

Moate Community School Ladies march on in Leinster

28-01-11

Leinster Ladies U16 'B' Championship Quarter Final

Moate Community School.....6-4

Colaiste Bride, Enniscorthy.....4-7

On a bitterly cold Friday afternoon Moate's under 16 ladies made the long trip to Ballylynan Co. Laois, to take on Colaiste Bride of Enniscorthy in the quarter final of the Leinster Championship. From the throw in, it was apparent that the Moate girls were nervous, as they were on the back foot with Colaiste Bride kicking three wides in the early minutes. Nicole Feery's point in the 4th minute seemed to settle the nerves, as just a minute later Clodagh Flanagan rattled the crossbar from fifteen yards. Leanne Slevin then dispatched the ball into the bottom corner after a great move from Moate. The move saw Feery come short for a Grace Coughlan 45', she then forced the goalkeeper to make a great save, but Slevin reacted quickest to leave Moate 1-1 to 0-1 up after ten minutes. Some great defending from Moate, by Aisling O'Neill and Emer McManus in particular, helped Moate keep the lead after heavy pressure from the Colaiste Bride forwards. The teams then traded points, with Mairead Fox scoring an excellent point for Moate. Colaiste Bride followed this by scoring a goal to bring the game back to level. There was a particularly scary moment for all involved with Moate in the 25th minute when star centre-back Lorna Henson fell on the pitch. After a short break, it was a relief for all to see Henson back on her feet, although she was taken off by a concerned Ms. Nolan to be replaced by Sarah McCormack. The incident clearly affected the Moate girls as Colaiste Bride finished the half with a goal and a point, to lead 2-3 to 1-2 at the break.

After an inspirational team talk at half time, the ladies of Moate were clearly fired up as Leanne Slevin forced a fantastic save from the Colaiste Bride goalkeeper. Mairead Fox then kicked over her second of the game to leave Moate within three. There was then an action packed period in the game which saw five goals hit the net, four of them for Moate, a penalty and a disallowed goal, all in the space of five second half minutes. The first of these goals came from Moate, after the best move of the game. This move saw Emer McManus pick up the ball on her own end line. She calmly cleared the ball out to Aisling O'Neill, who hand-passed the ball to Kalene McCormack. McCormack then played an inch-perfect ball to Nicole Feery, and she done the rest, rounding two Colaiste Bride defenders before smashing the ball into the net. This brought the game back to a draw with Moate having the momentum. Colaiste Bride then cancelled out that fantastic goal by scoring a goal of their own. Feery then thought she had pulled the game back to a draw by hitting the back of the net, before hearing the referee sound his whistle for over-carrying.

From the resulting free, a now fit again Lorna Henson intercepted a pass and stormed into the box, only to be taken down in front of goal. Moate were awarded a penalty, which was

confidently struck into the top corner off the boot of Grace Coughlan to punish the girls from Wexford. Two goals were then scored in as many minutes, the first from Coughlan, and then from Feery, to leave Moate ahead by six points with fifteen minutes remaining. Colaiste Bride, to their credit, fought back strongly by scoring a goal and a point to leave only two points in it. Clodagh Flanagan took it upon herself to try finish off Colaiste Bride with a goal and a point, to restore Moate's six point advantage. With only eight minutes remaining, the game looked safe for Moate. But Colaiste Bride would never give up, and with three quick points they brought the game back to a goal with injury time looming. Colaiste Bride stormed the box and forced Christine Warburton to pull off two fantastic saves point blank range, before she completed the heroics by diving low to her right to stop a goal-bound shot that would have been a last gasp equaliser. Isobel O'Neill then won a free in her own area which turned out to be the last play of the game, with the referee blowing his whistle for the final time straight after the free was taken.

Moate's Ladies will now take on Stillorgan in the semi-final in February, whereas Colaiste Bride will have to wait till next year to have a shot at the Leinster crown again.

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

Subs: Sarah McCormack (Henson, 25m -inj.); Lorna Henson (Una Costello, HT); Nicola Mullin (Brenda O'Brien, HT); Emma McCormack; Ciara Dignam; Brid Harrington; Niamh Glynn; Emma Johnston; Joanne Murray; Alice Duffy.