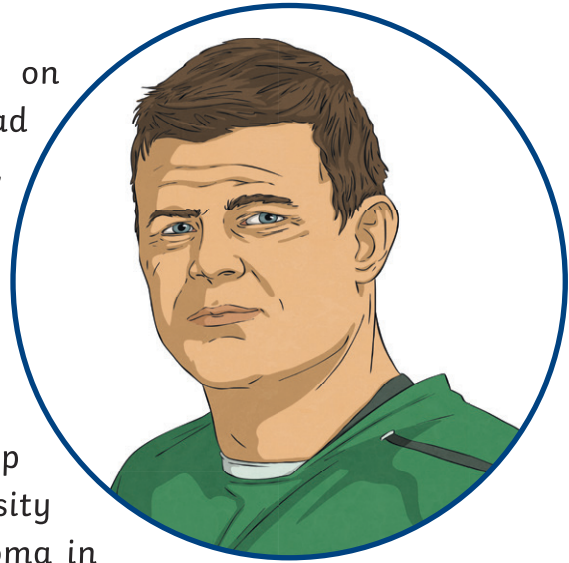


Brian O'Driscoll

Early Years

Brian O'Driscoll was born in Dublin on the 21st January 1979. O'Driscoll had an interest in sport from a young age, playing Gaelic football before switching to rugby. O'Driscoll attended Blackrock College, where he represented his school in the Leinster Schools Senior Rugby Cup. O'Driscoll also won the 1998 Under-19 Rugby World Championship with Ireland. O'Driscoll attended University College Dublin, graduating with a diploma in Sports Management.



Leinster

Brian O'Driscoll made his Leinster debut in 1999. O'Driscoll became an important part of the Leinster team and was rewarded with the captain's armband in 2005. Leinster won the Celtic League tournament in 2008. This would turn out to be O'Driscoll's only trophy as Leinster captain, as he later handed the captaincy to fellow teammate, Leo Cullen. However, O'Driscoll remained an important part of the team, defeating Tigres in the final of the 2009 European Rugby Champions Cup with a superb drop-goal. Brian O'Driscoll announced that he would retire in the summer of 2014. His final game was the Celtic League final, in which Leinster defeated opponents, Glasgow Warriors, in the RDS in Dublin. O'Driscoll's final act as a rugby player was lifting the Celtic League trophy with teammate Leo Cullen, who was also retiring from rugby.



The British and Irish Lions team is chosen from players from Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland. The team competes every four years, playing in either New Zealand, Australia or South Africa.

British and Irish Lions

O'Driscoll was first selected for the British and Irish Lions in 2001, when he scored an outstanding try in the opening match in Brisbane. O'Driscoll captained the team in 2005; however, he dislocated his shoulder in the opening minutes of the first match after being spear tackled by two New Zealand players. He was also selected for the 2009 and 2013 squads.

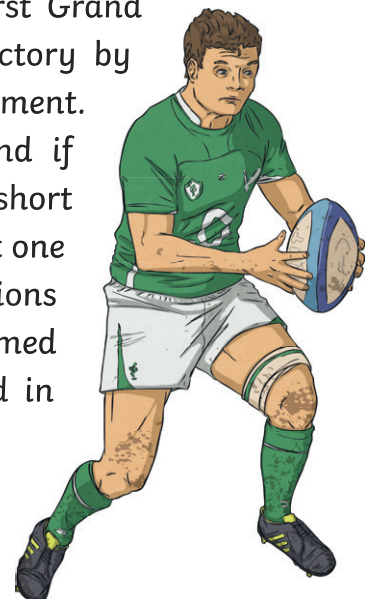
International Career

Brian O'Driscoll became a national icon when he scored a hat-trick of tries against the French side in 2000. This achievement at the Stade de France is a career highlight for O'Driscoll, who came to be known as 'BOD'. The motto 'in BOD we trust' was created by Irish supporters in honour of Brian O'Driscoll and was often seen on t-shirts during international tournaments.

