

# How does Ireland spread its culture around the world through sport?



## Hurling, a traditional sport

Hurling is a traditional Irish sport that has been played for centuries in Ireland. It is a ball game where two teams of 15 players play against each other on a rectangular pitch with H-shaped goals at each end.

The aim of the game is to score points by sending the ball (called sliotar) over the crossbar and between the goalposts, or to score goals by sending the ball under the crossbar and between the goalposts.

Players use curved, pear-shaped sticks called hurleys to hit the ball. Players can also use their hands to pick up the ball and pass it to teammates or bounce it on the ground and catch it with their hurley.

Hurling is considered one of the fastest sports in the world, with players able to throw the ball at speeds of up to 150 km/h. It is also known to be a physical sport, with contact allowed between players and tackling allowed to recover the ball.

Hurling is a very popular sport in Ireland and is considered one of the country's national sports. It is governed by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), which also organises competitions for other traditional Irish sports such as Gaelic football.

## RUGBY: THE SHAMROCKS WINS THE 6 NATIONS TOURNAMENT

Ireland completed the Grand Slam in the 2023 6 Nations Tournament by beating England in Dublin (29-16). France, the defending champions, finished second.

Ireland won its 23rd Six Nations Tournament during this 2023 edition, crowned with 5 victories and 0 defeat, thus achieving their 4th Grand Slam in their history... Ireland thus advances as one of the favourite nations for the upcoming World Cup which will take place in France at the end of the year, the 15 of the clover remains on a series of 11 consecutive victories!



The Ireland team lifting the 6 Nations trophy at the 2023 edition, with their coach and captain Jonathan Sexton





## Roy Keane, the story of the Red Devils' legend

### BIOGRAPHY OF « KEANO »

Roy Keane, born August 10, 1971 in Cork, was an Irish international footballer turned coach. As a player, he played as a defensive midfielder.

Roy Keane was born in Cork and started out with the local club, Rockmount FC. At the age of eighteen, he was spotted by Nottingham Forest. The midfielder quickly established himself as a starter for the red and white. After three seasons at the club, he joined Manchester United and spent most of his career there under Alex Ferguson.

With the Red Devils, Keane was successful at home, winning seven Premier Leagues, four FA Cups and five Community Shields. The dominance of the club in the country is concretized at the European level by the success in the Champions League 1998-1999. After 12 years of good and loyal service Keane ended his soccer career at Celtic Glasgow, the other club of his heart. He started in Glasgow in January 2006, and scored one goal in thirteen games.

While playing for Celtic, he won the Scottish league title and the Scottish League Cup. Roy Keane will unfortunately remain known for a sad story after having committed a violent tackle against an opponent during a derby between United and City in April 2001. The victim was a certain Alf-Inge Haaland.

Roy Keane ended his playing career in 2006, and moved on to a coaching position. Sunderland chose to hire the midfielder, while the club was playing in the Championship, and the Irish coach allowed his team to climb back into the Premier League in his first season.

## France vs Ireland, an emblematic football opposition

### A FEW CENTIMETRES AWAY FROM A DRAW

The Aviva stadium in Dublin hosted on 27th March the confrontation between Ireland and France in the framework of the qualification for the European Cup 2024, this match ended in a 1-0 victory for the French team with a splendid goal from Benjamin Pavard, and will be marked by a miraculous save from Mike Maignan in the 90th minute which crucified any Irish hope to come back to the score.

This context of a qualification match between France and Ireland seems quite familiar, indeed this qualification match had also taken place on November 18th 2009 for the qualification to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

This match was marked by the infamous "hand of shame" of Thierry Henry who delivered an assist to his teammate Williams Gallas who qualified the French team at the end of this match.



*Mike Maignan's liberating save in the 90th minute on Nathan Collins' header*

## Rory McIlroy, an Irishman king of European golf!



### RORY MCLLOY

Rory McIlroy is a Northern Irish professional golfer born on 4 May 1989 in Holywood, Northern Ireland. He is considered one of the best golfers of his generation and has won numerous major titles throughout his career.

McIlroy began playing golf at a young age, following in the footsteps of his father, who was also an avid player. At the age of seven he won his first golf tournament and at 15 he became the youngest player to win the Irish Amateur Championship.

In 2007, McIlroy began his professional career and won his first professional tournament in 2009 at the Dubai Open. In 2011, he won his first major title at the US Open, breaking the course record at -16.

McIlroy has continued to enjoy success throughout his career, winning several major titles including the PGA Championship, British Open and Players Championship. In 2012, he won a silver medal at the London Summer Olympics, representing Ireland.

Off the golf course, McIlroy is known for his charity work. He has set up his own foundation, the Rory Foundation, which supports disadvantaged children around the world. He was also named a global ambassador for UNICEF in 2015.

McIlroy continues to be a dominant golfer and is widely regarded as one of the best golfers of all time. His outstanding career has earned him a place in the World Golf Hall of Fame.

