

Dramatic Late Goal Sees Moate past Coláiste Eoin

By Ciarán Kelly

**Moate Community School 3-3
Coláiste Eoin 1-7**

On a calm February afternoon Sunday last, the Moate Community School senior boys football team made the lengthy trip to Pairc de Burca in Kilmacud to face Coláiste Eoin in the Leinster Senior Football quarter final. The game started at a furious pace with neither team giving the other an inch, and Moate were off the mark first with a pointed free by Cian Bradley. The boys from Dublin responded well, however, with three points on the trot to establish a two point lead and they were desperately unlucky not to extend that on nineteen minutes when they smashed a shot off the crossbar from point blank range. This lucky escape seemed to energise Moate who hit the front five minutes later when Daniel Kelleher somehow managed to fist the ball into the net following a high ball into the square. The lead did not last long as Coláiste Eoin hit back with a controversial goal three minutes before the interval, a high ball made its way into the square and John Maguire made a majestic catch, he then appeared to be fouled on the ground, but no whistle was sounded and Coláiste Eoin took full advantage by picking up the loose ball and rifling it into the roof of Joe Kinahan's net, to leave the Dublin boys up by two at half time.

Moate fell further behind early in the second half courtesy of two well-taken points by Coláiste Eoin, before responding through another Cian Bradley free which was then followed by a long distance curling point from the Dublin side. The game's turning point came after forty five minutes when Daniel Kelleher was dragged down in the penalty area and midfielder John Maguire stepped up to calmly convert the penalty into the bottom corner of the net. With ten minutes to go, Moate were reduced to fourteen men following the dismissal of Eamon McCabe. The numerical disadvantage did not seem to harm the Westmeath boys too much, however, as substitute Eric Fallon curled the equalising point over the bar from twenty one yards out soon afterwards.

The game was well and truly on a knife edge at this stage and it appeared to be swinging in Coláiste Eoin's favour when they scored what looked to be the winning point with only two minutes of normal time left. Moate desperately advanced up the pitch in search of a score to swing the game back in their direction and duly got it when the ball was slipped into corner forward Lorcan Dolan who turned his marker and blasted a shot into the top corner of the net to hand his team lead they would not relinquish.

Moate withstood some nervy moments in injury time to emerge victorious by two points and they can now look forward to a Leinster Semi Final against St. Pat's of Navan later this month.

Team: Joe Kinahan, Robert Gorman, Lee Colgan, Jack O'Meara, James Ganly, Eamon McCabe, Patrick Holloway, John Maguire (1-0), David McCormack, Darragh Kelly, Cian Bradley (0-02), Jack Linnane, Lorcan Dolan (1-0), Daniel Kelleher (1-0), Sam Lawlor

Subs: Eric Fallon (0-01) for Sam Lawlor, Ciaran Allen for Eric Fallon