaucracy of the national swimming programme to become an International Ice Swimmer in 2016. Having already medalled at the World Ice Swimming Championship and Cup events, he has big dreams for the sport as there is hope of the sport getting picked up for the Beijing Winter Olympics in 2022, when he’ll only still be 26 years of age. “The sport has potential to go far, and at the rate it’s growing Beijing is a real possibility,” he says, “That’s what I’ve always wanted to do with my swimming, represent Ireland.”

Conor was a member of the DIT Waterpolo team who won the 2018 Intervarsity Waterpolo Championships!

DIT ELITE Athlete and postgraduate Strategic Management student Sam Curtis is the current Irish National Ranking Champion in Canoe Slalom having retained his titles in both the Irish Senior and U23 categories.

Having narrowly missed out on qualifying for Rio in 2016, Sam will compete in the 2018 ICF World Cup Series with the aim to increase his World Ranking and his eye on a Top 40 overall placing. In addition to the World Cup Series, Sam has set in his sights on semi-final finishes in both the Senior Canoe Slalom European Championships in Prague in June and ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup Final race in Spain in September, building on a 15th place in the second round of the 2017 World Cup, and 14th in the second round of the U23 European Championships.

Sam represented DIT in the Conoeing Intervarsity Championships finishing 2nd in the slalom event but retained his Irish Slalom title racing last week!
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Noel Brady
Eric Bates

SCHOOL OF CIVIL ENGINEERING
Garrett Keane
Henry Mullen

SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL & DESIGN ENGINEERING
William Bergin

SCHOOL OF SURVEYING & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
Lloyd Scott

SCHOOL OF TRANSPORT ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING
Conor Norton

SUPPORTING 43 ELITE ATHLETES ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF SPORTS AS WELL AS A WIDE RANGE OF ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES
Seven appointed academic mentors to ‘Champion’ elite athletes in an academic environment

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & BUILT ENVIRONMENT
Conn McDunphy  DIT & IRISH PROFESSIONAL CYCLIST

Conn McDunphy, reigning U23 National Individual Pursuit Champion has signed for Holdsworth Campagnolo Pro Cycling Team!

2017 was very much a breakthrough season for Conn McDunphy, Irish professional cyclist and second-year mechanical engineering cyclist. The three major highlights of his 2017 season were winning silver at the U23 National Time Trial Championships, signing for professional team Raleigh GAC and becoming U23 National Individual Pursuit Champion. He finished his racing season on a high having won 5 races in total and achieving podium places in many others.

Conn, who has now signed for another professional team Holdsworth Campagnolo pro cycling, is the only rider on the team still in full-time third level education which has been made possible through the support offered to him as a DIT Elite Athlete.

Showing solid form in one of his first races of the season with a 16th place in the 168-kilometre Omloop van het Waasland in Belgium, Conn hopes to continue with his winning form and secure selection for the National U23 Team and represent Team Ireland at a major Championship.

Testimonial:
“All this is only possible because of the academic support that I receive from DIT which allows me to combine my strenuous training and competitive schedule and academic study together”.

Cormac Comerford  DIT & IRISH ALPINE SKIER

After a record season last year with a Top 50 in the World Championships in Slalom, podium finishes on the FIS international circuit and continuous, consistent points scores throughout, Cormac’s Olympic selection was looking positive. To give himself the best chance of selection for the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeong Chang, South Korea he would have to qualify in the top tier qualification, “A standard” (Top 500 in the World).

Having only been able to afford to train with a professional team for one season before this Olympic year he knew it was going to be difficult, but not impossible. However, despite finishing Top 30 in 90% of his races, lowering his points and increasing his world rankings and being the only Olympic hopeful based/living in Ireland, he narrowly missed out on selection. Ireland was only given a quota of 1 male alpine skier and Patrick McMillan, who competes in the speed events, was selected to represent Team Ireland instead.

Although bitterly disappointed at not making qualification of the 2018 Winter Olympics, Cormac has set his sights on aiming for a Top 30 place at the World Championships and securing selection to represent Team Ireland and DIT at the World University Games in Russia in 2019. Cormac is also working towards breaking into the Europa Cup and World Cup circuits!
DIT ELITE Athlete and second year Engineering student Niall Beggan was a member of the Irish U23 Lightweight Men’s rowing team who claimed a bronze medal at the World U23 Rowing Championships in the Lightweight Quad event in Bulgaria.

