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1960 Senior Final Match Report

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**The following is a report on the 1960 County Final, which appeared in the Longford Leader on September 10th 1960 - Killoe beat Longford Slashers on the day to regain the title after 45 years.**

The dark stain, which has tarnished Killoes proud football reputation for the past 45 years, has been erased, and once again Killoe people everywhere can hold their heads high. On Sunday last they beat County Champions Longford Slashers on a score line of 2-10 to 1-06 to win the senior title, their first since 1915.

Thus Killoe gained sweet revenge in compensation for the 1959 defeat by Slashers and their followers must have derived much pleasure in seeing last years defeat so convincingly avenged. For them it was a day of jubilation and rejoicing, which gave promise of even better things to come.

There were great scenes of excitement after the game as Killoe supporters, delirious with joy, chaired their heroes off the field as the gleaming silver cup was held aloft for all to see. And it would be difficult to blame the Killoe spectators, as their team certainly deserved their win.

It was as grand a championship battle as one could wish to see. The quality of the football was good. There was no rancor and the hard knocks were given and taken in a fine spirit. It was refreshing at the end of the game to see victors and vanquished leave the field as they started, the very best of good friends.

Longford Slashers were the fancied team for the title, but from the very start Killoe made it obvious that they had little regard for public opinion. They set about their work in impressive style and showed that here was a side bent on gaining revenge.

It is argued of course that this time Killoe got the lucky breaks and that the sodden pitch was not favourable to Slashers who seemed to be unable to make any headway in the heavy going.

Nevertheless, Slashers were well beaten to such an extent that the current Longford side could reasonably expect to have run Killoe closer on a dry sod and even this conjecture is debatable as many people feel that Killoe would have won by an even greater margin on a lively pitch.

Killoe excelled at picking up loose balls, following a break in the midfield exchanges. During the second half, it appeared as if Killoe had four instead of two midfielders in action, so regularly did those loose balls come to hand. This factor had a very big say in the ultimate result.

Turning to personalities on the Killoe side, the man of the match was the 25 year-old-Rock of Gibraltar, Mickey Bracken, who broke up attack after attack launched by the opposing forwards as his long clearances were invaluable to his forwards as they seemed to land in the Slashers goal area on almost every occasion.

This small human dynamo roved all over the pitch, successfully eliminating any promising Slashers movement, as well as prompting his forwards with slick passes. Seamus Igoe also had a great game. He was placed at right half-forward but more often

than not he was lending a hand at midfield. He scored three lovely points from far out, a feat we rarely see these days. James McGoldrick had his best game for some time and he also shot a few grand long-range points. Davy Sheeran's good work at full forward led to a number of scores and although he did not score himself he played a big part in the victory. Seamus McGuire was as dangerous as ever. He had a hand in the first goal, made the penalty and scored a delightful point to close the scoring. Joe Quinn tried hard in the left corner but Paddy Dennigan left him very little room to manoeuvre. Tom McGoldrick was not in his usual form but Tom had already played a big part in bringing Killoe to the final.

Vincent Duignan, after a slow start had a good game at midfield and contributed 1-2 of his sides tally from placed balls. John Hagan played his best football when he moved to partner Duignan.

Killoe made a very good move when they switched Billy Morgan to right half-back after twenty minutes play in the first half and Morgan can feel very satisfied with the part he played in curbing the flying Donnelly. In the centre-half berth, John Bracken was at his best and Pdraic Gearty and later George Balfe failed to make any headway against him.

In the full-back line, Jack Toher, Sean McGoey and Liam Quinn were a sound trio. McGoey and Toher in particular, cleared some very dangerous situations in the first half when the losers were putting on most pressure. George Doherty got little to do in goal and had no hope with the shot that beat him.

And what of Longford Slashers? They were beaten in practically every department in the second half and while one must sympathise with them in relinquishing their title, it is good to see the honours rest in a parish that has produced so many fine footballers in the past and who waited so long for the coveted title.

T. OBrien had a good hour in goal and Paddy Dennigan played well all through. Mickey Kelly had a powerful fame at centre half-back. He was tireless in his efforts throughout and his play was somewhat similar to that of Mickey Bracken. Joe Deane played well when he came on midway in the second half. Alec Baxter was one of the hardest workers on the Longford team and time and again tried to get the forwards into action. He had some great tussles with Vincent Duignan and scored three points from long range frees.

The Slashers forwards found that they were hitting up against a stonewall in the Killoe defence and their half-backs held such a grip in the second half that Slashers had only one wide in addition to their tally of 1-1. Sean Donnelly and Neilus Corkery were their best forwards.

Jimmy Martin was not available to referee the match so Carrickedmond and county footballer Sean Murray took charge of the game and carried out his duties to everybody's satisfaction.

The Newtowncashel Pipers Band paraded the teams before the commencement of the match.

Killoe Young Emmets: G. Doherty, J. Toher, S. McGoey, L. Quinn, J. Hagan, J. Bracken, M. Bracken, W. Morgan, V. Duignan, S. Igoe, T. McGoldrick, J. McGoldrick, S. McGuire, D. Sheeran, J. Quinn.

Longford Slashers: T. O'Brien, P. Dennigan, M. Hanlon, J. Shannon, M. McNally, M. Kelly, N. Caslin, A. Baxter, G. Balfe, F. McKeever, P. Gearty, S. Donnelly, B. Long, N. Corkery, A. Carroll. Subs T.N. Donlon for McKeever & J. Deane for Long

**First Senior Medals** - Thirteen of Killoe's team were winning Senior Championship medals for the first time. The two exceptions are Billy Morgan and Davy Sheeran who won a Monaghan Senior Championship medal in 1952 with Ballybay, while Sheeran played on the Longford Slashers team that won the Championship in 1954.

**Cup Presentation** - After Sundays Senior Final, the Chairman of the Co. Board, Liam O h-Oistin, presented the cup to Billy Morgan, captain of the Killoe team. Mr. O h-Oistin said that everybody knew who he would like to see winning the cup, however, continued the Chairman, it is a pleasure to present the new trophy to a man who not alone gives great service to his parish team but also to the County team. Mr. O h-Oistin then went on to congratulate Killoe on their well-deserved victory.

**Interesting Observation** - It is of interest to note that it was the Killoe Club (and Eire Og) who tabled the motion at the last convention asking that the County Board present a cup for the Senior Championship. Co-incidence that Killoe should be the first club to have their name inscribed on the Cup!