

## PEOPLE

**FROM** WRITING FOR THE TUAM HERALD AGED 13 TO A PRIMETIME TV SPORT'S SHOW

# Milltown's Murph knows his stuff

- Ciarán loves sport, whether in print, online or on TV



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**A** CAREER in sports journalism was always in the pipeline for Milltown native Ciarán Murph who is gearing up for a sixth series of the increasingly popular Second Captains Live show.

Having enjoyed another successful summer season on Radio One and being the cornerstone of the Irish Times Podcast schedule, Ciarán and

his colleagues Ken Early, Eoin McDermott, Simon Hick and Mark Horgan are riding the crest of Irish media success.

But it could have all turned out very differently for the quintet who shocked the country when they walked away from their nine-year run as hosts of Newstalk's Off the Ball back in 2013.

Deemed a major miscalculation by media analysts at the time, the move made front page news with the sizeable fan base up in arms at the decision by management at the station not to agree to the scheduling changes being sought in order to keep it fresh.

But the team, who have formed a strong friendship off air, decided the time was right to branch out

on their own and they set up their own production company, Second Captains, to bring their talents to the next level.

The youngest of Tony and Frances' four sons, Ciarán's love of banter and sport intertwined with a strong journalistic influence in the form of his uncle, former Sports Editor of the Tuam Herald, Jim Carney, the seeds for his future career were sown at an early age.

"My first football report appeared in The Tuam Herald when I was 13 and I remember being amazed that it had appeared in print exactly as I had written it," said Ciarán, or Murph as he's known on air.

"Subsequent reports were edited and chopped but that one must have been fairly good as Jim

wouldn't have let anything go in that wasn't right so that gave me great confidence. Another great mentor, Joe Long in St Jarlath's College, impressed the need to work hard for the things I loved. I remember ringing in a football report to Galway Bay FM from his office and that was my first time doing live radio, so I suppose once I had that interest and passion from an early age I knew it was what I wanted to do."

Following a degree in NUI Galway, Ciarán studied the Masters in Journalism programme in Dublin City University, which was to set him on the path to career success.

"I met Mark when we were on the same course in DCU and we

ended up getting work placements at Newstalk where Ken was already working. Eoin had been away travelling but came back about a year after we joined and then Simon came in on a work placement the year after," said Ciarán.

"We were on air from the very beginning and we were lucky that we got on so well which came across to the listeners."

"There was a lot of talk as to what had led us to leaving the station but the fact was we were mulling over the possibility of branching out on our own for the bones of 18 months. So, while the listeners were shocked when the time came we were happy with our decision."

"Within days however, we