Having set a new Irish record at the Cork City Regatta rowing the 2km race in a time of 5 minutes and 56 seconds, the team managed to break their Irish record by 8 seconds to become the fastest an Irish quad has ever rowed internationally. Niall also raced in the double at the Cork Regatta with his team-mate Andrew Goff (UCD) placing 2nd with a new PB and finishing only 2.1 seconds behind Olympic silver medallist rowing ‘legends’ Paul and Gary O’Donovan. The pair, in that very same race, beat Mark O’Donovan and Shane O’Driscoll by a huge margin of 10.37 seconds, with the latter duo going on to win the World Championships Men’s Lightweight pairs title!

This season Niall is working hard towards gaining selection for the Irish U23 Team again and achieve a podium place at the Worlds in Poland in July. Hopefully the Irish Lightweight Quads can bring home a medal of a different colour this time and improve on their magnificent bronze medal performance last year!

Sean Ryan INTERNATIONAL ELITE KICKBOXER

DIT ELITE Athlete and first year Automation Engineering student Sean Ryan had the biggest win of his career, winning the largest competition in kickboxing; the Irish Open World Cup in 2017. Securing his place on the Irish Team for the 5th year in a row he narrowly missed out on a podium place at the WAKO European Championships in Macedonia but succeeded to win the 63kg and the Men’s Overall Grand Championship at the WOMAA World Championships.

Starting off 2018 with a win in the New Year’s Open, he recently won bronze at the Irish Open World Cup Kickboxing Series. Sean is well on target to securing his place with the Irish Team to fight at the WAKO European Championships in Slovenia after winning the first round of the National Championships.

BONUS 1

Niall Beggan DIT AND IRISH INTERNATIONAL ROWER
Ronan Shanahan, a student studying Electrical Services Energy Management, played a key part of the Kerry Senior Side that lifted the Division 1 league Title in 2017. A real leader he captained the College Team and was heavily influential in DIT’s run in the Division 1 League and subsequent run to the Sigerson Semi-Finals. He led from the back line and picked up the marquee forward of every other opposition team which led the Team to their best performance since winning the Cup in 2013. An ever present part of the Kerry Senior Team in the 2018 National League, Ronan will be hoping to continue his form in the Sigerson Cup and the Division 1 National League into the business end of the Championship and the much anticipated Super 8’s this summer.
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES & HEALTH

SUPPORTING 24 ELITE ATHLETES ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF SPORTS AS WELL AS A WIDE RANGE OF ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES

Six appointed academic mentors to ‘Champion’ elite athletes in an academic environment

SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Fergus Ryan
Greg Byrne

SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL & PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
John Treacy

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING
Paul Bourke

SCHOOL OF FOOD SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Denis O’Shea

SCHOOL OF PHYSICS
Robert Howard
A member of Shelbourne Women’s National League team who won the League, FAI Cup and League Cup in 2016 and who hope to emulate this hat-trick again in 2018.

Having represented Ireland internationally at U17 level and now at U19 level, Kate scored in the qualifying round of UEFA Women’s U19 European Championships against Latvia in Holland which helped Ireland secure qualification and home advantage for the UEFA Elite Round which will be hosted by Ireland in April. The Team will face stiff opposition and will play Spain, Austria and Turkey in a bid to qualify for the final stages of the UEFA European Championships in Switzerland. Kick-off times and venues are yet to be confirmed but judging on Kate’s current goal scoring form she will play a key role to help ensure that Ireland qualify for the final stages of the competition.

Represented DIT and Won Gold at the Intervarsity Championships this year

DIT ELITE Archer and second year Computer Science student Daniel Foley competes nationally and internationally for Ireland as an elite junior compound archer. Having represented Ireland 4 times in outdoor Championships both World and European level and 3 times on the indoor stage, he has numerous Irish titles including Senior Outdoor Champion and 11 Irish records to his name. Most recently in January 2018 he shot 3 Irish records at the Indoor World Cup beating his previous head to head record with a 147/150 score. Despite scoring the third highest score in the competition he was unfortunately defeated with a 148/150 score by the eventual competition winner.

Daniel has set his sights on achieving Top 10 placings at both the European Youth Championships in Greece in June and at the World Field Championships in Italy in September. This will be his final year to compete and represent Ireland at an International level as a Junior Elite Archer before progressing to senior level.

Kate Mooney DIT AND IRISH INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALLER

Athlete and first year Biomedical and Molecular student Kate Mooney is a member of Shelbourne Women’s National League team who won the League, FAI Cup and League Cup in 2016 and who hope to emulate this hat-trick again in 2018.

