

## On The Sporting Ground



### **Ghaoth Dobhair Take The Win With Seconds Remaining**

On Friday the 4th of March the u-16.5 boys gaelic team headed off to play the second game of the Pat King Cup against Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair. The game was to be played on the Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair home grounds and throw-in was at 11:42am. The weather conditions were cold with slight rain showers along with sunny spells. The St.Catherines Vocational School team is managed by Master Niall Carbery and captained by transition year student Ben Conneely. The Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair team is managed by intercounty senior player Daire O'Baoill and captained by third year student Jordi Gribben.

A strong Gaoth Dobhair midfield had no challenge in winning the throw-in and within minutes the opposition had scored the first point of the game from a free kick. As the game continued there was a constant fight for possession. The Gaoth Dobhair forwards struggled to make any advances on a strong St.Catherine's defence while St.Catherine's midfield and forward lines didn't succeed in levelling the playing field for their side either. Just as the 15 minute

mark was approaching Gaoth Dobhair conceded a free kick within their scoring zone and another point was added to the board for the team. The score now stands at St.Catherine's 0-0 -- 0-2 Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair.



Minutes later Gaoth Dobhair scored another point from a free kick conceded at the left of the 'D'. As Gaoth Dobhair attempted another shot at goal, defenders Pauric Cunningham, Michael Cunningham and Shay Rowan managed to keep the opposition at bay. Gaoth Dobhair then turned over possession and moved the ball forward, breaking through St.Catherine's defence and scoring the fourth point for their side. St.Catherine's midfielders Justas Speckauskas and Edward McHugh continued to fight for possession in the centre of the field while forwards Andrew Mullin, Joseph McGroary and Eoin Mulligan tried their luck at goals any chance they got. Just as halftime was approaching St.Catherine's conceded a free kick from forty metres out. Andrew Mullin attempted to score from the free but the ball fell short. An alert Justas Speckauskas caught the ball in the box and passed it out to Eoin Mulligan who scored a great goal through a wall of Gaoth Dobhair defenders. Within the final minutes of the first half Gaoth



Dobhair managed to score two points one from play and one from a free kick. The score now stands at St.Catherine's 1-0 -- 0-6 Gaoth Dobhair.



The second half began at 12:19pm. St.Catherine's midfielder Edward McHugh got the first hand to the ball from the throw-in, he made his way up the field and passed the ball to Justas Speckauskas. Justas conceded a free kick which was taken by Andrew Mullin who scored a brilliant point for the team. St.Catherine's made a few more strong attempts at goals but were unsuccessful in getting past Gaoth Dobhair defence. Gaoth Dobhair then claimed back possession and made their way up the field scoring another great point for their side. The fight for possession continued as St.Catherine's were eager to take the lead. Justas Speckauskas conceded another free for the team which was taken by Andrew Mullin who scored a point for St.Catherine's. Ben Conneely then claimed possession from the Gaoth Dobhair kickout and conceded another free kick which was taken by Eoin Mulligan who successfully scored a third point for St.Catherine's. As the fifteen minute mark of the second half was approaching St.Catherine's defence remained strong, preventing any further

scores for Gaoth Dobhair. The score now stands at St.Catherine's 1-3 -- 0-7 Gaoth Dobhair.



As Gaoth Dobhair hit another wide ball, St.Catherine's goalkeeper Joe Conneely created an opportunity for the team with a great kickout to Eoin Mulligan. Mulligan conceded a free kick in the middle of the field which he passed to Justas Speckauskas. Justas then conceded another free kick which Andrew Mullin took and successfully scored from forty metres out levelling the game for St.Catherine's. Ethan Byrne, Oisin Boyle and Daithi Burke were very prominent in turning over possession and making strong tackles on the opposition as the game was coming to a close. In the final minutes of the game Gaoth Dobhair won a free kick in their scoring zone which put them back in the lead. Unfortunately for St.Catherine's time was too short to get another score. Great teamwork was shown by the boys throughout the entire game and you could see true potential in the players. The Final score was St.Catherine's 1-4 -- 0-8 Gaoth Dobhair.

**Nicole McGinty**

