

# John Duggan

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**John Duggan started playing handball in Ireland at the Ennis, Co. Clare, CBS Courts in the late 1970's. The handball team was coached by Caiman Jones who provided a special emphasis on physical fitness. This focus quickly paid off, resulting in numerous all-Ireland Championships at the under-14, under-16, minor and junior levels.**

In 1985 John was Captain of the Irish Handball Team and won the under 19 USHA Championship in Cincinnati to become the first Irish player to win the title. The victory was followed shortly after with the USHA under 23 Championship. This event was held in Tucson, Arizona. In the finals Duggan beat eventual National Hall of Famer John Bike, 21-7, 21-9.

As a result of his success, John, as a 17 year old Ennis student, became the first player from the ranks of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) to be awarded the Cospoir college scholarship. Having successfully completed a four year Civil Engineering degree at University College Galway, while winning multiple collegiate singles and team titles, John moved to

New York and became an Athletic Member of the New York Athletic Club.

John enjoyed tremendous success in the New York area, winning numerous tournaments, including the NYAC Invitational, the Long Island Open, the Big Apple Tournament, the Eastern Regionals, and many more.

In doubles John teamed with Paul Calvin, Freddy Munsch, Gerard Pagello and To Kessler for many tournament successes.

At this writing John is Chairman of Handball at the New York Athletic Club where he also serves on the Athletic Committee.