2017/18 UEFA Women’s Under-19 European Championships - Elite Round

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Republic of Ireland v Austria</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>Spain v Republic of Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Turkey v Republic of Ireland</td>
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Sally Campbell

DIT AND IRISH U21 HOCKEY PLAYER

DIT ELITE Athlete and second year Human Nutrition and Dietetics student Sally Campbell won the EY Irish Hockey League with UCD last year and helped DIT secure a place in the 2017 Intervarsity ‘A’ competition.

Sally is currently her team’s top goal scorer in the EY Irish Hockey League having made the decision to transfer to Trinity hockey club for the 2017-18 season. As a current Irish U21 player she will represent Ireland in a number of matches over the coming months Ireland vs. USA over Easter, Ireland vs. England and Wales during June and a 6 Nations tournament in Antwerp in July. Sally is hoping to play a prominent role with the Irish Team in these games with the hope of being selected to play for the Irish Senior Women’s panel for next season’s cycle.

Sally played for the DIT Women’s Hockey Team who placed 4th in the Chilean Cup in the Annual Intervarsity Hockey Championships which DIT hosted at Three Rock Hockey Club

Andrew McGowan

DIT AND DUBLIN SENIOR FOOTBALLER

DIT ELITE Gaelic Footballer and second year Computer Science student Andrew McGowan, made his competitive debut in the 2018 Allianz National Gaelic Football League with All-Ireland Senior Football Champions Dublin. Andy, a member of the DIT Fresher Football team last academic year, was part of the Dublin U21 side which won the 2017 Leinster and All-Ireland Championship.

Following a strong showing for his college DIT in the Division 1 Ryan Cup he received a call up to the Dublin O’Byrne Cup squad. His performances for DIT in the Sigerson Cup saw this versatile defender play a starring role in the colleges run to the Semi Finals. This didn’t go unnoticed. In the later stages of the National League game against Kerry, Andy came on at wing back, while he also featured against Galway a week later.

Breaking into a back line which contains multiple All-Ireland winners and All-Stars is no mean achievement. Andy and Dublin are now looking forward to a Division One league final against Galway. This will all build up to Leinster and All-Ireland championship over the summer where the Dubs are seeking to retain their All-Ireland title and are going for a historic four in a row!
DIT SPORTS TEAMS

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DIT Drive to Sigerson finals

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DIT Ladies Football bow out of Lynch Cup in semi-final stage

DIT HURLING
DIT Hurling enjoyed best competitive spell in 10 years

DIT SOCCER
DIT win the Rustlers Colleges Football Association of Ireland (CFAI) Cup

DIT RUGBY
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DIT Waterpolo do the double in the Annual Intervarsity Championships

DIT HOCKEY
DIT Hockey win Outdoor Mixed Cup & Plate and Indoor Cup
The DIT Senior Football team progressed to the Sigerson Cup Semi Finals this year. The Club’s first Sigerson game on the new pitch in Grangegorman was christened with a victory against a strongly defensive IT Carlow side. DIT were in the driving seat at half time but IT Carlow clawed their way back to make it a two point game. However Mayo Forward Conor Loftus struck for goal mid-way through the second half and DIT never looked back. DIT outscored their opponents by 0-6 to 0-1 down the stretch, as DIT and Westmeath’s Shane Dempsey lofted over a couple of excellent scores to see his team home.

This win was rewarded with a long coach ride to take on IT Tralee in the quarter finals in Austin Stack Park. A large home support gathered for what was dubbed the biggest college game in Tralee in ten years. IT Tralee had beaten a fancied Queen’s team in Belfast in the previous round. However a two-goal salvo before half-time from DIT and Cavan’s Enda Flanagan put DIT in a commanding position. IT Tralee lost Kerry centre back Gavin Crowley at half time which helped cement their faith. DIT manager Billy O Loughlin afterwards was full of praise for the lads work rate off the ball.

