



Spirited Moate side lose out in tight affair

Athlone Community College: 3, Moate Community School: 1

By Peter Cunningham

On a cold afternoon in Athlone last Thursday Moate Community School's first year boys' soccer side took on Athlone Community College in the First Year

Knockout Cup.

After a promising start from the Moate lads, with an early corner kick, Athlone were able to punish them on the break with a goal after only three minutes. Moate were given little time to settle into their stride as just two minutes later Athlone were in again with another good goal despite the best efforts on Moate goalkeeper Kevin Cuffe. At this early stage it did not look good for the visitors. After this slow start from Moate, they finally began to settle into the game as captain Cathal Daly and forward Denis Hackett drove on the boys from Moate with some good play. Stewart Coyne and Killian Ennis got to grips with the Athlone attack and for the rest of the half Moate dominated the possession and territory, but were unable to find the back of the net as they found the Athlone keeper on top form on the day with several crucial saves.

The second half continued in the same vein, as Moate were desperate to get back into this game, the attacking paid dividends as just three minutes into the second half Cathal Daly finished off a great Moate move with an excellent finish into the bottom corner. One could see the confidence growing in this Moate team with every minute as the attack of Hackett and Owen Heavin causing havoc in the Athlone defence. The Moate defence tightened up in the second half, as Athlone could not breach this well organised outfit. Despite all the attacking Moate could not grab their coveted goal as the Athlone keeper would not be beaten again. With everyone pushed up the field for a corner Moate were caught on the break and Athlone scored with two minutes to go. This seemed to end any hope Moate had of getting an equaliser.

Even with this defeat Moate can definitely take much from their display, as despite going two goals down so early, they fought back and continued working until the very end of the game. The boys can be very proud of their performances and can look to their next game, if they perform with such spirit they should do well.

Kevin Cuffe, David McGinley, Stewart Coyne, Killian Ennis, Andrew Gorman, Conor Claffey, Dillon Mularney, Cathal Daly, Conor Byrne, Owen Heavin, Denis Hackett. Thomas Griffin for McGinley h/t, Darren Hynes for Claffey 55 mins.

