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2009 U:18 Championship Final

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Killoe win minor title in proving too strong for St. Vincent's

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Ten points and a man-of-the-match display from star forward Mark Hughes proved more than enough for Killoe to claim their first Minor Championship title since 2005 at Pearse Park last Sunday.

Well fancied to exact painful memories of last year's final defeat to Northern Gaels, Killoe put any lingering fears of a repeat performance firmly to bed with Hughes and impressive midfield lynchpin Paddy Thompson leading the charge.

During the opening minutes however, St. Vincent's (Drumlish/Ballinamuck) appeared to settle the better with James Noonan slotting over after good work from Emmet Noonan and Sean Whelan.

Having posted 3-14 in their semi-final win over Carrick Sarsfields, Killoe knew any decent service into the likes of Mark Hughes and the Mimmagh brothers would go a long way towards providing a decent platform upon which to build.

And six minutes in, evidence of that began to bear fruit when Hughes finished off a well worked move after a neat pass from Simon Kiernan.

Two further scores from Pdraig McCormack and Hughes, the latter of which came from all of 35 yards, brought plenty of cheer from the terraces as Killoe responded in the most emphatic fashion.

Hughes was clearly enjoying things and in the 14th minute he released team mate Daniel Mimmagh down the left. Bearing down on goal and free from the attentions of the St. Vincent's backline, Mimmagh smashed the ball over the bar despite muted groans that perhaps hinted a goal chance was very much on.

Two Noonan frees apart, Killoe slowly began to tighten their grip on the contest.

In the 22nd minute, St. Vincent's goalkeeper Paddy Collum was called into action for the first time. Again Mark Hughes was the provider as he released Pdraig McCormack with a perfectly weighted pass through the middle and despite shooting low and hard, Collum managed to avert the danger with a smart stop to his right.

It would prove to be the briefest of respites however for St. Vincent's and from the resulting '45' Paddy Thompson fisted the ball to the net amid a swarm of opposing defenders.

Thompson followed that effort moments later with a left footed score while Hughes, who was continuing to escape the attentions of the St. Vincent's defence, enhanced his reputation further still with a smashing point from 30 yards.

Going in at the break 1-8 to 0-5 down, St. Vincent's were in desperate need of a quick response but it was Killoe who continued to dominate. Mark Hughes stroked another free over two minutes into the second half to further extend his sides lead.

Four minutes later, the task facing St. Vincent's could have been made all the more ominous had Paddy Collum not pulled off his second excellent save of the afternoon when denying Mark Quinn from ten yards.

Such was the Killoe dominance, St. Vincent's were unable to register their first point of the second half until the 44th minute via a James Noonan free.

By the 49th minute, Killoe's grip on the game was strengthened when Paddy Thompson notched his second goal after collecting a raking pass from half-back Ronan Keogh to slam the ball into the back of the net.

St.Vincent's continued to plug away and Diarmuid Cooney curled the ball over the bar ten minutes from time.

But Mark Hughes and Killoe were very much in the driving seat and soon after the Killoe full-forward notched his eighth point of the game when fisting over the bar. Two more scores followed from the outstanding Hughes and Killoe were worthy winners of the 2009 Minor Football Championship title.

KILLOE: Michael Brady; Darren Bratten, Gary Connell, David Lennon; Darragh Bennett, Daniel Keogh, Ronan Keogh; Simon Kiernan, Paddy Thompson (2-1); Padraig O'Reilly (0-1), Padraig McCormack (0-1), Mark Quinn; Daniel Mimmagh (0-1), Mark Hughes (0-10, four frees), David Mimmagh.

Subs:- Shane Clarke for D Lennon (49 mins); Ryan Murray for David Mimmagh (61 mins), Franklin O'Reilly for Daniel Mimmagh (64 mins).

ST. VINCENT'S: Paddy Collum; Brian Collum, Francis Mollaghan, Darren Reilly; Derek McCormack, Dylan Quinn, Darren Quinn; Darren Farrelly (0-1, free), Sean Whelan; Pete Collum (0-1), Robert Rehill, Diarmuid Cooney (0-2); Conor Heslin (0-2), James Noonan (0-5, four frees), Emmet Noonan.

Subs:- Paudge Gill for R Rehill (29 mins); Paul Hughes for D McCormack (40 mins); Mark Prunty for D Reilly (51 mins).

Referee: Seamus Flood (Mostrim).