

FOOTBALL ► PETER MCNULTY UNDER 21 TOURNAMENT FINAL



Hawes, 'Finals are hard to get to and then they're hard to win

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IT should have been easier than it turned out as Limerick were still chasing the game and hoping for an equalising goal deep into injury time, but Clare got there in the end and with that had claimed some silverware ahead of the upcoming Munster championship.

"It's a great boost — finals are hard to get to and then they're hard to win," said manager Neil Hawes min-

utes after his side's three-point success. "Credit to the lads, they fought hard. It took right to the 60th minute to close the deal and thankfully we got there in the end.

"We won a tight game up in Kildare and even the Galway game the last night, in that the boys really defended very well and the never get up.

"We're delighted with the performance. We knew it would be hard-earned. The lads have great confidence got form the victories over Kildare, Wexford and Galway, so we

were anxious to finish the job," he added.

The victory saw Clare reverse the result of the opening round game between the sides three weeks previously, a reverse that was uppermost in Hawes' mind for this return meeting.

"We were disappointed after the first night," he admitted. "We coughed up some easy scores and in fairness to the boys we responded well the following Wednesday night. We played UL in a challenge and

from then until now we have made steady progress.

"We have some great leaders in the team and in fairness to the boys they have been playing some good football as well," he added.

Good football that they'll need to ramp up still further ahead of their Munster quarter-final against Kerry in Austin Stack Park on 8 March. "Up to now we haven't focused on them," said Hawes of the Kerry test.

"To be fair Kerry are the favourites to win the All-Ireland, they're after

winning the last three minor All-Irelands, but we will just be focused on our own game and try to get the lads to perform well on the night.

"You have to get your own house in order and that's what we will be focusing on. Hopefully we will have the likes of Pearse (Lillis) and a few more to come back into the squad by then," he added.

Above: The Clare U21 football team

UNDERAGE GAA ► MUNSTER POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Semi-Final fever on the treble this Saturday

The biggest day in Clare's Munster Colleges calendar arrives this Saturday as three Banner schools contest senior championship semi-finals in football (2) and hurling.

The headline act is undoubtedly the Clare v Kerry footballing double header in Mick Neville Park, Rathkeale of the Corn Uí Mhuiri (Senior A) Semi-Final between St Flannan's College and St Brendan's College, Killarney at 12pm followed by St Joseph's Spanish Point's Senior C last four clash with Causeway Comprehensive at 1.30pm. Inbetween those games, Rice College, Ennis will be bidding for a Munster Senior B Hurling Final appearance against John the Baptist Community School, Hospital (Limerick) when they face Colaiste an Spioraí Naoimh, Bishopstown (Cork) in their Corn Thomáis Mhic Choilm semi-final clash in Ballyagran at 12.30pm.

Munster Post-Primary Schools Championships

Football

Corn Uí Mhuiri (Senior A Football)

Semi-Finals
St Flannan's College (Clare) v St Brendan's College, Killarney (Kerry) @ Rathkeale, Saturday 12pm

Colaiste Christí Rí (Cork) v Tralee CBS (Kerry) @ Mallow, Saturday 1pm

Corn Sheáin Uí Mhurchú (Senior C Football)

Semi-Finals
Causeway Comprehensive (Kerry) v St Joseph's Secondary School, Spanish Point (Clare) @ Rathkeale, Saturday 1.30pm
St Augustine's, Dungarvan (Waterford) v Gaelcholáiste Ciarraí (Kerry) (Saturday @ 12.30pm)

Corn Sheáin Uí Mhaolomhnaigh (Senior D Football)

Semi-Finals
St Colman's Middleton (Cork) v Boherbue Comprehensive School (Cork) @ Ballincollig, Tuesday 12.30pm
Colaiste an Trocaire, Rathkeale (Limerick) v St Anne's Killaloe (Clare) @ Rathkeale, Saturday (February 11), 12.30pm

