

## **Early goal's cost Moate victory**

### **Kilcock 6-5, Moate 3-8**

On the twenty eight of January it was the chance of the under 14 boy's of Moate to book a place in the north Leinster semi-final. The task was going to be a hard one as they were to face Scoil Dara Kilcock who were regarded as firm favourites to lift this trophy. In cold and windy conditions this match took place in Kilcock's home turf to make it difficult for Moate. Both teams were eager to progress in this encounter as both teams were focused and determined for victory. Right from the throw in, the game was very physical with a lot of formidable tackles from both sides. Eoghan Kelly had an early goal chance to put his side in front, but narrowly missed. It was Rosemount's Cathal Daly who had put Moate in front with a delightful point to get the game rolling. Midfielder Danny Ledwith would soon go off as a blood sub, which was to cost Moate dearly. In the space of five minutes Kilcock scored 1-3 to leave Moate rocked, despite Michael Carroll's and Gavin Murrays's best efforts. Moate responded immediately with a fine point from Ian Malynn after good work from Dylan Ennis. Instantly Moate were caught off guard and punished as they conceded a penalty which was converted with ease. Things were to go from bad to worse as Kilcock pounced to score another goal after excellent offensive play particularly from their full forward who was on superb form. Sloppy Moate play would end in their demise as Kilcock rallied up the field to inflict further pain with two more goals to leave Moate baffled and, some might say, astonished.

Moate never gave up, however, and on the brink of half time the Westmeath men reduced the deficit thanks to goals by Ruairi Cunningham and Cathal Daly with Plunkett Maxwell working hard behind the scenes. The first half had reached its conclusion, the score being Kilcock 5-4 Moate 2-4

With 3 goals down and against the wind, Moate had it all to play for to ensure a place in the semi-final, with their opponents looking the likely victors at that stage. However, their second half performance would prove this wrong. Three minutes into the second half, Cathal Daly found the back of the net with a powerful strike to hit the roof of the net. A brace of points from captain Ruairi Cunningham gave Moate something to fight for. Despite Moate looking far the better side in the second half, they were not using possession efficiently and many precious missed chances were to follow as a result of it. Tempers were flaring and frustration could be seen on the faces of both teams with a regrettable scuffle breaking out. It was quickly dealt with the referee in a calm manner. This game was greatly delayed with injuries which would prove to be a thorn in Moate's side. However, nearing the final whistle Dennis Hackett put his side within two points of the lead after an amazing turnaround by Moate. But, the journey had all but ended in a flash when Kilcock scurried up the field to score a crucial goal, followed by a point to ensure safe passage for Kilcock. The score line

concluded, Kilcock 6-5, Moate 3-8. At a young age, these players have a lot of experience to gain and it is these defeats that will make them stronger to lead this young team, no doubt, to success in the future.

**Moate Team:**

Michael Carroll, Dylan Ennis, Gavin Murray, Damien Carroll (Conor Sheridan 23mins), Darragh Healy, David fox, Ian Malynn, Ruairi Cunningham(captain), Daniel Ledwith(Colyn shorthall (19mins blood sub), Plunkett Maxwell, Cathal Daly, Dennis Hackett, Keith Malynn, Mark Fallon, Eoghan Kelly

David Fallon