**Kerry U21s Survive Brave Banner Challenge (Kerry’s Eye News Paper)**

Munster U21 Championship: Kerry 1-17 Clare 2-8

Kerry opened their Munster U21 campaign against Clare in Austin Stack Park under floodlights and the Banner most certainly gave them a tough opening test.

Both sides fought hard for early possession but Kerry were much more clinical with it, Cathal Bambury, Sean O'Shea, and Matthew Flaherty all on target before Conor Finucane opened Clare's account in the 10th minute. Conor Geaney and the very impressive O'Shea notched more Kerry points before Aidan Davidson scored Clare's first from play. Keelan Sexton brilliantly waltzed through Kerry's defence before setting up Finucane to make it 0-5 to 0-3.

Kerry looked the more dangerous at this point – but Clare's impressive work-rate was paying dividends.

Tom O'Sullivan and O'Shea again stretched out the lead but Clare struck a lightning blow with a stunning goal by Kerry-connected Conall O hAinifein. Matthew O'Sullivan responded perfectly for Kerry, pointing and then, after a clever 1-2 with Matthew Flaherty, drilling a great goal of his own. Conall O hAinifein, driving forward again, hit the last score of the half.

Half-time: Kerry 1-8 Clare 1-5

Conor Finucane opened the second half scoring. It was Kerry's turn now to waste a lot of good scoring chances. The introduction of an effervescent Killian Spillane saw him notch a great team point straight away after a Sean O'Shea free. At 1-10 to 1-6, Kerry might have expected to pull away, but again Clare's resilience stood to them as they again slipped a little too easily through the defence for Eimhin Courtney to claim their second goal.

Kerry were getting asked very hard questions here, but held their nerve as Clare's impressive challenge finally began to ebb. Spillane added two more well-executed scores, as did Matthew Flaherty, with Bambury, Geaney, and Lee O'Donoghue finally putting daylight between the teams.

Kerry will be glad to have survived a high first hurdle....but the finishing line is a ditance away yet!

Kerry will play Waterford in Dungarvan next Wednesday night.

Kerry: Shane Ryan, Tom Leo O'Sullivan, Jason Foley, Tom O'Sullivan (0-1), Brian Sugrue, Andrew Barry, Daniel O'Brien, Barry O'Sullivan, Brian O Seanachain, Brandon Barrett, Sean O'Shea (0-4, 2f), Matthew Flaherty (0-3), Conor Geaney (0-2, 1f), Matthew O'Sullivan (1-1), Cathal Bambury (0-2). Subs Killian Spillane 0-3 (for Matthew O'Sullivan, 34 mins), Jack Morgan (for Daniel O'Brien, Cormac Coffey (for Brian Sugrue, 53 mins), Lee O'Donoghue 0-1 (for Conor Geaney, 55 mins), Roibeard O Se (for Barry O'Sullivan, 59 mins), Ivan Parker (for Cathal Bambury, 59 mins)

Clare: Killian Roche, Einne O’Connor, Darren Nagle, Colm Pyne, Conall O hAinifein (1-1), Rory McMahon, Killian Brennan, Darragh Bohannon, Cian O’Dea, Aidan Davidson (0-1), Keelan Sexton (0-1), David Egan, Eimhin Courtney (1-0), Alan McSweeney, Conor Finucane (0-5, 3f). Subs Roan Danaher (for Einne O'Connor, half-time), Oisin Hanrahan (for David Egan, 36 mins), Jonah Culligan (for Colm Pyne, 40 mins), Sean O'Donoghue (for Darragh Bohannon, 44 mins), Conor Downes (for Alan Sweeney, 50 mins), David Foran (for Aidan Davidson, 53 mins)

Referee: Alan Kissane (Waterford)

#### [Munster U21 Football Q-Final – Kerry 1-17 Clare 2-8](http://munster.gaa.ie/2017/03/08/eirgrid-munster-under-21-football-championship-quarter-final-kerry-v-clare/)

Kerry defeated Clare by 1-17 to 2-8 in the Eirgrid Munster Under 21 Football Championship Quarter-Final on Wednesday March 8th at Austin Stack Park Tralee.

Kerry overcome Clare to progress in Munster U-21 Football Championship

Report by Eoghan Cormican for the Irish Examiner newspaper

Kerry … 1-17, Clare … 2-8: Kerry will play Waterford in the Munster U21 football semi-final next Wednesday after this less than convincing quarter-final win over Clare.

It was only in the last quarter that the Kingdom pulled clear, kicking four points in-a-row between the 46th and 57th minute to slowly kill off the Clare challenge. The Banner had cut the deficit to the minimum when Éimhin Courtney bagged their second goal on 39 minutes. They’d kick only two more points, though, in the remaining 20 minutes.

Kerry went in at the break three in front, but it’s unlikely that management were wholly enamoured by their team’s first-half showing. The visitors opened up the Kerry defence for four goal chances, taking the last of these on 23 minutes.

Half-back Conall Ó hAiniféin gathered possession around the middle of the field, before cutting straight through the heart of the home defence and beating Shane Ryan with a well-placed effort. The goal brought Clare to within two points of Kerry, 0-8 to 1-3, but the response from Jack O’Connor’s side was as quick as it was clinical.

