



FOOTBALL  Intermediate Championship Round Three, Group Two

# Cusacks on the march in Miltown

 Michael Cusacks 0-10 ·  Kilmihil 0-9

at Hennessy Memorial Park, Miltown

TJ Flynn

A FIREBALL of a game to paint a grey day back in Miltown that threatened thunder and lightning. In the end, the buckets of rain never came and the only thunder we saw was out on the field.

This was good intermediate football with all the trimmings. Decent field, honest football, quality set-up by the sea. The whole package.

It was a little taster of what's to come now that the knock-out stages have been reached. And this one was a knock-out in everything but name and in the end, Cusacks, essentially, had a touch more class to see them through and it means Kilmihil's season has all but ended.

They prepared well for this season out in Kilmihil. Minds were focused since January, drink was done away with and even the manager took the pledge. But really, for Kilmihil, the killer blow to the season came on the first day out when Clondegad found an extra gear late on and stepped on the gas to pull home. They had too much for Kilmurry Ibrickane in the middle game and a win against Cusacks, who themselves drew with Clondegad, was all that would keep

the life in Kilmihil.

After ten minutes, there were only two points on the board – one apiece – and if the scoring was slack, it was only because both sides put up a solid wall in defence. It may have taken Cusacks five minutes to settle defensively, but once they did, they found their rhythm.

Michael Hynes was drifting around the middle picking up some loose ball and Cusacks fed their inside forwards well, but Kilmihil coped.

David Ryan started well for Kilmihil and looked like he was about to control the midfield area. He clipped over his club's first score after nine minutes and before that he almost had a goal on the board. He burst through the middle and focused on the net but the ball skidded wide.

For Cusacks, Michael Jordan was living up to his name. Creating space, dodging and weaving and by the game's end, he had a hat-trick of scores. Each one counted.

After the break, Timmy Ryan caught fire, kicked a couple of points and fetched some raking balls from the sky. He gave Kilmihil a two point lead with less than 20 minutes left, but Cusacks didn't let them out of sight.



In the end, Kilmihil's concentration let them down. Shane Lee stood over a free with 13 minutes to go, substitute Tomás Kerin came short,

played a one-two and Lee equalised. Cusacks were oblivious to Kerin's presence and were punished. Jordan fired over another free just before the

hour and Cusacks had the lead. Sixty seconds later they played a re-run of Lee's earlier score and Kilmihil had to go in search of a goal. It never came and Cusacks march on.

Left: Fintan Conway in possession for Michael Cusacks against Kilmihil at Miltown. Eamon Ward

## Match Details

**Michael Cusacks** Eoin Farrell (7), John Conroy (7), Oliver Conway (7), Patrick O'Connor (7), Gerry Conway (7), Fintan Conway (8), Padraig McGuane (7), Niall Quinn (7), Shane Lee (7) (0-2), Michael Hynes (8) (0-2), Patrick Hynes (7), Kenneth Hynes (7), Michael Jordan (9) (0-3, 2f), Patrick Davoren (7) (0-2, 1f), Michael O'Connor (7) (0-1). Sub Tomás Kerin for Gerry Conway.



**Kilmihil** John O'Sullivan (9), Ger Cahill (7), Dermot Haugh (7), Conor Crowley (7), Karl Downes (7) (0-1), Derek Murphy (7), Derek Murphy (7), Mark O'Connell (7), David Ryan (7), Niall O'Halloran (7), Alan Normoyle (7) (0-1), Enda O'Halloran (7), Timmy Ryan (9) (0-5, 4f), Noel Downes, (7), Shane Mangan (7) (0-1, 45), Paul Reidy (7). Subs Niall Reidy for Conor Crowley (inj), John Normoyle for Niall O'Halloran.

**Match Official**  
Michael Talty (Kilmurry Ibrickane)

**Man of the Match**  
Michael Jordan (Michael Cusacks)

FOOTBALL  Intermediate Championship Round Three, Group One

# Cratloe book their place in semi-final

 Cratloe 1-9 ·  Ballyvaughan 0-11

at Páirc Finne, Corofin



Ballyvaughan's Raymond Casey gets past Brian Phelan on Saturday. Eamon Ward

Joe Ó Muircheartaigh

CRATLOE'S quest for a quick return to the senior ranks continued on Saturday evening when a 50th minute goal from Sean Hynan proved crucial against a battling Ballyvaughan side that will still have a major say in this championship.

The goal swung the game decisively in Cratloe's favour after an entertaining game between two very evenly matched sides. However, in the end the youthful exuberance of the Cratloe team carried the day and put them through to the semi-final clash against Michael Cusack's.

They were put to the test by a Ballyvaughan side that was inspired former county junior Mark O'Loughlin at wing-back. He drove the north Clare side all day and for much of the game but his counterpart on the left wing for Cratloe was equally inspiring.

Sean Chaplin gave a man of the match performance, while up front Pádraig Chaplin chipped in with six crucial points that ultimately broke Ballyvaughan hearts. The 2004 intermediate championship led the way by 0-6 to 0-5 at half-time, with Pádraig Chaplin successful from three frees being their scorer-in-chief.

However, Ballyvaughan had the better of the early exchanges in the second half and John Martyn's accuracy from frees gave them a 0-9 to

0-7 lead by the 55th minute. It looked as if they would kick on to victory but in the 63 minute Sean Hynan finally breached Damian McNamara's goal for the first three pointer of the day.

It was the cue for Cratloe to take a stranglehold on proceedings as points by Pádraig Chaplin and Jamie Joyce helped them go four clear and seemingly out of sight. Ballyvaughan kept battling though and two more John Martyn points and another from Cian Walsh brought the gap down to a point before the time finally ran out.

## Match Details

**Cratloe** Pierce de Loughrey (7), Barry Gleeson (7), John O'Gorman (8), Liam Markham (7), John O'Halloran (7), Michael Hawes (7), Sean Chaplin (8), Kevin Browne (6), Brian Phelan (7), Sean Hynan (7) (1-0), Sean Collins (7) Aidan Browne (6), Padraig Cahlin (8) (0-6), Joseph O'Connor (6), Damian Browne (6). Subs Jamie Joyce (6) (0-1) for O'Gorman, Sean Ryan (6) for O'Halloran.

**Ballyvaughan** Damian McNamara (7), Mark Walsh (6), Philip Monks (7), Sean McNamara, Setanta Moran (7), Kieran Casey (7), Mark O'Loughlin (8), James Hynes (7) (0-1), Raymond Casey (7), Phelim Coyne (6), Stevie Hynes (6), Cian Walsh (7) (0-1), Killian Mahon (7), John Martyn (0-9, 6f), Jack Queally (6). Subs Kevin Carrucan for Queally, Jason McDonagh (6) for Coyne, Diarmuid Greene (6) for Walsh

**Man of the Match** Sean Chaplin (Cratloe)

**Match Official** Michael McGann (MI Cusacks)