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2011 U-16 Championship Final

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Killoe U-16s victorious in county final replay

Killoe 1 – 11

Northern Gaels 0 – 12

Reigning U-16 'A' champions Killoe succeeded at the second attempt in their quest to retain the Juvenile Football Championship title but had to withstand a determined late rally by Northern Gaels in the county final replay at Pearse Park before a significant two-in-a-row triumph was achieved.

Inspired by a somewhat fortunate goal from defender John Lynch whose well struck shot slipped through the hands of opposing keeper Luke Meehan in the 21st minute of the first half, Killoe asserted their superiority to establish a commanding 1-6 to 0-3 advantage at the break after playing against the wind and appeared to be in a strong position.

With just a minute gone in the second half, the lead was extended to seven points when Larry Moran shot over the bar from a tight angle but never-say-die Northern Gaels came storming back to close the gap with three points on the trot – a brace from midfielder David McGivney (play and free) with Rian Brady also on target.

That was putting it up to the favourites Killoe, who had stepped up a couple of gears from their performance in the drawn final, and three quick points from Larry Moran (two frees) and Stephen Duke consolidated their firm grip on the replay.

But the spirited Northern Gaels side kept plugging away in refusing to accept defeat and three points in a row gave them a glimmer of hope with time running out. David McGivney converted two frees while a terrific penetrating run from defender Jason Earley created the chance for substitute Jason Matthews to shoot over the bar.

The pressure was eased on Killoe when Ciaran Donohoe had a close range strike parried over the bar by the Gaels keeper Luke Meehan who did well to keep his net intact in the 55th minute and which left the title holders 1-11 to 0-9 in front.

But still the Abbeylara and Mullinalaghta amalgamation battled on and their perseverance was rewarded with late points from David McGivney (free), Conor Berry and the always dangerous Nigel Rabbitte.

McGivney put Berry through for a great chance of a goal but the latter shot just over the bar in what was a lucky escape for Killoe who held out for a hard earned victory.

KILLOE OG: Shane Fitzpatrick; Shane O'Hara, Fergal O'Donnell, Darragh Gilna; Cathal Flynn, John Lynch (1-0), Shane Tully; Paddy Kiernan (0-2), Damien Bennett; Jamie King, Liam Hughes, Oisín Bennett; Stephen Duke (0-2), Larry Moran (0-5, three frees), Ciaran Donohoe (0-2).

Sub:- Shane Thompson for S Duke (56 mins).