



Akron Celtic Guards Newsletter



IN THE KNOW

All About Camogie

Did you know Camogie is nearly identical to hurling, except it's played by women? While the rules are mostly the same between the two, there are a few differences. In camogie, players can score hand passed goals, which is illegal in hurling. Players are also allowed to drop their hurl in order to do this. Additionally, hurling is administrated by the GAA, whereas camogie is not governed by the same body; It is run by the Camogie Association based out of Dublin.

The term camogie is derived from the name of the stick used in the game. Men play hurling using a curved stick called a camán in Irish, whereas women in the early camogie games used a shorter stick described by the diminutive form camóg. The suffix -aíocht was added to both words to give names for the sports: camánaíocht and camógaíocht. It was later anglicized to what we know today: Hurling and Camogie.



Did you know our Akron Camogie players register with Na Laochra, which is Pittsburgh's camogie team? Na Laochra was formed in 2021 and represented the Midwest Division at the USGAA Finals in 2022 and 2023. At the USGAA Finals in 2023 in Denver, Colorado, Na Laochra won the semi-final against the Denver Gaels and went on to defeat Cleveland in the finals to become the 2023 Junior B National Champions. In 2024, Na Laochra will compete as a Junior A team. Keep up the stellar work, ladies!

Photo Credit/Thanks to Coleen Taylor and Wicked Shamrock Photography





PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

Coleen Taylor



Age: 37 || Years Played: 14 || Position: Full or Half Forward

What got you into hurling?

I did a study-abroad in Ireland when I was 17 and part of our studies included Irish sports. They brought in players from Kilkenny's teams to teach us hurling and Gaelic football. I fell in love with the sport and bought a hurley and sliotar that week and shipped them home. Once I settled in the area after college, my Dad told me there was a hurling team in Akron so I decided to try it!

What do you like most about the sport?

I love the uniqueness of the sport and the camaraderie that I have found among the other players. My ancestors were well-known players in Co. Tipperary in the late 1800s so it really makes me feel connected to my past relatives and their Irish legacy.

What would you like to see the team achieve this year?

I would love to see the team grow in numbers and make it to finals.

Favorites:

Season: Autumn

Movie: The Princess Bride

Animal: Red Pandas

Concert: The Beach Boys or
Green Day's American Idiot tour

On the Look-Out

From the Boards:

- Ireland Raffle Tickets are on sale for \$10 a ticket. Hit up your local hurler, camogie, or youth player to purchase a ticket. Purchases also enters you for a raffle basket drawing!
- February 25 - The Akron Celtic Guards Chili Cook-off will be taking place! To enter, email Keith at registrar.akronhurling@gmail.com
- April 12 - Irish Heritage Night at the Cavaliers Game. Email Coleen at akronhurling@gmail.com by March 17 if you plan to attend.

February Birthdays:

- Ian Harris - February 24
- Coleen Taylor - February 28

Team Volunteering Opportunities:

- February 1 at 6 PM - Weekly Drawing Dinner Service at the AOH.
- February 25 at 1 PM - Chili Cook-off servers.

AOH Events:

- Thursday Night Dinner Drawing at 7 PM
- February 3 at 5:30 PM - Irish Whiskey Tasting (pre-sold ticketed event)





Your Hurling Season

Team Dues:

- Player and Social Dues need to be paid by March 31, at latest. Cash, Check, Venmo, or PayPal are all accepted.

Winter Indoor Practice - Saturdays:

- Youth - Start 8:15 AM
- Adults - Start 8:45 AM

Location:

Akron Indoor Soccer
73 W Rosewood Ave, Akron, OH 44301

Upcoming Tournaments:

- Feb. 17 - Rochester Box Hurling Invitational

Upcoming Games:

- Hurling and Camogie season typically begins in June.

Last Month Recap

The first month of indoor hurling practice has concluded and we were excited to welcome some new faces that expressed interest in checking our youth program, as well as our adult hurling and camogie team.

Looking forward to a great season!



Monthly Skill to Practice: Roll Lifting

The Roll Lift is used to raise the sliotar from the ground into the hand, generally used when the player is stationary. It can also be used to raise the sliotar to strike without taking the sliotar into the hand.

How do I practice this?

Place your non-dominant foot beside the sliotar. Bend the hips and knees bringing the head of the hurley over the ball. The toe of the hurley should be pointed away from the body, while your thumbs point towards the ball.

Roll the sliotar towards the body and slide the toe of the Hurley underneath to lift the sliotar. Release the non-dominant hand from the Hurley in a cupped position and allow the ball to fall into it.

Common mistakes to avoid:

Holding the Hurley with the toe facing inwards, as well as holding the Hurley at too great of an angle.

Did You Know?

The Camogie Association was founded in 1904, making it one of the oldest women's sports organizations in the world.

Did you also know that the Akron Celtic Guards crest is represented on the newly updated Club Wall at Croke Park in Ireland!





SPONSOR SHOUTOUT

Ancient Order of Hibernians



The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) is the Irish Voice of America promoting Irish Culture and Catholic Faith in all its endeavors. From Charitable projects, supporting Catholic Initiatives, to Irish Cultural activities such as Irish Step Dancing, Hurling, and Music, the AOH's mission is to promote Catholic Faith, Irish Heritage, and Christian Charity.

Without the AOH, the Akron Celtic Guards would not be the organization it is today. Their unwavering support the last 20 years has been deeply appreciated as we continue our partnership!

Thank you Sponsors



Want to join or support?



Interested in becoming a hurler/camogie player or a team sponsor?

Checkout our website on where to join by scanning the QR code!

Team Merchandise

Interested in purchasing team merchandise?

Checkout the OH'Irish Akron Celtic Guards page by scanning the QR code!