Much to-ing and fro-ing on venues followed after the Semi Final. However St Loman’s GAA pitch in Mullingar was settled on to host the Sigerson Semi Final against NUIG. NUIG started the contest brighter with their hard running game. DIT though reeled off four points in a row to tie up the game heading into the last quarter. Unfortunately a kick-out fell to NUIG sharpshooter Damien Comer who shipped the ball to Eoin Finnerty for a goal against the run of play. DIT and Cavan’s Caomhin O’Reilly was unlucky for a late penalty call and NUIG managed to weather the DIT storm in the closing stages when two 45’s were lofted into the square. It brought an end to an exciting year and a solid DIT team which developed and gives hope to try and go one step further next season.
DIT LADIES FOOTBALL

DIT Ladies Football bow out of Lynch Cup in semi-final stage

DIT SENIOR Ladies Football team had a tough but enjoyable year. There were large numbers all year with circa thirty plus players at some training sessions which is a credit to the effort the management team put in. DIT School of Accounting & Finance lecturer Sean O’Reilly manages the squad with Louise Leonard (St. Brigids Roscommon) alongside High Performance Boxing Coach and former GAA Games Promotion Manager, Geraldine McTavish along with Denis Doolan from Rhode Offaly. The team were very unfortunate with injuries with two of their main players Dublin Seniors Amy Connolly and Emma McDonagh, being ruled out all year with injury worries. Despite this the squad picked up wins throughout the League going out to eventual winners University Ulster Jordanstown.

The Lynch Cup was to prove the same. With a huge defeat to a star studded UUJ team in the opening round, this forced DIT through the backdoor. Victories over UCC (2), CIT, UCD (2) set up a semi-final showdown with IT Sligo. A series of missed chances in the first half proved costly and IT Sligo came back from three points down to close out the contest with two well taken goals. Despite this there is cause for optimism for the future. Dublin Senior Footballer Aoife Kane shone brightly throughout the year, as did captain Emer Heaney from Longford and Ciara McGuigan Dublin and Sarah Nulty Cavan.
DIT Hurling enjoyed best competitive spell in 10 years

DIT SENIOR Hurling Team enjoyed its best run through the League and Fitzgibbon Cup for ten years. The Team reached the last four of the Division 1 Ryan Cup league and also the semi-finals of the Fitzgibbon Cup largely due to a rebuilding and strengthening of the panel that was undertaken ahead of the season. Tipperary’s Patrick Bonner Maher and Justin Cahill, Dublin’s Fiontán McGibb, Westmeath duo Niall Mitchell and Niall O’Brien came into the squad. They supplemented the fresher’s coming through, Dublin U21’s Johnny Mc Guirk, Conor Ryan, Luke Kelly and Eoghan Dunne. A returning trio of injured players who were missing for most of the previous year returned. This included former Dublin U21’s Sean McClelland and Cian Hendricken together with Kilkenny Senior Liam Blanchfield which bolstered the squad.

Under the guidance of Derek Brennan, Paudie O Neill and Brendan McLoughlin, they recorded wins in the Division 1 League over GMIT, Maynooth and UCD before setting up a group topping last game against DCU. Unfortunately the team lost by two points in the end although had a late penalty call turned down which could have changed the result. This meant they were now second in the Group and a daunting away quarter final in Limerick against a star studded UL. DIT played some of their best hurling that night with Patrick Maher and Niall O’Brien in sparkling form, DIT went on to win by six points. This brought DIT to Grangegorman for a Division 1 League Semi Final v IT Carlow. This match didn’t go our way and Carlow shaded the opening exchanges. It was compounded by the loss of team captain and full back Tommy Doyle through concussion early on and Carlow ran out six point winners.

The squad looked to improve on their League form for the Fitzgibbon Cup. An opening round group clash pitched the team against UL. Due to bad weather the game was moved to UL’s 3G pitch, while DIT were missing four of their regular starters through injury. The element of surprise from the league was gone and UL, in a high scoring affair ran out comfortable winners by nine points 3-29 to 4-17. DIT then faced into essentially a knockout game against WIT. After a slow start being three points down at half time, DIT upped their intensity in second half. Goals from Liam Blanchfield and resolute defending from Luke Kelly saw DIT defeat Waterford IT 3-19 to 1-19. This set-up a quarter-final derby against UCD in Belfield. Again a slow start from DIT was followed by a much improved second half. Both teams traded scores and were level on numerous occasions. However a side-line cut from Conor Ryan that went over together with a Niall O’Brien free sealed the win for DIT 0-19 to 0-17. This led the team to the Fitzgibbon Semi Final v DCU in Parnell Park. Unfortunately the team found it very hard to get to the pitch of the game. DIT stayed in touch at half time, but in the opening quarter of the second half were overrun and DCU won comfortably 1-12 to 2-20. Despite this disappointing end to the season it was a very memorable and enjoyable year for the Club and helped put DIT Senior Hurling back on the college map.
DIT MEN’S Soccer team re-claimed the Colleges Football Association of Ireland (CFAI) Russlers Perpetual Cup for the first time since 2011 and for the 13th time in their history with a 1-0 win against Athlone IT in Eamonn Deacy Park, Galway in March.

