

Warburton and Costello help Moate's Ladies cruise into Leinster Final: U-16 Ladies Leinster 'B' Semi-Final

By Brian Sheridan

Moate Community School 4-8, Coláiste Iosagáin, Stillorgan 1-7

On a cold Tuesday evening last, Kinnegad was the venue for the meeting of Moate Community School and Coláiste Iosagáin of Stillorgan in the Leinster Semi Final. Moate were against the wind, but made a good start with full-forward Una Costello kicking over the first score of the game after two minutes. Coláiste Iosagáin then pulled the game back to a draw with a 14' yard free, before they crashed the ball off the crossbar from 20 yards. Moate had Christine Warburton to thank as she punched the rebound over the bar. Grace Coughlan then scored a free, and Nicole Feery scored a point after a great solo run to put daylight between the sides.

Coláiste Iosagáin pushed forward to score four points in a row, and then a fantastic goal which hit the top corner and gave Warburton no chance. This was only a minor setback for Moate, as they scored a goal of their own through Leanne Slevin after 21 minutes.

Great work from Nicole Feery set up Slevin who expertly dispatched the ball into the bottom corner. Just a minute later, Una Costello grabbed a goal which brought the game back to a draw. Coláiste Iosagáin restored their lead with a point, before missing a chance to pull further ahead when, to Moate's delight, they missed a great chance with the goal gaping. Una Costello scored a fantastic point to make the game all square again. She leaped above two Coláiste Iosagáin defenders before kicking on the turn to complete a great move from the ladies of Moate.

On the stroke of half time, Costello popped up again to score a goal. She punched the ball to the net after a high ball in from Kalene McCormack. Moate were unlucky not to go further ahead when, after a great one-two from Feery and Costello which split the Coláiste Iosagáin defence, the ball was played to Mairead Fox who forced a great save from the Coláiste Iosagáin goalkeeper. This was to be the last play of the first half and Moate ladies' went in a goal to the good at half time, with the score at 3-4 to 1-7.

The second half started much the same as the first had ended, with Moate holding the momentum. They attacked the Coláiste Iosagáin goal, and corner-back Brenda O'Brien popped up in front of the goals to score the first point of the second half. Coláiste Iosagáin then opened their tally for the second half with a point, but this turned out to be their last scored of the game. Nicole Feery scored a point, and then Sarah McCormack, who came on at half time, made no mistake in front of goal when she placed the ball beyond the keeper to extend Moate's advantage. Moate looked to be cruising to victory until one of their star players, centre-forward Kalene McCormack was sin binned for persistent fouling. This did not seem to affect the Moate ladies at first as Una Costello kicked over another point from long range, to bring her own personal tally to 2-3 for the day. But the Stillorgan girls, to their

credit, never gave up. The one player advantage began to show and only for a string of four amazing saves from Christine Warburton, Moate would have been in trouble. Although they were eight points up, Moate were relieved to hear the full time whistle. There were great scenes at the end of the game, with all the players celebrating the victory alongside their coaches, Ms. Nolan and Ms. Buggy.

Moate Community School's under 16 ladies now advance to the Leinster Final, which will be played after the mid-term break, while Coláiste Iosagáin will return to Dublin and start planning for another shot at the Leinster title next year.

Moate: Christine Warburton; Emer McManus; Aisling O'Neill; Brenda O'Brien (0-1); Niamh Glynn; Lorna Henson; Sorcha Galvin; Clodagh Flanagan; Grace Coughlan (0-1); Isobel O'Neill; Kalene McCormack; Nicole Feery (0-2); Mairead Fox; Una Costello (2-3); Leanne Slevin(1-0).

Subs: Sarah McCormack (1-0) (Mairead Fox, HT); Aoife Costello (Sorcha Galvin, 57 mins); Emma McCormack; Ciara Dignam; Brid Harrington; Emma Johnston; Joanne Murray; Alice Duffy; Amy Fagan; Nicola Mullin.