

# Tommy Eglington - The Flying Winger of the Fifties



By Rob Sawyer

**T**ommy Eglington, the dual Irish international left-winger, gave unstinting service to the Blues' cause during some of the club's darkest days.

He was signed by Theo Kelly from Shamrock Rovers for £10,000 in August 1946 with Peter Farrell making the same move. May Cunningham, a director of Shamrock Rovers, told the Liverpool Evening Express: 'You will find Peter and Tommy charming fellows and grand players.'

Sailing into Liverpool, however, Tommy had second thoughts: 'I wondered if I was doing the right thing, but smiles and handshakes from two people lifted my spirits.' Those people on the quayside were Theo Kelly and club captain, Norman Greenhalgh.

Tommy debuted at Goodison on 11 September 1946 in a 3-2 victory over Arsenal. He'd be joined in the team two months later by Farrell, after the latter had recovered from injury. From then on, for a decade, they rarely lost their places in the side.

Tommy's style of play was relatively straightforward: a blistering turn of pace to leave right-backs trailing, followed by accurate crosses onto the head of the centre-forward. He was also willing to let fly with his left foot and scored 82 goals in 428 appearances.

● Tommy honed his golf skills after retiring from football



● Tommy was a central figure for Everton in the 1950s

Amazingly for two Shamrock boys, Eglington and Farrell (453) are both in the Everton all-time top twelve appearance-makers list.

Tommy's greatest feat in a royal blue shirt occurred in September 1952 when he scored five goals in a 7-1 rout of Doncaster Rovers. Ranger, in the Liverpool Echo, wrote: 'Eglington has written his name in football annals in a manner that dozens of outstanding wingers of former days never achieved.'

He eventually followed Farrell to Tranmere Rovers in 1957 where he enjoyed four seasons before rounding off his playing career on home soil with Cork Hibernians.

Having hung up his boots in 1963 he focussed on the family butchers business in Clontarf. He also honed his golfing skills at St Anne's club - captaining it in 1970. Tommy remained an Evertonian - a copy of the Monday edition of the Liverpool Echo was posted to him every week. His family were always amazed at how he was still recognised on visits to Goodison more than a quarter of a century after he'd left the club.

Tommy passed away in 2004, aged 81 and seven years later a display in his honour was unveiled at the FAI head office in Dublin.

Tommy's children, Paula and Ben, and his granddaughter, Sarah, and great-grandson, Kyle, will be cheering on the Blues at Goodison today.