Corn an Fhriúnnáigh (Under 16.5A Football) (Knock-Out)

Quarter-Finals
St Flannan's College, Ennis (Clare) 3-10 De La Salle Macroom (Cork) 2-08
St Brendan's College Killarney (Kerry) 5-09
St Francis College Rochestown (Cork) 2-11

Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne (Kerry) v John the Baptist Community School, Hospital (Limerick) @ Knocknagoshel, Wednesday 1.30pm
Mercy Mounthawk Tralee (Kerry) v Tralee CBS (Kerry) (Tuesday, February 7)

Semi-Finals

St Flannan's College, Ennis (Clare) v St Brendan's College Killarney (Kerry) (Wednesday, February 8)
Mercy Mounthawk Tralee (Kerry) or Tralee CBS (Kerry) v Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne (Kerry) or John the Baptist Community School, Hospital (Limerick) (Tuesday, February 28)

Corn Roibeard Uí Bhuachalla (Under 16.5C North Football)

Round 1
Cashel Community School (Tipperary) W/O from St Caimin's, Shannon (Clare)
Rice College, Ennis (Clare) 4-04 Tarbert Comprehensive School (Kerry) 1-10
St Joseph's Spanish Point (Clare) 3-10 Gaelcoláiste Chiarraí (Kerry) 1-10

Quarter-Finals

A - Rockwell College (Tipperary) v Ennistymon CBS (Clare) (Wednesday @ 12.30pm)
B - Cashel Community School (Tipperary)

v Rice College, Ennis (Clare) @ Cappamore, Wednesday 12.30pm
C - St Joseph's Spanish Point (Clare) v CBS Mitchelstown (Cork) (Wednesday @ 12.30pm)
D - Thurles CBS (Tipperary) v St Joseph's, Ballybunnion (Kerry) @ Rathkeale, Tuesday 12.30pm

Corn Seosamh Uí Néill (Under 16.5D Football) Round 1

St Anne's Killaloe (Clare) 2-12 Castleisland Community College (Kerry) 1-05
Colaiste an Phiarsaigh, Glanmire (Cork) 4-14 Mary Immaculate, Lisdoonvarna (Clare) 2-14
Kilkee Community College (Clare) 3-15 St Colmans Middleton (Cork) 0-06
Schull Community College (Cork) 4-9 St Patrick's Comprehensive, Shannon (Clare) 2-6

Round 2 (Wednesday)
Kilrush Community College (Clare) W/O from Blackwater Community School, Lisamore (Waterford)
A - St Anne's Killaloe (Clare) v Colaiste Dún Iascaigh, Cahir (Tipperary) @ St Patrick's, Tuesday 2pm
C - Presentation Ballingarry (Cork) or Comeragh College, Carrick (Tipperary) v Colaiste an Phiarsaigh, Glanmire (Cork)

D - Schull Community College (Cork) v Kilkee Community College (Clare) (Friday @ 11am)
E - Hazelwood College Dromcollogher (Limerick) v Scoil Mhuire agus Ide Newcastletown (Limerick) (Wednesday @ 12.30pm)
F - Colaiste an Trocaire, Rathkeale (Limerick) v St John Bosco, Kildysart (Clare) @ Clarecastle, 12.30pm

Under 16.5E Football (Knock-Out) Round 1

Killorglin Community College (Kerry) 5-12
Ennis Community College (Clare) 1-05
Colaiste Mhuire Thurles (Tipperary) v Ennistymon Vocational School (Clare) @ St Patrick's, Thursday 12.30pm

Hurling

Corn Thomáis Mhic Choilm (Senior B Hurling)

Semi-Finals
John the Baptist Community School, Hospital (Limerick) 2-14 CBS Dungarvan (Waterford) 1-13
Rice College, Ennis (Clare) v Colaiste an Spioraí Naoimh, Bishopstown (Cork) @ Ballyagran, Saturday 12.30pm