

Caitriona Mc Keag 1990 - 2007



Just nine months after Marie Hoye's death and with Clann Eireann still openly hurting, tragedy again befell our ladies football family. In March 2007, Caitriona McKeag, 16 years old and a hugely promising talent was sadly and very suddenly taken from us, a victim of meningitis. Caitriona was a beautiful outgoing girl and her death at such a young age left us in disbelief. Her family's grief was and remains unimaginable and her absence is still keenly felt among her Clann Eireann team mates.

Caitriona's talent became obvious to Marie at an early age, and she watched with pride as Caitriona developed her sporting and personal skills. So it is particularly fitting that a cup bearing her name forms part of the Marie Hoye tournament. This will be presented to the shield winners of the competition.

Caitriona was actively involved in many sports, principally Gaelic football and volleyball, representing Armagh at football and Northern Ireland at volleyball. At the time of her death, she was preparing for her GCSE's at St. Marys High School in Lurgan where she was a very popular and much loved pupil. In this environment too, she was immersed in sport and represented the school in Gaelic football, netball, volleyball and athletics. Not surprisingly her aspirational career was that of a PE Teacher. That she would have achieved that goal is not a matter for debate. St. Mary's Principal Mrs. Mc Nally described Caitriona as 'a gifted athlete who excelled in many sports'

Though clearly versatile, her first love was Gaelic football. Caitriona played with Clann Eireann through the underage levels and at the time of her death she was playing under 16, minor, and had been recently introduced onto the senior panel. Such was her talents, totally committed on the pitch, she never fell below 100% and great was her pride in captaining the Armagh U16 ladies football team.

Caitriona loved her family; she loved her friends; she loved her club. She possessed a near permanent smile and was the life and soul wherever she went. We may often wonder what she could have given us. Sadly, we will never know, but we are very grateful for what she did contribute in her far too short time. It seems Marie needed assistance in heaven, and in Caitriona McKeag she will get all the help she needs.