

On The Sporting Ground



Source: Ronan Cunningham

Victory for the Visitors

On Monday the 14th of February our senior boys Gaelic team were set to play the Faul Cup Ulster Semi-final against Colaiste na Carraige in Fintra. The St.Catherine's V.S team is managed by Master Raymond McNamee and captained by sixth year student and inter county player Christopher Mulligan. Colaiste na Carraige is managed by Master Noel Ward and captained by sixth year student and inter county player Michael Callaghan. Throw in was at 2:02pm and the weather was mild with sunny spells.



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From the first minutes of play we could see that the two teams were determined to make the most of the game. St.Catherine's got the first hand to the ball when captain Christopher Mulligan won the throw-in against a strong Colaiste na Carraige midfield. Edward McHugh conceded a free kick but unfortunately no score came from it. Colaiste na Carraige then quickly made their way up the field and full forward Evan Campbell hit a brilliant ball right on target hitting the back of the net for his side. St.Catherine's made a strong comeback from this score when a free kick was conceded within the scoring zone and Christopher Mulligan hit the first point for the Killybegs side. St.Catherine's then won the Colaiste na Carraige kick out and scored another free kick leaving the visitors at a one point lead. The boys weren't long closing this gap when half forward Alex McBrearty scored a third point for St.Catherine's. Colaiste na Carraige however didn't let their lead slip away when captain Michael Callaghan kicked a successful free kick for the visitors. Minutes later Alex McBrearty hit another free kick for St.Catherine's levelling the score yet again. Both teams were consistent with their attacks but the defence from both sides stayed strong. As the fifteen minute mark approached Michael Callaghan had another opportunity behind the ball, scoring another free kick for his team. The score now stood at St.Catherine's 0-4 — 1-2 Colaiste na Carraige.



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As tension built between players, more free kicks were conceded by both St.Catherine's and Colaiste na Carraige, each team was eager to put more points on the board for their side. Mid fielders Jack Boyle and Christopher Mulligan worked hard to move the ball forward in the centre of the field, while Matthew Huntley, Mairtín Hearty and Edward McHugh kept the visitors at bay from the scoring zone. Up front Eamon Curran, Alex McBrearty and Jack Hegarty tried to level the score yet again. With ten minutes left until halftime St.Catherine's conceded another free kick, this one being successfully scored by Christopher Mulligan. Colaiste na Carraige also conceded a free kick within minutes of the previous St.Catherine's score and captain Michael Callaghan secured the lead yet again for his side. After an amazing save from goalkeeper Joe Conneely he initiated another opportunity at goal for St.Catherine's with a great kick out to midfield Unfortunately the ball was lost when a shot was put wide. Colaiste na Carraige then took possession of the ball and midfielder Ben Rafferty carried the ball forward laying it off to forward Ryan Jones who passed the ball to top scorer Michael Callaghan who scored another brilliant point for the visitors. The Halftime whistle was blown shortly after and both teams made their ways to the changing rooms for a team talk. The score now stood at St.Catherine's 0-5 — 1-5 Colaiste na Carraige.



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The Second half began at 2:52pm and St.Catherine's took first possession of the ball. Edward McHugh made a great attempt at goal but Colaiste na Carraige goalkeeper Shane Ellis stepped up to the challenge and blocked the ball. JP McGuinness claimed the rebound and scored a brilliant point for St.Catherine's. Colaiste na Carraige tried to move the ball forward but St.Catherine's stayed consistently strong. Matthew Huntley won two Colaiste na Carraige kick outs and on the second attempt at goals JP McGuinness hit the back of the net and St.Catherine's took the lead. As the fight for possession continued Colaiste na Carraige were determined to take back their lead. Michael Callaghan made his way up the field eager for another score, he passed the ball on to corner forward Ryan Jones who kicked the ball right into the back of the net claiming back the lead for the visitors. Another goal was then scored by Colaiste na Carraige but it was disallowed, a free however was awarded, this one being unsuccessful for the visitors. St.Catherine's then turned over possession and Daire Brennan made a great run towards goals scoring another point for his side. As the final fifteen minutes approached the score stood at St.Catherine's 1-7 — 2-5 Colaiste na Carraige.



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As the final whistle approached tensions began to build between players yet again. Defender Ambrose McGee made a brilliant run up the centre of the field passing the ball on to half forward Jack Hegarty and a free kick was then conceded after Hegarty was fouled. Jack Boyle kicked a nice ball into Matthew Huntley who scored another great point for St.Catherine's. When an even tackle was put in by both sides the referee decided to throw in the ball. St.Catherine's won possession and made their way up the field. Jack Hegarty took the ball and scored a great point for the boys in blue levelling the score in the final minutes. Colaiste na Carraige then won their kick out and made their way up the field. The ball was kicked in to Michael Callaghan who scored a brilliant point for the visitors. With seconds remaining St.Catherine's made a final run for goals scoring another point which levelled the game again, the final whistle was then blown and there was a bit of confusion about the score, extra time was disputed but in the end the referee decided to give the win to Colaiste na Carraige and not award the latest point to St.Catherine's. The final score stood at St.Catherine's 1-9 — 2-7 Colaiste na Carraige.



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Colaiste na Carraige



Squad: Shane Ellis, Kian Gillespie, Evan Bonner, Cian Carr, Sean Hardy, Darren Cunningham, Adrian Breslin, Ben Rafferty, Michael Callaghan (0-6, 4f), Ciaran Love, Shane Callaghan, Darragh Cunningham, Ryan Jones (1-0), Evan Campbell, Michael O' Donnell.

St.Catherine's Vocational School



Squad: Joe Conneely, Mairtín Herrity, Ben Conneely, Mathew Huntley (0-1), Ambrose McGee, Edward McHugh, Jack Boyle, Christopher Mulligan (0-4, 4f), Alex McBrearty (0-2), Daire Brennan, Jack Hegarty (0-1) Shay Byrne, Eamon Curran, JP McGuinness (1-1).

Referee: Greg McGroary (Four Masters)

We would also like to wish Dermot Cunningham a speedy recovery and we hope to see him back playing soon!

Nicole McGinty