

FOOTBALL > JUNIOR A CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTER-FINAL

Magpies cruise into a semi-final spot

Clarecastle 3-11 - Lissycasey 1-04

at Éire Óg

CLARECASTLE returned to the penultimate stage of the Junior A Championship for the second time in three years after a comprehensive victory over Lissycasey on Saturday. The Magpies were undoubtedly the dominant side throughout and the simple fact that this was a first versus a second team encounter eventually told.

Lissycasey had lost key players to their first side's senior relegation battle and therefore were on the backfoot from the start, despite holding the wind advantage in the opening half. Instead Clarecastle took the game to their opponents from the outset, with a brace each from Patrick Kelly and Eamon Callinan easing them into a four point advantage. It could have been much more only for a missed

goal opportunity and seven first half wides to halt their charge, and that profligacy gave Lissycasey a glimmer of hope as they finally opened their account just before the break through Kevin Hanrahan.

On the restart, Pakie Healy and Killian McNamara traded points before Clarecastle attempted to pull clear with an Eamon Callinan goal. However almost immediately Hanrahan responded in full to cut the deficit to just three once more.

Clarecastle's impressive second goal at the end of the third quarter through Alan Considine finally gave them the lift they required and as Lissycasey's heads dropped, the Magpies punished them in an unanswered 1-5 ten minute haul including a third goal, this time from Pakie

Healy to put the result beyond any doubt.

Clarecastle

Andrew Page, Barry Lynch, Jamie O'Connor, Fergal Griffin, Seanie Moloney, Kieran O'Dwyer (0-2), Jonathan Clancy, Patrick Kelly (0-3), Adam Healy, Danny Scanlon, Cathal Lynch, Kevin Clohesy (0-2), Eamon Callinan (1-3 2f), Alan Considine (1-0), Pakie Healy (1-1) **Subs** John Reidy for B. Lynch (inj), Kieran Lynch for Moloney, Donnagh Murphy for C. Lynch, Brian Lynch for Considine (inj), Michael John Reynolds for P. Healy

Lissycasey

Shane Normoyle, Kieran Donnelly, Brendan O'Connor, Paul Clancy, Ronan McCarthy, Barry Keating, Kevin Hanrahan (1-1), Noel Casey, Noel Finnucane, Kieran Clancy, David McMahon, Colm O'Rourke, David Clancy, Killian McNamara (0-2), Martin Daly (0-1f) **Subs** Michael Nagle for O'Rourke, Eoin Enright for K. Clancy, Dylan Cahill for Keating, Eoghan O'Leary for Finnucane

Referee Fergal Gray (Feakle)

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Coolmeen too strong for Clonlara

Coolmeen 2-11 - Clonlara 1-08

at Éire Óg, Ennis

IT EVENTUALLY came down to experience as seasoned campaigners Coolmeen finally shook off rookies Clonlara to get back to the last four of the championship on Saturday evening. Having been heartbreakingly pipped at the post in last year's penultimate stage clash by another south east Clare side Meelick, Coolmeen were not about to take any chances this time around and while it was never totally comfortable, they still held the upper hand for the majority of the tie as the Junior B champions failed to convert their chances. Much like their senior hurling championship group rivals Cratloe, Clonlara had a delicate balancing act on this occasion, sandwiched in between last Thursday's Clare Cup semi-final victory over Broadford and their upcoming senior championship quarter-final against O'Callaghan's Mills this Saturday.

That was of no concern to Coolmeen however as a 20th minute first half goal from Joe Corry saw them hold a 1-6 to 0-5 half-time advantage and when Cathal O'Connor grabbed a second immediately after the restart followed by a brace of points, they appeared to be on a clear path to victory. However, Clonlara rallied late on and when substitute Harry Horgan rattled the net to reduce the deficit to just two, it made for an anxious finish. Coolmeen refused to panic though and through the leadership of Cathal O'Connor and further points from substitute Kieran Neenan, Kevin Val McMahon and Michael Brooks ruled out any chance of another late upset as Coolmeen's title challenge reached the last four once more.

Coolmeen Jamie Brooks, Aaron Kelly, Kevin

(Val) McMahon (0-3), Kevin McMahon, Martin McMahon, Noel Meaney, Brian Markham, Michael Brooks (0-1), Cathal O'Connor (1-2), Joe Corry (1-2), David Neenan (0-1), Eoin O'Connor, Sean McMahon, Thomas Coffey (0-1), Shane McMahon **Subs** Alan Murrinan for M. McMahon, Kieran Neenan (0-1) for Coffey, Donal Houlihan for D. Neenan

Clonlara Cormac O'Donovan, Patrick Conlon, Paul Collins, Paul Barry, Cathal O'Connell, Pat O'Hare, Ronan Carey, Paul Nihil, Michael Whyte, Barry O'Connell, Domhnall O'Donovan, Ger O'Connell, Tommy Begley, Nicky O'Connell, Donal Madden **Subs** Ryan Morris for G. O'Connell, Colm Galvin for Barry, Harry Horgan for D. O'Donovan

Referee Jim Hickey (Cratloe)

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Clondegad by slimmest margin

Clondegad 1-08 - St Joseph's Doora/Barefield 1-07

at Lissycasey

Joe Ó Muirheartaigh

COLM Quinlivan was the hero of the hour for Clondegad as they edged into the semi-final of the Junior A Championship with a one-point victory over St Joseph's Doora-Barefield on Sunday evening.

