



Web Archive Document

2001 U:14 National Feile

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2001 U14 Feile Peil na nOg – By Lisa Brady in Thurles

The Killoe U-14 team returned from Tipperary on Sunday evening last after a terrific weekend at Feile Peil na nOg 2001. Although they did not have any silver ware with them they came home proud of their achievements for the weekend and rightly so. They won two of their three matches beating the host club Moyne-Templetohy and Abbeyleix of Laois while De La Salle of Waterford narrowly defeated them in the decisive match. Throughout the competition the lads showed great heart and spirit and gave their best in every match.

The weekend started off with registration in Hayes Hotel Thurles, the birthplace of the GAA, the team then headed to the village of Templetohy where we were to be hosted for the weekend. Our first match on Friday evening was against Abbeyleix of Laois. The Longford lads were in total control throughout this game and had a commanding lead of 2-6 to 0-0 at half time, thanks to points from Michael McKeon and Michael Hughes and 2-4 from Eugene Clarke. The forwards were in top form and the defence also played excellent football as Abbeyleix only managed to score one point in the whole match. Killoe were by far the superior side in this match and had a comfortable win of 5-9 to 0-1 in the end.

The parade through Thurles got the Feile officially underway on Friday evening with all 130 competing teams marching behind their club banner. It was an array of colour, music and excitement as they made their way through the town and on to the famous Semple Stadium. It was a spectacular sight and one of the greatest moments of Feile 2001.

Killoe's first match on Saturday morning was against the host club Moyne-Templetohy. Although Killoe ran out easy winners in the end it was a tough match and the Longford lads had to battle hard for every score. Brian Brady opened the scoring for Killoe before the home team registered their first score. Further points from Eugene Clarke (2), Michael McKeon (2), James Keogh and Seamus Lynch left Killoe 0-7 to 0-2 up at half time. In the second half Killoe took control and along with two goals from nippy corner forward Seamus Lynch Killoe finished off the home team and had a satisfactory win of 3-9 to 0-2.

With two wins under their belt the Killoe side were in with a great chance of qualifying for the semi-final stages. De La Salle from Waterford was in the same boat and as a result everything depended on the final match of the section Killoe v's De La Salle. It was as good as an All-Ireland Final for the two teams. The tension was something else and after the playing of the National Anthem the game got underway and what a game it was! Killoe were forced to field without mid-fielder Michael Hughes who received an injury in the previous but nevertheless they were confident that they could take this Waterford side. It was tit for tat in the opening half with the ball going from one end of the field to the other both sets of backs playing exceptional football. The De La Salle boys were a much taller and physically stronger team but as the saying goes good things come in small parcels the Killoe backs gave them nothing and most notably corner back Emmet Toher played his heart out in defending his

position. There was nothing between the sides and as a result both teams failed to score in the opening half. Killoe were unlucky to hit the crossbar at one end and when the ball came back up the other end an exceptional save from Cillian Burns in the goals denied the De La Salle team from scoring. The second half got underway and again it was a nerve racking fifteen minutes for the players and the supporters on both sides. De La Salle opened the scoring with a point from play and they then went further ahead with two more points. But the Killoe lads did not give up and when the ball came back up the other end of the field it found corner forward Seamus Lynch who landed it in the back of the net. Game on, it was level again with about ten minutes to play. Unfortunately for Killoe the De La Salle team finished the stronger and they added 1-1 to their score before Brian Brady pulled a point back for his side. As the final whistle blew the Killoe lads were overcome with disappointment. They had played their hearts out and had given all they had but it just wasn't to be. They could not be faulted for their display but luck was not on their side. De La Salle went on to win the Division 4 Final on Sunday so it proves how close the Killoe team were to success. The team was complimented for their football by all in Tipperary and the Vice Chairman of the Munster Council Mr. Sean Fogarty said it was one of the best matches he had witnessed in a long time.

The team was 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 Andrew Gilna, Patrick Doherty and Emmet Toher played exceptional football while the half back line of Shane Bennett, Cathal Doris and Francis Brady played their hearts out in every match. At mid-field James Keogh and Michael Hughes 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 3 matches but the forward line had a number of changes in the matches. Darren Quinn, Brian Brady and Aaron Fitzpatrick started on the 40 in the first match and played very well. Michael McKeon, Eugene Clarke and Seamus Lynch 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 were James Reilly, Antony Lee, Michael Connell, Martin McCormack, James Brady, Paul Molloghan, Sean Finnerty, Steven Thompson, Shane Sorohan, Colm Shaughnessy and Francis Dempsey who all did very well when they were called upon during various matches.

The team were without the services of our outstanding footballer Shane Dowd who was unable to travel to Tipperary due to an illness. He was a big loss to the team and things might have turned out different had he been with us. Our thoughts were with him all weekend and the lads played their best for him. We wish Shane a speedy recovery and we hope he will be back for the Championship.

The weekend end was a very enjoyable experience. The team had lots of support down from the parish and it meant a lot to them and the mentors. Feile 2001 was a great experience for the players and the club. Although we were not fully successful on the field the players will have learned a lot from the weekend and in years to come they will look back with pride at their achievement in Feile 2001.