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2000 U:14 Championship Final

WWW.KILLOEGAA.IE

Treble joy for rampant Killoe

Killoe 8-14
Longford Slashers 1:05

KILLOE completed the under-14 treble on Saturday last when they captured the championship title after a convincing win over Longford Slashers.

It has been a successful year for the Killoe side, who added the championship crown to their League and Feile Peil na nOg (in Dublin) titles which were secured earlier this year. It was a thrilling and memorable display of skill, class and an overall outstanding team performance that earned the Killoe lads the PM Farrell Memorial Cup.

The score line may suggest that the game was very one sided but in fact nothing came easy in this match and each score was hard fought for. Although behind by a large margin, Slashers never gave up and kept at the Killoe boys right up until the final whistle.

The opening few minutes of this match were very close with a few missed chances on either side but Eugene Clarke settled the game down by converting a free in the fifth minute. Two minutes later a high ball from Shane Dowd found Diarmuid Harte who made a great run through the Slashers defence and made no mistake in planting the ball in the back of the net.

Darren Lennon scored two further points straight after this to give the Killoe boys a 1-4 lead with 12 minutes gone. Andrew Thompson and Eugene Clarke stretched the lead even further before Sean McCormack high ball landed in over the goalie's head and into the net. Andrew Thompson added a further point and then Slashers opened their scoring with a Paul Griffin point in the 19th minute.

The Slashers forwards were under severe pressure from the Killoe backs in the opening half and Paul did very well to place his shot over the bar following a series of passes.

Killoe came back again and by half-time had another 2-2 scored. Andrew Thompson's goal coming from a blocked kick out while Sean McCormack showed great individual skill as he raced through the defence and landed the ball in the top corner.

Slashers made some positional moves at the interval to try and curb the Killoe dominance. Niall Mulligan moved to midfield where he played a more prominent role in the Slashers attempt to narrow the gap while Sean Hynes took the full back position and Daniel Sweeney changed to the left half back position. Other notable moves where Shane Casserly went into the full forward line and Conor Murphy coming out to take on the role of centre half forward.

Slashers made the better start in the second half with two attacks at the Killoe defence but failed to convert their chances. Killoe added to their lead with a goal from Sean McCormack, points from Andrew Thompson, Eugene Clarke, and one of the best points of the match from Diarmuid Harte who scored from a very tight angle.

Conor Murphy added a point to Slashers in the 41st minute and captain Shane Casserly sailed through the Killoe defence to score their only goal of the match. Points were

exchanged between Andrew Thompson and Sean Meenahan while Darren Lennon, who played one of his best matches of the year, scored a terrific point for the Killoe side.

Killoe were not finished yet and after Andrew Thompson shot at goal was well saved and the rebound from Andrew Murphy also blocked Diarmuid Harte was in the right place at the right time and ratted the crossbar as the ball went over the line.

Slashers kept plugging away and after missing a number of chances both goals and points Conor Murphy popped the ball over the bar for his second point of the match.

Niall Mulligan did very well to score another point for his team but with Killoe scoring two goals in the final minutes it left them with a very commanding victory at the final whistle.

Slashers never gave up in this match and played with great heart and spirit throughout even trailing so far behind. They were unlucky not to have a higher score for they had quite a dominant period in the second half but failed to put the chances away. Although the changes made in the second half had some effect on the match it was not enough to control the Killoe boys who were in flying form.

The whole team tried their best but most prominent for the town side were Shane Casserly, Conor Murphy, Niall Morrissey, Niall Mulligan and Pdraig McGuinness also gave it his all.

For the winning side it is really unfair to single out any player for special praise as the whole team gave an exhibition of all that is great in Gaelic football. But special mention must go to the Shane Dowd who gave an outstanding display of determination and skill and well deserving man of the match Andrew Thompson who as well as converting his own chances set up many opportunities for his team mates.

KILLOE: Cillian Burns; Dermot O'Hara, Patrick Doherty, Brian Brady; Shane Dowd, Frank Kiernan, Cathal Doris; Eugene Clarke (0-4), Joseph McCormack (Capt.); Francis Brady, Darren Lennon (1-4), Andrew Murphy (1-0); Diarmuid Harte (2-1), Sean McCormack (3-0), Andrew Thompson (1-5). **SUBS:** Michael McKeon, Michael McCann, David Prunty, Emmet Toher, James Reilly, Bernard Reilly, James Keogh.

LONGFORD SLASHERS: Andrew Lyons; Ian Walsh, Niall Mulligan (0-1), Conor Barins; Alan Madden, John Hynes, Pdraig McGuinness; Niall Morrissey, Daniel Sweeney; Sean Meenahan (0-1), Shane Casserly (1-0, capt.), Paul Griffin (0-1); Cathal Creamer, Conor Murphy (0-2), Shane Dann. **SUBS:** Conor Neville, Enda Maloney, Fergus McHugh, Ronan Duffy, Martin Horan