

Moate leave it too late as Edenderry progress

Edenderry 6-10, Moate 6-4

On the twenty fifth of January the Moate senior girls took on Edenderry in a nail-biting affair for a place in the senior 'A' Leinster final in Edenderry. In cold and blustery conditions the Moate team were confident going into to game from their previous victories. However, right from the throw in it was Edenderry who looked the superior team as they were up 1-1 to 0-0 ahead after five minutes thanks to the excellent corner forward for Edenderry, despite the best efforts of Moate's Christine Warburton. Both teams were struggling in front of goals until full forward Grace Coughlan scored a sublime goal to put Moate right back in it.

Unfortunately, in the space of five minutes Edenderry inserted a dagger blow to Moate with two great goals. Moate's confidence was down and recieved another sucker punch when Edenderry were awarded a penalty after it was deemed Warburton brought down the Edenderry attacker in what could be argued a harsh decision. Edenderry converted the penalty to extend their lead. Moate never gave up with good play from Aisling O'Neill and Michelle Molloy, but Moate were caught on the break as Edenderry scored their fifth goal of the game. Moate now had a mountain to climb. But, in keeping with the spirit of this remarkable team, in a blink of a eye Moate reduced the defecit thanks to a Vicky McHenry point and a superb Aisling Claffey goal on the stroke of half time. The score stood at Edenderry 5-4, Moate 2-1.

Coming into the second half time Moate had it all to play for, having to play against the wind and catch a substatial lead. Moate were determined and psyched to meet the challenge of their opponents. This was to be put on hold as Edenderry struck first with another well taken goal to leave them astonished and shaken. This proved to be Moate's advantage as it awoken them. Moate struck back with a Vicky McHenry goal and a excellent point from Caitlin Sheridan to make something to fight for. Nicole Feery played her part in the goal with some pin-point passes. The momentum dramatically shifted in favour of Moate as they scored another goal from a long ranged shot from Grace Coughlan that trickled into the net. Edenderry stood strong from Moate's onslaught with a brace of points to give them some breathing space. Edenderry held a good resistance until Vicky McHenry pounced to score 1-1 in 2 minutes to bring Moate back into the game. These final few minutes were to be a

thriller, full of tension and anxiety for all present. The drama didn't stop there as Edenderry were awarded another penalty. This didn't look good for Moate, but Christine Warburton stood up to the plate with a crucial save. With only five minutes left the task looked difficult until Moate were awarded a vital penalty which McHenry slotted into the net. Moate never gave up until the final whistle with an excellent fightback, but it was all over and their dreams had ended. Moate were valiant in defeat in a scoreline Edenderry 6-10 Moate 6-4. Moate gave a great performance in the absence of injured Lorna Henson. The future looks bright for Moate as they contain a young side with a lot of talent they will definitely achieve success in the future.

Moate team:

Christine Warburton, Aisling O'Neill, Aisling Warburton (captain), Sandra Lynam, Katie Deegan (Arlene Coughlan, 9mins) Michelle Molloy, Jill Shortall, Kalene McCormack (Kelly Preston 50min) Kelly Preston (Issie O'Neill 48min) Nicole Feery, Vicky McHenry(3-3), Aisling Claffey(1-0)(vice-captain), Claire Dolan, Grace Goughlan(2-0), Caitlin Sheridan(0-1)(Clodagh Flanagan 60min), Brenda O'Brien, Una Costello, Emma Buckley, Lorna Henson

By David Fallon