Commenting on the news, Gavin Fleming, Manager of the DIT side said it was a well-deserved win. “I am delighted for the lads; they are a great team that works well together and have been an absolute pleasure to train all year.”

DIT: Lee Steacy, Adam Harney (Ryan Kavanagh 68’), Michael Lynch, Jake O’Connor, Jamie Broderick, Adam Zayed, Rob Duggan (Gareth Craven 77’), Aaron Robinson, Joe Doyle, Darragh Noone (Peter Walsh 89’), Jordi Ebanda (Evander Chatara 85’)

RUSTLERS CFAI Man of the Match: Darragh Noone (DIT) who especially influenced the game in the 2nd half.

The A team are still a very young side comprising mainly of first and second year students, who should be capable of going on and developing as a team over the next few years. One of the new recruits never got to play for the team this year due to injury but signed for Brighton in January and we wish him well. Joe Doyle represented DIT with distinction as he played for Ireland at The World University Games in Taipei in August.

The B and C teams went through a rebuilding phase this season as some players moved up and some left the college.

The B team reached the semi-final against NCI but were beaten 3 – 1 in a highly competitive game.

The C team lost out in the quarter-finals of the Shield Competition to IADT Dun Laoghaire.

The DIT Futsal team won the regional heats in IT Blanchardstown and went on to win the National Finals in Waterford IT for the first time. They are two games away from representing Ireland in the European Futsal finals.

Highlights of the Athlone IT v DIT CFAI Cup Final was featured on Eir Sport 6 times, got 10,000 views on FAI Facebook and Website media and got coverage in most National Newspapers and on Radio!
DIT MÉN’S Rugby Team reached the final stages of Student Sport Ireland’s Brendan Johnson Cup Division 1 competition but unfortunately came up short in the semi-final stages to Carlow IT in a fiercely competitive game on home ground at DIT Grangegorman Campus. However, as most of the DIT players will be back next year to play for the Team, it gives hope to try and go one step further next season and bring the Cup home!

DIT STUDENTS SELECTED TO PLAY FOR IRISH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TEAM

Two of our elite rugby players, Fergal Cleary and James Bollard, were selected to represent DIT on the Irish Students Rugby Team who produced a powerful performance to see off a hard-working Scotland Students side, winning 33-17 at the University of Edinburgh. Congratulations to both players who play top Irish AIL Division level but especially to Fergal Cleary who scored the final try of the game!

There was a special feature on the Ireland Students on ‘Against The Head’ programme on RTÉ Two, including footage from their five-try victory in Edinburgh. DIT Rugby Player Fergal Cleary’s try is shown in the 2 minute clip from the 36th minute mark to the 38 minute of the programme.
DIT WATERPOLO

DIT Waterpolo do the double in the Annual Intervarsity Championships

DIT WATERPOLO did the double and were crowned Intervarsity Champions after its men’s and women’s teams beat Queen’s Belfast and Trinity respectively at their annual Intervarsities. DIT actually hosted the tournament in Trinity - the women won their match comprehensively but the men only won by a goal in the dying seconds which made for a very nail-biting finish.

Three DIT waterpolo players have also been selected to represent the Irish Universities Women’s Waterpolo Team who will travel to Edinburgh to play in the Waterpolo Celtic Nations Tournament in April. On behalf of the Sports team we would like to wish Niamh O’Meara, Hannah McMenamin and Csenge Deak the very best of luck!
THE DIT HOCKEY CLUB has had a hugely successful competitive season to date fulfilling more than 32 fixtures in Men’s, Women’s and Mixed Hockey Tournaments. The Club kicked off the season hosting the prestigious Annual IUCHA Intervarsity Tournament in Three Rock Rovers with the men’s and women’s teams placing 3rd and 4th respectively in the Premier Division of the Competition. In the second half of the season the Club went on to win both the IUCHA Outdoor Mixed Cup and Plate and Indoor Mixed Cup Competitions; the North Dublin Mixed Cup and placing a very competitive 2nd in the Connaught Indoors.

Five hockey players from DIT have also been chosen to represent the Irish Universities Men’s and Women’s Hockey Team who will travel to Scotland to play the Scottish Universities Team in early April. On behalf of the Sports team we would like to wish Jack Ryan, Herbert Fowler Hudson, Sally Campbell, Alannah Carragher and Laura Hanlon the very best of luck!