

Late goals costs Moate qualification.

Moate Community School 0 - Coláste Coilm, Tullamore 2

By Pdraig Henry

On the wet and very windy Friday afternoon of last, Moate U16 soccer hosted Tullamore Coláste Coilm in the fourth round of the U16.

Moate needed a win to qualify and it was a promising start for the home side after a deflection of Patrick Heffernan's shot gave Moate an early corner. Tullamore struck back, but keeper Robbie Hickey, with fast hands got on to the ball. Moate had no time to settle before Tullamore were back on the attack again, but fortunately their striker was offside. Moate got back into the game with a free to Aaron Farrell, who sent it up to John Corbally to take a promising kick just on the edge of the box, and it was well saved by the opposition's keeper. The ball was left inside the box for Louie Duffy to shoot, unfortunately the ball was retrieved by the keeper. Tullamore got a free just on the box but was sent the opposite way as the wind proved to be too strong. The away team on the rebound, played towards Moate's goal, but was halted when the alert and observant Ciaran Allen and Sean Bracken left the Tullamore striker offside. Moate were awarded a free just outside the right of the box, crossed to an offside Patrick Heffernan to header the ball placing it in the top right corner.

Tullamore fought hard and made their way through to score, but luckily bad accuracy by the Tullamore striker put it wide. Moate played around the middle and a pass to John Corbally who fired a rocket shot which was once again saved by the keeper. Half time arrived and the score was 0-0.

As the second half started Moate were growing with confidence, the ball was mostly played on the away teams side of the pitch, although Tullamore were defending well. An overpowering wind dampened every Moate kick and looked to be giving Tullamore an edge, however, the strong wind also served to send a powerful Tullamore kick sent the ball high over the crossbar. Tullamore ball once again and was passed to the striker who shot the ball by Hickey and gave Tullamore the lead.

The game picked up momentum as Ganley of Moate was awarded a free just off the edge of the box, however, Allen kicked it over the crossbar. Moate didn't give up and upped their attack with two shots by David Fallon and Patrick Heffernan, but failed to get past the keeper. It was looking grim for Moate as Tullamore added a second with a corner which was headed by their midfielder with only ten minutes to go. Joe Kinahan passed the ball to Patrick Heffernan for Moate's final play, but the attack was defended efficiently by the Tullamore defence. At the final whistle the final score stood at 2-0 to the Offaly men.

Commiserations go to Moate who were missing three valuable players in Adam Scanlon, Sam Moran and Gavin Fleming. Great credit is due to them for keeping a cool head and trying their best. The team will now have to wait till next year to try again.

Robbie Hickey, Sean Bracken, Ciaran Allen, Paul Henson, Aaron Farrell, Louie Duffy, David Falon, Diarmuid Devery, John Corbally, Patrick Heffernan, Philip Ganley, Brian Daly for Devery 55 min, Jamie Colgan for Duffy 60 min, Joe Kinahan for Heffernan 65min.