A spear tackle is an illegal tackle in rugby, where a player is lifted into the air by an opponent and dropped, resulting in the player landing on their head, neck or back. Spear tackles have caused broken bones, dislocations and spinal damage. Players who execute a spear tackle are punished with a red card.

Having been first named as captain of the Irish team in 2002, O' Driscoll went on to captain the team regularly over the following years. In 2009, O'Driscoll was selected as captain and led the Irish team to win the 2009 Six Nations Championship, the Triple Crown and their first Grand Slam in 61 years. Ireland sealed the Grand Slam victory by beating Wales 17-15 in the final game of the tournament. However, it could have been very different for Ireland if Wales' last-minute 50-yard penalty had not dropped short of the posts! O'Driscoll scored a try in every game except one and was named as the best player of the 2009 Six Nations Championship. This was the third time he was named player of the tournament. He also received the award in 2006 and 2007.

O'Driscoll's last international match was against France in the final match of 2014 Six Nations Championship.



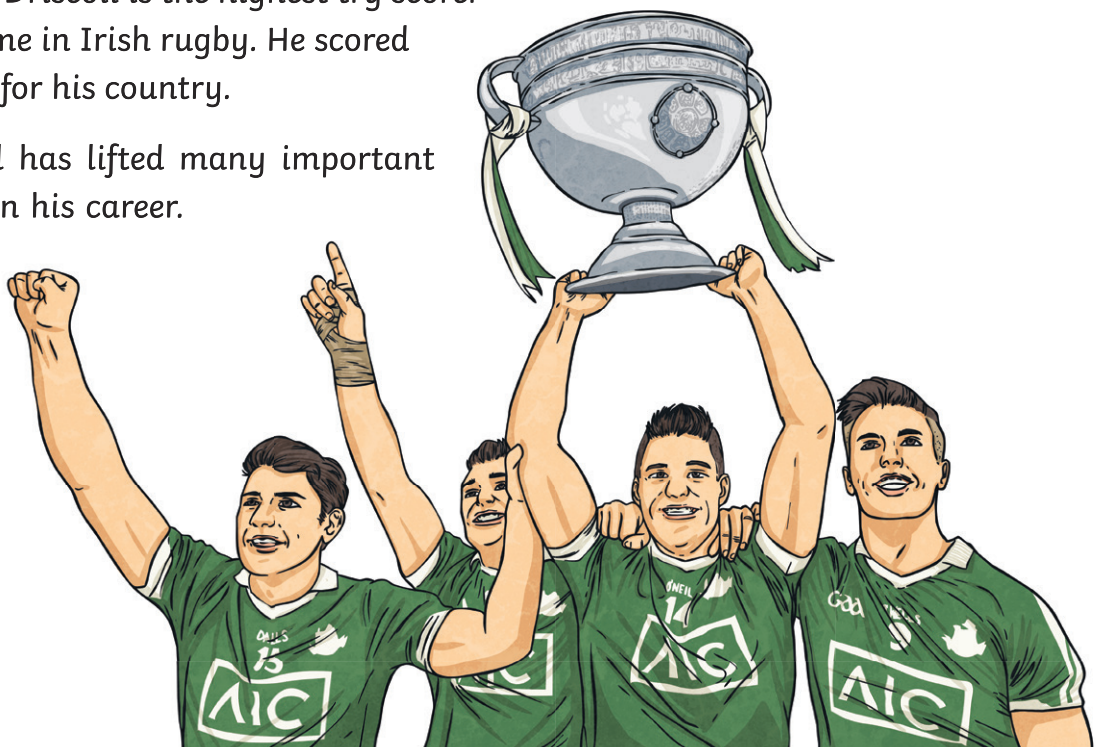
Brian O'Driscoll made his international debut before playing for the Leinster senior team.