Matthew Flaherty opened his account and the gap was back to five when Cathal Banbury set-up Matthew O’Sullivan for a Kerry goal on 25 minutes.

You’d have expected the favourites to push on here and drive a significant wedge between themselves and their opponents come the break, but, instead, it was Clare who played the better football approaching half-time. The Banner counter-attacked with purpose and yet another Ó hAiniféin ended with a white flag, with Conor Finucane’s second free further narrowing the gap.

Scorers for Kerry: M O’Sullivan (1-1); S O’Shea (0-4, 0-2 frees); M O’Flaherty, K Spillane (0-3 each); C Geaney (0-1 free), C Bambury (0-2 each); L O’Donoghue, T O’Sullivan (0-1 each)

Scorers for Clare: C Finucane (0-5, 0-4 frees); C Ó hAiniféin (1-1); É Courtney (1-0); K Sexton (0-1 free), A Davidson (0-1 each).

Kerry: S Ryan (Rathmore); TL O’Sullivan (Dingle), J Foley (Ballydonoghue), T O’Sullivan (Dingle); B Sugrue (Renard), A Barry (Na Gaeil), D O’Brien (Glenflesk); B O’Sullivan (Dingle), B Ó Seanacháin (Ballydonoghue); B Barrett (Ardfert), S O’Shea (Kenmare), M Flaherty (Dingle); C Bambury (Dingle), M O’Sullivan (St Michael’s Foilmore), C Geaney (Dingle)
Subs: K Spillane (Templenoe) for M O’Sullivan (34); J Morgan (Austin Stacks) for O’Brien (41); C Coffey (Kerins O’Rahillys) for Sugrue (53); L O’Donoghue (Glenflesk) for Geaney (54); R Ó Sé (An Ghaeltacht) for O’Sullivan, I Parker (Churchill) for Bambury (both 58).

Clare: K Roche (Cooralcare); E O’Connor (Éire Óg Ennis), D Nagle (Liscannor), C Payne (Killimor); C Ó hAiniféin (Ruan), R McMahon (Kildysart), C Brennan (Clondegad); D Bohannon (Shannon Gaels), C O’Dea (Kilfenora); A Davidson (St Breckan’s), A Sweeney (St Breckan’s), D Egan (Kilmihil); C Finucane (Lissycasey), K Sexton (Kilmurry/Ibrickane), E Courtney (Éire Óg Ennis)
Subs: R Danagher (St Breckan’s) for O’Connor (HT); O Hanrahan (Lissycasey) for Egan (36); J Culligan (Ballyvaughan) for Payne (40); S O’Donoghue (Cooraclare) for Bohannon (42); C Downes (O’Curry’s) for Sweeney (50); D Foran (Killimor) for Davidson (52).

Referee: A Kissane (Waterford).

# Kerry withstand strong Clare effort to move into Munster U21 semi-final

## **Kerry 1-17 Clare 2-8**



[**Independent.ie Newsdesk**](http://www.independent.ie/opinion/independent-journalists/independentie-newsdesk/)

March 8 2017 10:13 PM

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****1***Kerry U21 manager Jack O'Connor.*

Kerry made heavy weather of disposing of a dogged Clare side at Austin Stack Park, needing a late surge to seal their progress.

Jack O’Connor’s hosts surged into a three-point lead through Cathal Bambury, Sean O’Shea and Mathew O’Sullivan.

Clare’s running game was troubling the Kingdom defence, bringing scores from Brian Finucane (2) and Aidan Davidson before Conor Geaney, Sean O’Shea (2) and Tom O’Sullivan made 0-7 to 0-3.

Banner wing-back Conall Ó hAiniféin stormed forward to blast in a goal before O’Sullivan billowed the Clare net. Ó hAiniféin kicked a point and when Conor Finucane added a free, the half-time lead was just 1-8 to 1-5.

Finucane cut the deficit with another free and Kerry looked in trouble but sub Killian Spillane kicked two points before Clare grabbed another goal, this time by Eimhin Courtney.

The game was now in the melting pot with just two points in it, but Kerry finished strongly with points from Matthew Flaherty (2), Bambury, Conor Geaney, Spillane and Lee O’Donoghue.

Kerry face Waterford away in the semi-final.

Scorers – Kerry: M O’Sullivan 1-1, S O’Shea 0-4 (3fs), M Flaherty, K Spillane 0-3 each, C Geaney (1f), C Bambury 0-2 each, T O’Sullivan, L O’Donoghue 0-1 each. Clare: C Finucane 0-5 (4fs); C O hAinifein 1-1, E Courtney 1-0, A Davidson, K Sexton 0-1 each.

KERRY – S Ryan; TL O’Sullivan, J Foley, T O’Sullivan; B Sugrue, A Barry, D O’Brien; B O’Sullivan, B Ó Seanacháin; B Barrett, S O’Shea, M O Flaherty; C Geaney, M O’Sullivan, C Bambury.  Subs: K Spillane for M O’Sullivan (35), J Morgan for D O’Brien (42), C Coffey for B Sugrue (53), L O’Donoghue for C Geaney (55) R Ó Se for B O’Sullivan (60), I Parker for C Bambury (60).