Last year's defeated Junior B Championship finalists edged home thanks to Quinlivan's personal haul of 1-5, with his goal being every bit as powerful as the rocket dispatched to the Croke Park net by Michael Murphy a few hours earlier for Donegal.

Quinlivan struck at an important time, with his 22nd minute effort coming just three minutes after Niall Delougrey had given St Joseph's the initiative with a goal that had put daylight between the sides for the first time.

The sides were level on three occasions in the early stages when St Joseph's Johnny O'Brien (3) and Clondegad's David Sheehan, Rory Longe and Quinlivan on the mark. Then came the goals before Johnny O'Brien fourth point gave St Joseph's a 1-4 to 1-3 interval lead.

Three Colm Quinlivan frees to a lone response from Johnny O'Brien helped Clondegad into a 1-6 to 1-5 lead by the 42nd minute, but the sides were level going into the last quarter after Kevin Frehill was on the mark for St Joseph's.

Joe Neylon and Rory Mullane then swapped points by the 52nd minute before the last act was left to Colm Quinlivan in the 59th minute when he landed his fourth free of the hour just when the tie seemed to be heading for a replay.

Match Details**Clondegad**

Kenneth Breen, Mark Quinn, Paddy Breen, Emmet Smithwick, Barry Coffey, Kevin Sheehan, Flan King, Joe Neylon, Eamon Griffin, Tadhg Lynch, Colm Gavin, David Sheehan, Stephen Enright, Colm Quinlivan, Rory Longe **Subs** Alan Carrig for Quinn, David Brassil for Enright, John Griffin for Griffin, Danny Lynch for Gavin.

St Joseph's Doora-Barefield

Greg Dullaghan, Barry Galvin, Conor O'Brien, Kieran Browne, Michael Gallagher, Mark Rafferty, Leo Duggan, Brian Dilleen, Don Barron, Ian Lyons, Michéal Ó Ceallaigh, Kevin Frehill (0-1), Martin Hanrahan, Johnny O'Brien (0-5, 3f), Niall Delougery (1-0) **Subs** Stephen Barron for Gallagher, Rory Mullane (0-1) for Don Barron, Peter O'Toole for Ó Ceallaigh.

Man of the Match
Colm Quinlivan (Clondegad)

Referee
Barry Kelly (St Joseph's Miltown)

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Cusack's win local derby

Michael Cusack's 0-07 - Ballyvaughan 0-03

at Ennistymon

THIS derby victory for Michael Cusack's had a sweet ring to it – sweeter than sweet you could say for the men from The Citizen's country.

All because it was the first knockout championship clash between these two sides and neighbours since their landmark county intermediate final meeting in Cusack Park half a decade ago.

On that occasion the spoils of a very famous victory indeed went Ballyvaughan, but this time it was the turn of Michael Cusack's to exact some revenge as they booked their semi-final spot with four points to spare.

The sides were deadlocked at 0-2 apiece at half-time after Pat Hynes and Seamus Ó Conghaile were on the mark for Cusack's, while Jason McDonagh and Adrian Nilan landed Ballyvaughan's two points from frees.

However, first half parity was really as good as it got for a Ballyvaughan outfit that were plying their trade in the senior ranks only a few short years ago. All they could manage was one second half point from Donncha Mahon, while Cusack's hit a

handful to pull away to a comfortable victory.

Pat Hynes added to his first half point with two more, while Michael O'Connor (2) and Hugh Kelly were also on the mark as they eased their way into the penultimate round.

Michael Cusack's

Eoin Farrell, Justin Linnane, Oliver Conway, Enda Hehir, Patrick O'Connor, Niall Hehir, Rowan Rafferty, James Hynes, Mark Shannon, Eoin Kelly, Seamus Ó Conghaile (0-1), Colm Davoren, Michael O'Connor (0-2), Patrick Hynes (0-3), Hugh Kelly (0-1) **Subs** Kevin Fawl, James Droney, Sean Brosnan.

Ballyvaughan

James Callinan, John Linnane, Damian Martyn, Mark O'Loughlin, Mark Walsh, Kieran Casey, Sean McNamara, James Hynes, Raymond Casey, Adrian Nilan (0-1f), Kevin Carrucan, Lorcan Mahon, Jason McDonagh (0-1f), Donncha Mahon (0-1), Damian McNamara **Subs** Paul Darcy for Lorcan Mahon, Phelim Coyne for Sean McNamara, Stevie Hynes for Damian McNamara.

Man of the Match
Rowan Rafferty (Michael Cusack's)

Referee
Michael Rock (Ennistymon)

Below: Michael Cusack's goalkeeper Eoin Farrell.

