

Corofin best in Burren derby contest

Corofin 2-3 - Ballyvaughan 0-5

at Gleann Ciosog

Shane Murphy

THIS north Clare encounter was much more than a derby game. It was essentially a battle for survival, both in the race for the semi-finals and of course the unthinkable fate of relegation. In such heightened circumstances, it was about getting over the line regardless of the performance and it was just as well because the

game will hardly be remembered as a classic, if even remembered at all.

Corofin did come out on top in the end though thanks to two first half goals from Damien Ryan and Darren Malone that set the tone in this low scoring contest. By half-time, they led by 2-1 to 0-3 and with only two points apiece in the second period, the game rather petered out than crackled like a neighbourly rivalry

should. Ballyvaughan simply craved a goal that would get them back into the game but in truth it never looked like coming as Corofin held on to maintain their championship hopes.

They now play O'Curry's in what is essentially a championship quarter-final. For Ballyvaughan, the battle for survival continues to a relegation play-off regardless of their fate against Clondegad.

Match Details

Corofin

Kieran Carkill, Ollie O'Loughlin, Brendan Keane, Brian McGahan, Damien Malone (0-1), Eamon Malone, Diarmuid Daly, John Keane, Luke O'Loughlin, Stephen Heagney, Darragh Shannon, Fergal Neylon, Darren Malone (1-2), Damien Ryan (1-1), Jason Tierney

Subs Maruz Malone for McGahan, Paddy Golden for Neylon, Killian Neylon for Heagney

Ballyvaughan Damien McNamara, Mark O'Loughlin, Sean McNamara, John Linnane, Mark Walsh, Kieran Casey (0-1), Phelim Coyne, John McCormack, James Hynes, Cillian Malone, Cian Walsh (0-1), Lorcan Mahon, Adrian Niland (0-2), Donnacha Mahon, Kevin Carrucan **Subs** Tomás Francis for D. Mahon, Raymond Casey for Carrucan

Man of the Match

Darren Malone (Corofin)

Referee Tom Staicpool (Ennistymon)