CLARE– K Roche; E O’Connor, D Nagle, C Pyne; C Ó hAiniféin, R McMahon, C Brennan; D Bohannon, C O’Dea; A Davidson , K Sexton, D Egan; E Courtney, A Sweeney, C Finucane. Subs: R Danagher for E O’Connor ( h/t), O Hanrahan for D Egan ( 36), J Culligan for C Pyne ( 42), S O’Donoghue for D Bohannon ( 42),  C Downes for A Sweeney ( 50) , D Foran for A Davidson ( 53)

Ref – A Kissane (Waterford)

###  Kerry 1-17

### Clare 2-8

Jason O’Connor reports from Austin Stack Park, Tralee

KERRY WERE GIVEN a stern examination by Clare in their opening EirGrid Munster U-21 football championship quarter-final encounter of 2017. The hosts needed a strong finish to see off a determined Banner outfit that found the back of the net twice in Tralee.

Matthew Flaherty and substitute Killian Spillane were key figures for Kerry in an interesting encounter. The Kingdom advance to next Wednesday night’s semi-final away to Waterford.

While it took six minutes for the game’s first score, Kerry looked in control at 0-7 to 0-3 in front after 20 minutes. Then Clare defender Conall Ó hAiniféin surged through their defence three minutes later for a goal that just left one point between the sides.

Kerry regrouped however with Flaherty finding his namesake Matthew O’Sullivan in the 25th minute for the Kerry goal as they led by 1-8 to 1-5 at half-time.

The game appeared to be in the melting pot approaching the three-quarter mark as Eimhin Courtney scored the visitors’ second goal from close range to make it a one point game again after 43 minutes at 1-10 to 2-6.

Jack O’Connor’s side responded positively however, both O’Flaherty and Spillane registering three points each on the night in ensuring a five point win.

2016 All-Ireland minor winning captain Sean O’Shea scored four points meanwhile as it took two great late saves from Clare goalkeeper Killian Roche to prevent Kerry’s winning margin being greater in the end.

Conor Finucane scored five points (four from frees) for the plucky losers who gave the victors plenty to think about going forward.

**Scorers for Kerry:** Matthew O’Sullivan (1-1), Sean O’Shea (0-4, 2f), Matthew Flaherty and Killian Spillane (0-3 each), Cathal Bambury and Conor Geaney (1f) (0-2 each), Tom O’Sullivan and Lee O’Donoghue (0-1 each)

**Scorers for Clare:** Conall Ó hAiniféin (1-1), Eimhin Courtney (1-0), Conor Finucane (0-5, 4f) Aidan Davidson and Keelan Sexton (f) (0-1)

### Kerry

Shane Ryan (Rathmore)

Tom L O’Sullivan (Dingle)
Jason Foley (Ballydonoghue)
Tom O’Sullivan (Dingle)

Brian Sugrue (Renard, Capt)
Andrew Barry (Na Gaeil)
Daniel O’Brien (Glenflesk)

Barry O’Sullivan (Dingle)
Brian Ó Seanacháin (Ballydonoghue)

Brandon Barrett (Ardfert)
Seán O’Shea (Kenmare Shamrocks)
Matthew Flaherty (Dingle)

Conor Geaney (Dingle)
Matthew O’Sullivan (St Michaels/Foilmore)
Cathal Bambury (Dingle)

**Subs**

Killian Spillane (Templenoe) for Matthew O’Sullivan (34)
Jack Morgan (Austin Stacks) for O’Brien (41)
Cormac Coffey (Kerins O’Rahillys) for Sugrue (53)
Lee O’Donoghue (Glenflesk) for Geaney (54)
Roibeard Ó Sé (An Gaeltacht) for Barry O’Sullivan
Ivan Parker (Churchill) for Bambury (both 59)

### Clare

Killian Roche (Cooraclare)

Einne O’Connor (Eire Óg Ennis)
Darren Nagle (Liscannor, Capt)
Colm Pyne (Kilimer)

Connall Ó hAiniféin (Ruan)
Rory McMahon (Kildysert)
Cillian Brennan (Clondegad)

Daragh Bohannon (Shannon Gaels)
Cian O’Dea (Kilfenora)

Aidan Davidson (St Breckans)
Keelan Sexton (Kilmurry/Ibrickane)
David Egan (Kilmihil)

Éimhin Courtney (Eire Óg, Ennis)
Alan Sweeney (St Breckans)
Conor Finucane (Lissycasey)

**Subs**

Rowan Danagher (St Breckans) for O’Connor (H/T)
Oisin Hanrahan (Lissycasey) for Egan (36)
Jonah Cullligan (Ballyvaughan) for Pyne (40)
Sean Donoghue (Cooraclare) for Bohannon (42)
Cathal Downes (O’Currys) for Sweeney (49)
David Foran (Kilimer) for Davidson (52)

**Referee:** Alan Kissane (Waterford)

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