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2010 U:16 Championship Final

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McCormack strike decisive as Killoe clinch U16 title

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Powered by the outstanding Shane Clarke who popped up all over the pitch, the Killoe Og U-16 footballers got the better of St. James (Ardagh/Moydow) in the Juvenile 'A' Championship Final at Pearse Park on Sunday last with Seamus McCormack scoring the decisive only goal direct from a long range free in the 14th minute of the first half.

The accurate McCormack ended up with 1-5 to his credit (all from frees) in also playing a leading role in the latest underage triumph for the Killoe club and there were other prominent performances from John Lynch, Brian Finnerty and Larry Moran in this close encounter which at one stage looked like ending all square.

While the Ardagh/Moydow outfit almost snatched a draw deep into stoppage time when a last gasp goal attempt was blocked down in a frantic scramble, Killoe were worthy winners of the U-16 county title they last captured in 2007 and generally showed the greater determination in coming out on top.

St. James had made the better start with Killian Farrell firing over three frees in the opening ten minutes, the first of which materialised when Shane Clarke appeared to be harshly penalised for overplaying the ball and was injured in the process of trying to clear the danger.

Killoe were slow to settle but eventually got their first score in the 11th minute when Seamus McCormack landed a long range free and soon after the same player found the back of the net as St. James conceded a soft goal. Another McCormack free from distance dipped over the head of the opposing keeper Gareth Dennigan and it left Killoe in a rather flattering 1-1 to 0-3 lead.

Their advantage was extended in the 20th minute when Shane Clarke kicked a glorious point from near the sideline but St. James got back into contention when their always dangerous full-forward Daryl Carrigy fired over a great score under considerable pressure in the 24th minute and weaved his way through to shoot over the bar again just before the break.

Thus the teams were deadlocked (0-5 to 1-2) at half-time but Killoe dominated the early stages of the second half and after going close to grabbing a second goal they regained the lead in the 37th minute following another well struck free from Seamus McCormack.

Back came St. James with a Kevin Finnan point from a tight angle but McCormack went on to convert another couple of frees in quick succession for Killoe that were awarded for fouls on Brian Finnerty and Larry Moran who were surging forward in posing problems for the Ardagh/Moydow defence.

Following a wild wide by Daryl Carrigy, St. James closed the gap to the minimum of margins (1-5 to 0-7) with a great point from Kevin Finnan in the 47th minute but Killoe then enjoyed a crucial dominant spell that yielded a brace of points from play through Larry Moran and substitute Ciaran Donohoe in the 50th and 53rd minutes.

That was really putting it up to St. James with the goal separating the sides and while Killian Farrell fired over his fourth free in the 54th minute, Killoe managed to consolidate their slender lead and another point from a Seamus McCormack free in stoppage time clinched a hard earned success.

KILLOE OG: Stephen Duke; Stephen Hughes, Shane Clarke (0-1), Darragh Gilna; John Lynch, Damien Bennett, Fergal O'Donnell; Cian Farrelly, Brian Finnerty; Larry Moran (0-1), Seamus McCormack (1-5, all from frees), Shane Tully; Liam Hughes, Paddy Kiernan, Jamie King.

Subs:- Ciaran Donohoe (0-1) for J King (injured, 36 mins); Conor Conway for S Hughes (39 mins).

ST. JAMES: Gareth Dennigan; Ronan Mac an Bheatha, Chad Costello, Rory Sullivan; Fergal Keenan, John Keegan, Dan Sullivan; Niall Keenan, Emmet Donlon; Sean Farrell, Kevin Finnan (0-2), Finn Hartmann; Kryspin Pliszczynski, Killian Farrell (0-4, all frees), Daryl Carrigy (0-2).

Sub:- Kevin Leavy for F Hartmann (47 mins).

Referee: Patrick Maguire (Granard St. Mary's).