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2000 U:14 National Feile

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Terrific Feile Weekend – Dublin 2000

The Killoe U-14 team returned from the capital on Sunday evening last after a terrific weekend at Feile Peil na nOg 2000. Having reached the quarter-final they came home very proud of their achievement and rightly so.

Throughout the competition the lads showed great heart and spirit and gave their best in every match.

The parade through the city centre started off the weekend with all 130 competing teams marching behind their club banner. It was an array of colour, music and excitement as they made their way towards Clonliffe College. Having met our host club St. Laurence O'Toole's at their grounds in Aryfield all the players headed off with their host families.

The football began early on Saturday morning with Killoe facing the host club in the first match. Killoe proved to be a stronger team in this match and showed the Dubs how it is done in the country. Goals from Eugene Clarke, Sean McCormack(2), Andrew Thompson and points from Eugene (3) and Darren Lennon left the Killoe side 4-4 to 2-0 up at the interval. They continued their good run in the second half with points from Andrew Thompson, Diarmuid Harte, Michael McKeon and a good goal from Joseph McCormack left the final score 5-7 to 4-1.

A big blow to the team in this match was when Sean McCormack suffered an unfortunate injury to his neck during the first half. He was unable to play in the remaining matches on Saturday but returned to play the match on Sunday morning. Erin's Isle were the opposition in the next match.

Again Killoe were the better balanced team and even though Erin's isle had some very good strong players the balance on the Killoe team proved to be the decisive factor in this match. The team as a whole played very well and as a result were winning 2-2 to 0-1 at half time. They added further scores in the second half but Erin's Isle came back with a late burst to make the score 3-4 to 2-3 at the final whistle.

With two wins under their belt it was immaterial if they won or lost their third match against Derrygonnelly Harps from Co. Fermanagh. Even though Killoe tried their best the opposition proved too strong for them. Derrygonnelly were a more physical team and this advantage over Killoe was the main element in this match.

They ran out comfortable winners in the end but the Killoe lads still kept their heads high as they had qualified for the quarter-finals. St. John's of Antrim having won their side of the competition were the opposition in the quarter-final played at Sean Moore Park in Ringsend on Sunday morning. Killoe got a good start with Andrew Thompson scoring a point from play. But unfortunately this was to be Killoe's only point of the first half while St. John's scored 4 points before the interval.

The second half was a nail biting 15 minutes as the Longford side battled their way back into the match. Two points from Eugene Clarke and one from Andrew Thompson left just the bare minimum between the teams with a few minutes to go. The side however would have been out of contention at this stage if it had not been for our goals man Cillian

Burns who saved a penalty and several powerful shots. Although the team played their hearts out for the final few minutes they failed to get the final score to level the match and St. John's were lucky to escape.

The team were naturally disappointed but they did themselves, their club and their county proud in all their matches. Cillian in the goals was outstanding throughout the competition, the full back line of Dermot O'Hara, Frank Kiernan and Brian Brady were solid while the small but powerful half back line of Shane Dowd, Patrick Doherty and Cathal Doris played their hearts out in every match. At mid-field Eugene Clarke and Joseph McCormack performed their best assisting in defence while putting up the scores at the other end of the field.

The defensive side of the team stayed more or less the same throughout the 4 matches but the forward line had a number of changes in the matches. Andrew Murphy, Darren Lennon and Francis Brady started on the 40 in the first match and played very well. Emmet Toher, Sean McCormack and Andrew Thompson were the full forward line in the opening round and proved to be a hand full for all the backs they met.

Also playing their part in the competition was Michael McKeon did very well at half forward, Diarmuid Harte also played on the 40 in the remaining matches, James Keogh started at mid field, corner forward and half forward, Michael McCann, James O'Reilly, David Prunty and Bernard O'Reilly also played their parts and did very well when they were called upon during various matches.

The weekend end was a very enjoyable experience. The team had lots of support up from the county and it meant a lot to them and the mentors. Feile 2000 being the first year for the club to participate will always remain in our minds as a very proud and special weekend.