O'Driscoll's remarkable international career came to an end with a thrilling 22-20 victory over France to win the Six Nations Championship Cup. Brian O'Driscoll retired from all rugby on the 31st May 2014. He is considered to be one of the finest centres to have ever step foot on a rugby field.

Individual Awards and Trophies

- Brian O'Driscoll was named World Rugby Magazine's Player of the Decade in 2010.
- Brian O'Driscoll is the all-time top try scorer in the Six Nations Championship. He scored 26 tournament tries for Ireland.
- Brian O'Driscoll earned the RTE Sports Hall of Fame Award in 2014.
- Brian O'Driscoll was named Six Nations Player of the Tournament on three occasions; 2006, 2007 and 2009.
- Brian O'Driscoll is the second most-capped international rugby player. He made 133 appearances for Ireland and played 8 times for the British and Irish Lions.
- Brian O'Driscoll is the highest try scorer of all time in Irish rugby. He scored 46 tries for his country.

O'Driscoll has lifted many important trophies in his career.



| Trophies | Year |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 3 European Rugby Champions Cups | 2009, 2011, 2012 |
| 1 Six Nations Grand Slam | 2009 |
| 2 Six Nations Championships | 2009, 2014 |
| 4 Triple Crowns | 2004, 2006, 2007, 2009 |
| 4 Celtic League Cups | 2002, 2008, 2013, 2014 |
| 1 European Challenge Cup | 2013 |

Personal Life

Brian O'Driscoll is married to Irish actress, Amy Huberman. They have two children together, Sadie and Billy. In 2014, O'Driscoll released a book called 'The Test: My Autobiography'. This book won Sports Book of the Year in 2014. O'Driscoll also works as a sports analyst and began working as a pundit during the 2015 Rugby World Cup.

Questions

1. What sport did Brian O'Driscoll play before rugby?

2. What college did Brian O'Driscoll attend? What did he study?

3. What did Brian O'Driscoll do in the game against France in 2000?

4. What injury did Brian O'Driscoll suffer in the opening game of the 2005 British and Irish Lions tour?

5. What did Brian O'Driscoll win in his final game for Ireland? What did he win in his final game for Leinster?

6. Why do you think Brian O'Driscoll won the World Rugby Magazine's Player of the Decade in 2010?

7. What is the name of Brian O'Driscoll autobiography? What award did this book win?

8. How do you think Brian O'Driscoll felt after winning the 2014 Six Nations Championship in his final game for Ireland?

9. What did you find most interesting about Brian O'Driscoll?

Answers

1. What sport did Brian O'Driscoll play before rugby?
Brian O'Driscoll played Gaelic football before rugby.
2. What college did Brian O'Driscoll attend? What did he study?
Brian O'Driscoll attended University College Dublin. He studied sports management.
3. What did Brian O'Driscoll do in the game against France in 2000?
Brian O'Driscoll scored a hat-trick of tries against France in 2000.
4. What injury did Brian O'Driscoll suffer in the opening game of the 2005 British and Irish Lions tour?
Brian O'Driscoll suffered a dislocated shoulder in the opening minutes of the first match. He was spear tackled by two New Zealand players.
5. What did Brian O'Driscoll win in his final game for Ireland? What did he win in his final game for Leinster?
Brian O'Driscoll won the Six National Championship in his final game for Ireland. He won the Celtic league cup in his last game for Leinster.
6. Why do you think Brian O'Driscoll won the World Rugby Magazine's Player of the Decade in 2010?
Brian O'Driscoll was named Player of the Decade in 2010 because of how successful his career as an Irish and Leinster player had been since 1998.
7. What is the name of Brian O'Driscoll autobiography? What award did this book win?
Brian O'Driscoll's autobiography is called The Test: My Autobiography. This book won Sports Book of the Year in 2014.
8. How do you think Brian O'Driscoll felt after winning the 2014 Six Nations Championship in his final game for Ireland?

Answers may vary.

9. What did you find most interesting about Brian O'Driscoll?

Answers may vary.