

On The Sporting Ground



Victory On Rivals Turf

On Friday the 4th of February, St.Catherine's u16s boys gaelic team were set to play the first game of the Pat King Cup against Colaiste na Carraige. Throw-in was at 11:08am and St.Catherine's were determined to to beat local rivals Colaiste na Carraige in Towney, Kilcar. The weather conditions were cold, windy and there were hail and rain showers during parts of the game.

From the throw-in St.Catherine's were at the top of their game. The ball was won by midfielder Edward McHugh and within the first eleven seconds of play we saw our first point of the game for St.Catherine's. Colaiste na Carraige didn't take long to make a comeback as minutes later half forward Daniel McCloskey leveled the game for his side. After consistently strong play from

both sides a free kick was conceded by St.Catherine's, and Jack Hegarty scored a successful left footed point for the boys in blue. Just as the fifteen minute mark approached St.Catherine's lively half forward Gavin Doherty shot for a hopeful third point, unfortunately the kick was just off target but the rebound was on for full forward Eoin Mulligan and he managed to hit the back of the net for St.Catherines. The score now stands at St.Catherine's 1-2 -- 0-1 Colaiste na Carraige.

A free kick was then conceded by Colaiste na Carraige and captain Evan Campbell successfully scored a second point for his team. St.Catherine's managed to turn over possession shortly after and with a nice ball in from Gavin Doherty, Jack Hegarty scored his second point of the game. As frustration began to show between players Colaiste na Carraige conceded yet another free kick and Evan Campbell was behind the ball again, scoring another point for his team. Then with a great kick out from St.Catherine's goalkeeper Joe Conneely, the ball was won by St.Catherine's and the defenders put in the work to move the ball up the field at pace. The ball reached half forward Gavin Doherty and he scored a well deserved point for the team. Colaiste na Carraige then won their kickout and made a run towards goals and captain Evan Campbell who had carried his team thus far scored a great point for his side. Evan then took another powerful shot at goal but goalkeeper Joe Conneely stood up to the challenge and kept the ball out of the net. Unfortunately St.Catherine's hold on possession didn't last long as Evan Campbell had another free run up the pitch and scored the first goal for Colaiste na Carraige from distance. St.Catherine's were determined to make a quick comeback as defender Ethan Byrne made a run towards the score zone. A free kick was then conceded by St.Catherine's and Daithi Burke took the shot from twenty metres out, he kicked the ball right on target and forward Andrew Mullin just managed to get a hand on the ball hitting it right into the back of the net. The half time whistle blew at 11:39am and the boys gathered in for a team talk. In the first half we saw great team work by all of the boys which resulted in our two point lead. The score at half time stood at St.Catherine's 2-5 -- 1-6 Colaiste na Carraige.

The second half began at 11:48am. St.Catherine's did not let their two point lead slow them down as within seconds, half forward Gavin Doherty increased it by another point. As the game continued Defenders Ben Conneely and Ethan Byrne kept Colaiste na Carraige out of the danger zone while midfielders Justas

Speckauskas and Edward McHugh carried the ball forward in hope for another score. Forwards Jack Hegarty and Eoin Mulligan tried their luck at a few more scores but were kept at bay by a strong Collaiste na Carraige defensive line. Another free kick was then conceded by St.Catherine's and Jack Hegarty was behind the ball yet again successfully scoring another point for the team. As the forty five minute mark approached a substitution was made by management when Andrew Mullin was replaced by Ryan Moore. The score now stands at St.Catherine's 2-7 -- 1-6 Colaiste na Carraige.

As tension built Collaiste na Carriage hoped to turn the game around in their favour. Evan Campbell tried his luck at another shot at goals but was just off target when the ball hit against the post. An alert St.Catherine's defender Michael Cunningham was there to claim the rebound and Ambrose McGee worked with Justas Speckauskas to move the ball up the field. The ball was then turned over and Evan Campbell tried his luck yet again for another point which this time was successful making this his first point of the second half. St.Catherine's then took possession and made their way up the field. Pauric Cunningham carried the ball from defence up to forward Jack Hegarty who laid the ball off to Daithi Burke passing it to Ryan Moore who finished it off beautifully with another point for St.Catherine's. Collaiste na Carraige then won their kickout and Evan Campbell sent a ball up the field to the halfway line where Ryan Moore was set to intercept the ball. As Ryan jumped for the ball a Colaiste na Carraige player tried to get in ahead of him while also elbowing him in the face. Ryan fell to the ground and suffered a quite serious nose bleed. The game was stopped as the medics took to the field to contend with the issue. After about a five minute stoppage the game continued and fortunately for St.Catherine's Ryan was able to continue also. St.Catherine's kept possession of the ball for the next few minutes and after several runs for goals, midfielder Justas Speckauskas buried the ball into the back of the net scoring his first goal of the game. As the final whistle approached two more changes were made by management when John Curran and Conor McHugh were substituted for Pauric Cunningham and Eoin Mulligan. St.Catherine's worked the ball up the field yet again and forward Gavin Doherty added one more point to the already dominating lead for St.Catherines. In the final minutes one more change was made by management when top scorer Jack Hegarty requested to be substituted and was replaced by Caolan Reynolds. Justas Speckauskas then skillfully turned over possession and made a run down the centre of the field, he passed the ball

to Caolan Reynolds who then passed to Ryan Moore who gave a great ball in to Gavin Doherty and within seconds of turning over the ball the boys had scored their fourth and final goal of the game. After a brilliant game of football the final whistle was blown at 12:26pm with the final score standing at St.Catherine's 4-9 -- 1-7 Colaiste na Carraige.

The team worked immensely well together but a few players led the team to their victory. Man of the match for the day was Jack Hegarty who scored the majority of the teams points. Good on the day also were Ben Conneely, Ethan Byrne, Justas Spekauskas, Gavin Doherty and Ambrose McGee. Colaiste na Carraige however relied heavily on one player, that being Evan Campbell who scored all but one of their points. Well done to the boys and good luck in the next game against Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair.

St.Catherine's Vocational School



Squad: Joe Conneely, Shay Rowan, Michael Curran, Oisin Boyle, Daithi Burke, Ben Conneely, Ethan Byrne, Edward McHugh, Justas Speckakuas; Pauric Cunningham, Ambrose McGee, Jack Hegarty, Gavin Doherty, Andrew Mullin, Eoin Mulligan. Subs used: Ryan Moore, Conor McHugh, John Curran, Caolan Reynolds.

Colaiste na Carraige



Squad: Alex Gallagher, Hugh O'Donnell, Charles Byrne, Adam Cunningham, Karl Lyons, Colm Hargan, Cian Boyle, Evan Campbell (1-6), Cian McGinley, Daniel Cunningham, Daniel McCloskey (0-1), Conal Keeney, Declan Ellis, Alex Cunnea, Owen Hegarty. Sub used: Oisín Gillespie.

Referee: Greg McGroary (Four Masters)

Rachel Chapman and Nicole McGinty

