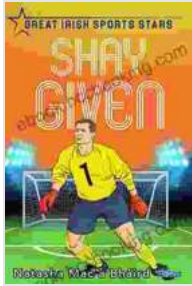


# Shay Given: The Unwavering Irish Goalkeeper



## Shay Given: Great Irish Sports Stars by Natasha Mac a'Bháird

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 599 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 176 pages



In the pantheon of Irish sporting legends, Shay Given stands tall as one of its most illustrious figures. As a goalkeeper, he scaled unparalleled heights, leaving an indelible mark on the world of football.

Born in Lifford, County Donegal, on April 20, 1976, Given's journey to the top began at a tender age. Inspired by his older brother, he immersed himself in the art of goalkeeping, honing his skills on the rugged fields of his hometown.

Given's exceptional talent caught the attention of Celtic, who signed him as a teenager in 1993. It was during his time in Scotland that he truly blossomed, establishing himself as one of the most promising young goalkeepers in Europe.

## Aston Villa: The Rise of a Star

In 1994, Given made a pivotal move to Aston Villa, where he would spend the next 12 years. Under the tutelage of legendary manager John Gregory, Given matured into a world-class goalkeeper.

During his spell at Villa, Given played an instrumental role in the club's League Cup triumph in 1996. His heroic performance in the penalty shootout against Leeds United cemented his status as a penalty-saving specialist.

Given's consistency and unwavering dedication earned him international recognition. He made his debut for the Republic of Ireland in 1996 and quickly became an integral part of the team, representing his country at three European Championships and two World Cups.

### **Newcastle United: Champions League Glory**

In 2009, Given joined Newcastle United, where he spent the twilight of his career. Despite being in the latter stages of his playing days, Given remained a formidable presence in the Premier League.

The highlight of Given's time at Newcastle came in the 2009/10 season, when the team reached the quarter-finals of the Champions League. Given's exceptional performances between the posts played a crucial role in their memorable European run.

### **Legacy: A Symbol of Irish Excellence**

Shay Given retired from professional football in 2017, leaving a lasting legacy as one of the greatest goalkeepers Ireland has ever produced. Throughout his career, he played over 500 games for his country and over 800 games at club level.

Given's achievements have been recognized with numerous awards and accolades. He was named the PFAI Player of the Year in 1998 and 2006, and was inducted into the FAI Hall of Fame in 2016.

Beyond his on-field accomplishments, Given is also remembered for his impeccable character and unwavering work ethic. He served as a mentor and role model for aspiring goalkeepers, inspiring countless young players to pursue their dreams.

Shay Given's journey from humble beginnings to the pinnacle of footballing success is a testament to his unrelenting determination, exceptional skill, and unwavering passion for the game. His legacy as a legendary goalkeeper and an Irish sporting icon will endure for generations to come.

For a comprehensive account of Shay Given's extraordinary career, be sure to delve into the captivating pages of his autobiography, "Shay Given: Great Irish Sports Stars." This insightful memoir offers a firsthand glimpse into the life and times of one of the most celebrated goalkeepers in the history of Irish football.



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