

## Football ► UNDER 21B CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

## St Breckan's edge home to the title

St Breckan's 1-06 - Clondegad 0-07

at Cusack Park, Ennis

## ► Match Details

## Dermot Hogan

IT proved to be a great Sunday for north Clare football teams as three wins were secured out of three games. St Breckan's got the ball rolling early on Sunday afternoon as they accounted for Clondegad in this year's under 21B football championship final. The hot spot for all you singles desiring a match made in Clare will be a venue of celebration and extra jubilation for the week ahead as this 1-6 to 0-7 win will be relived and praised over and over again.

Captain Sean Cormican handed his outfit the ideal start to this match when he split the posts after combining well with twin brother Conor af-

ter four minutes. Five minutes later the roles reversed. Sean secured position in the middle of the park before Conor evaded a number of Clondegad defenders to double their early advantage.

Clondegad finally got their name on the scoreboard when, after a quarter of an hour, wing-forward Robert Pender pointed a free that became scoreable thanks to some Breckan's dissent. The next two scores of the game also fell to the eventual losers with Eoghan Donnellan and a superb effort from Clare minor Tony Kelly nudging them in front for the first time.

The lead evaporated with five minutes of the half remaining when the

crucial only goal of the game was scored. Full-forward Daniel Collins, who was a constant threat to the Clondegad defence in the air, stole possession before putting Adrian Nilan through on goal. The attacker remained cool and slotted the ball into the bottom corner with his trusty left leg. A free each for both teams left it at 1-3 to 0-4 at half-time.

The second-half saw Clondegad's control on the game increase. However a combination of poor shooting and a lack of composure in front of goal would lead to their ultimate downfall.

Against the run of play it was Breckan's who grasped the next two scores. Cormac Hehir grabbed a quick fire

double to push the lead to five. This still though would not prevent a nail biting finish. Donnellan soon found a duo of points himself from placed balls while a Shane Brennan free from a longer distance left it at 1-6 to 0-7 as injury-time approached.

Clondegad tried their utmost to find a goal as even goalkeeper Declan O'Loughlin surged up field into the attack for the dying moments. Breckan's would not be beaten and a fantastic save by Craig Flanagan at the very end sealed the result to allow captain Sean Cormican have the honour of bringing the cup home.

Below: Under 21B championship winners St Breckan's. Below right: St Breckan's captain Sean Cormican.

## St Breckan's

Craig Flanagan (7), Jason Hillary (7), Sean Howley (8), Stephen Nagle (7), John Linnane (7), Michael Reddan (7), John Paul Keating (7), Sean Cormican (7) (0-1), Stephen Tierney (7), Michael Hogan (7), Conor Cormican (8) (0-3, 2f), Cormac Hehir (7) (0-2), John Stack (7), Daniel Collins (7), Adrian Nilan (7) (1-0) **Subs** Sean Neville (6) for Keating, Tomas Francis (6) for Hogan

## Clondegad

Declan O'Loughlin (7), Conor Gavin (7), Brian Murphy (7), Martin Lynch (7), Gearoid O'Connell (7), Cormac Ryan (7), Declan Keane (7), James Murphy (7), Shane Brennan (7) (0-2f), Kevin White (7), Tony Kelly (7) (0-1), Robert Pender (7) (0-1f), Padraig Glynn (6), Eoghan Donnellan (7) (0-3, 2f), Jeremiah Brady (6) **Sub** Paul Flanagan (6) for Glynn

## Man of the Match

Conor Cormican (St Breckan's)

Referee Barry Kelly (St Joseph's Miltown)



## Football ► UNDER 21C CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

## Coolmen take the title as Cathal O'Connor shines

Coolmeen 2-08 - O'Curry's/Naomh Eoin 1-06

at Tubridy Memorial Park, Kilrush

## Derrick Lynch

THE heroic performance of Cathal O'Connor at midfield for Coolmeen was crucial as his side secured the under 21 C football title with a comfortable victory over O'Currys/Naomh Eoin in Kilrush on Saturday evening.

The sides were level twice inside the opening 15 minutes. Eoin Brew and Jack Scanlon had scores for the amalgamation and Kevin Corry replied for Coolmeen. Coolmeen then hit four unanswered points before Shane Keane sent one over for O'Currys/Naomh Eoin to leave the half-time score at 0-6 to 0-3 in favour of Coolmeen.

The scoreline could have been a lot different were it not for Kieran Magnier in the O'Currys/Naomh Eoin goal. He made several vital saves in the first-half despite being left exposed on numerous occasions to keep his side in the game. Martin McMahon and Eoin Murphy were also enjoying dominance in the Coolmeen full back line and were never really under any serious pressure.

O'Currys/Naomh Eoin came out all guns blazing in the second-half and a

Jack Scanlon point looked to steady the amalgamation who had looked nervy up to that point. The turning point in the game then came just six minutes into the second-half.

A move that started in the Coolmeen half back line led to a great run by the impressive Kevin Corry whose shot was well saved by Kieran

Magner but the rebound was turned into the net by the waiting Jamie Brooks.

The irony of this was that Brooks had been originally selected to start in goals for Coolmeen but proved just as effective at the opposite end of the field. Brooks then followed this by bagging his second goal of the

game to essentially kill the game as a contest. Jack Scanlon, who looked lively throughout, got a goal back for O'Currys/Naomh Eoin, but it was far too little too late.

Scanlon, who finished with a personal tally of 1-3, had another point soon after before Joe Corry finished off the scoring for the victors. A free

by Gearoid Lynch was scant consolation for the amalgamation as Coolmeen ran out deserved winners. Best for the winners were Martin McMahon, Alan Marrinan and Cathal O'Connor while the efforts of Eoin Brew, Finbar O'Gorman and Jack Scanlon were to be commended for O'Currys/Naomh Eoin.

Left: Coolmeen, winners of the under 21C championship.

## ► Match Details

## Coolmeen

Conor Meaney (7), Martin McMahon (8), Eoin Murphy (8), Aaron Kelly (7), Alan Marrinan (8) (0-2f), Jason O'Leary (7), Cathal O'Connor (9) (0-2f), Joe Corry (8) (0-2), Jamie Brooks (8) (2-0), Kevin Corry (8) (0-1), Mikey McGuane (7), Darragh McNamara (7), Shane McMahon (7) (0-1). **Subs** Gerry McInerney (7) for McGuane.

## O'Currys/Naomh Eoin

Kieran Magnier (8), Ryan McMahon (6), Finbar O'Gorman (7), Ian Roche (6), Eoin Brew (7) (0-1), Cathal McMahon (6), Tom Downes (7), Michael Considine (6), Shane Keane (7) (0-1), Tom Roche (6), Dermot O'Gorman (6), Gearoid Lynch (6) (0-1f), Jack Scanlon (8) (1-4, 2f).

## Man of the Match

Cathal O'Connor (Coolmeen)

Referee John Hannon (Michael Cusack's)

