

Na Gaeil Notes Monday January 17th 2022

Munster Final A great victory by Na Gaeil in the Munster Intermediate Club Football Final in Mallow on Sunday, defeating Corofin of Clare by a wide margin in the end. But it wasn't all plain sailing for the Killeen side with Corofin really putting it up to them in the first half. The Clare side won the throw in and 30 seconds later their full forward Jamie Malone had them on the scoreboard. Gearóid Cahill pointed a free for them two minutes later. Four minutes in, Diarmuid O'Connor who was operating at full forward cut through the Corofin defence and sent a rasper past goalkeeper Luke Neylon to settle his team. Darragh Carmody and Eoin Doody followed up with two further points. But Corofin responded with a pointed free from Gearóid Cahill and a point from his brother Diarmuid. Dan Goggin fired one over for Na Gaeil to leave them two up at the first water break. Na Gaeil 1-03; Corofin: 0-04.

On the resumption, Diarmuid O'Connor who was causing all sorts of problems for the opposition cut through the Corofin defence once more. But this time passed the ball across the square, into the path of the inrushing Jack Bourke, who deftly palmed it into the Corofin net. Darragh Carmody pointed a free in the 22nd minute for a foul on Diarmuid O'Connor to increase their lead to 6. But that was as good as it got for Na Gaeil with the Clare side thundering back into the game. They won a lot of possession and ran at Na Gaeil, reeling off three points without reply. Two came from the boot of the in-form Jamie Malone and one from Gearóid Kelly, to reduce the deficit to three at the break. Na Gaeil 2-04; Corofin: 0-07.

Na Gaeil made some astute positional switches before the throw in, bringing Diarmuid O'Connor to midfield and putting Stefan Okunbor back on danger man Jamie Malone. Eoin Doody also moved up into an attacking role. These changes worked a treat and Na Gaeil started the half like men possessed. Just after 30 seconds young Jack Sheehan had the ball in the Corofin net, after good approach work by Fergal Barry. Sheehan pointed a minute later, followed by a point from Darragh Carmody. Gearóid Kelly scored a point at the other end for Corofin. Then the flood gates opened with Na Gaeil taking complete control in all sectors. Points came thick and fast through Darragh Carmody, James O'Connor, Dan Goggin and then, another great goal from the young Jack Sheehan in the 37th minute. Two minutes later Darragh Carmody netted a penalty after a leg block in the Corofin square, to put the final outcome beyond doubt and enable Na Gaeil management to run their bench. Jack Bourke, Dan Goggin and Darragh Reen pointed before the water break to leave Na Gaeil 19 points ahead on a score line of Na Gaeil: 5-12; Corofin: 0-08.

Corofin had a good spell at the start of the final quarter scoring the next four points on the trot, with Gearóid Cahill pointing three close in frees and Jamie Malone pointing from play. Darragh Carmody pointed in the 56th minute and then a minute later a speculative shot from him deceived the keeper and ended in the back of the Corofin net. Corofin were awarded a penalty at the other end, again for a leg block, which centre back Damien O'Loughlin converted. Jack Barry and Darragh Carmody put two further

points on the scoreboard for Na Gaeil before Limerick referee, Jonathan Hayes blew the final whistle. Final score: Na Gaeil: 6-15; Corofin: 1-12. Another historic day for the club winning their first Munster Intermediate Club title. Vice chairperson of the Munster Council Tim Murphy presented the cup to proud Na Gaeil captain, Eoin Doody much to the delight of our huge band of travelling supporters. There's great credit due to the whole panel of players and management team for their dedication and enthusiasm and for the way they turned things around in the 3rd quarter after a rather sluggish opening half. We can now look forward to an All Ireland semi final tie against Ulster champions, Steelstown Brian Óg's of Derry in two weeks time with the venue yet to be decided. Well done to all involved.

Team: Devon Burns, Enda O'Connor, Niall O'Mahony, Damien Bourke, Fergal Barry, Eoin Doody(0-01), Andrew Barry, Jack Barry(0-01), Stefan Okunbor, James O'Connor(0-01), Dan Goggin(0-3), Jack Sheehan(2-02), Darragh Carmody(2-05), Diarmuid O'Connor(1-0), Jack Bourke(1-01). Subs: Eoin O'Neill for Eoin Doody; Darragh Reen(0-01) for Dan Goggin; Kieran O'Donovan for Andrew Barry; Eoin Walsh for Stefan Okunbor; Ger O'Connor for James O'Connor.