

Stern test for the Moate Community School Senior boys footballers

MCS 1-7, 1-1 Portarlinton

On a miserably wet and windy day last Thursday the MCS senior boy's team made the short trip down to Hogan Park to take on Portarlinton. From the very start of the game it was made apparent that the strong wind would cause a problem with the goalkeepers on both sides calling on a corner back to try and keep the ball steady on the tee. However, after both teams exchanging early wides in the first ten minutes, Portarlinton with the aid of the gale force wind got the scoreboard ticking with a fourteen yard free. Straight from the following kick-out Moate swiftly moved down the field and the ball finally found its way to Lorcan Dolan who slotted the ball under the goalkeeper, for Moate's opening score. Portarlinton responded with three good points to go into the lead once again. After another flowing move from Moate the ball landed in Luke Kelly's hands, he turned and from ten yards out, riffled the ball against the cross-bar and the attack filtered out. This seemed to wake the visitors up again as they went down and their full forward finished well into the bottom corner despite the best efforts of Joe Kinahan in goals. Portarlinton finished the scoring for the half with another point to leave Moate trailing 1-5 to 1-0 at half time.

Moate came out flying for the second half and almost straight from the throw- in Dolan got Moate's first point of the game. At this point it looked ominous for Portarlinton as Moate were fired up. Jack Linnane got his name on the scoresheet with a well taken point. The comeback then looked on for Moate. But Portarlinton replied with the only point scored against the wind in the whole game, proving the sheer strength of it. Dolan scored another point to bring it back to three points once again. At this stage tensions were high and when Portarlinton were rewarded a free in the middle of the field a melee broke out which saw two Portarlinton players earn a red card each. The advantage was then clearly with Moate who kicked on with a point from Cian Bradley. The Portarlinton goalkeeper appeared to be struggling to judge the wind and Moate duly punished the boys from Laois with another good point, this time from the boot of John Maguire. Then Dolan popped up again as he took his man on and curled the ball over via the very top of the post, and of course, with the aid of the wind. With two extra men, Moate were able to send their half backs further up the field and this paid dividend as Cian Bradley scored the winning point with two minutes to go.

This was a very competitive game and was a good, stern test for the senior boys 'A' Moate team as they are eagerly awaiting the opening round of the championship in just under a month's time.

The team: Joe Kinahan, Robert Gorman, Lee Colgan, Jack O'Kelly Lynch, Cian Bradley (0-2), Paddy Holloway, Jack O'Meara, Eamonn McCabe, John Maguire (0-1), Jack Linnane (0-1), Luke Kelly, David McCormack, Lorcan Dolan (1-3), Sam Lawlor, Chris Maguire. Tom Farrell for O'Kelly Lynch, Daniel Kelleher for J. Maguire, Emmet Heavin for C. Maguire, J. Maguire for McCabe. Jamie Madden, Dwayne Farrell, Ciaran Allen, Daragh Kelly, Ryan Browne, Eric Fallon, Shane Nugent, Daniel Bracken, Eamonn Boland.