

Moate Community School Senior Girls begin their Championship Campaign

By Grace Kelly

On Thursday last, the senior girls of Moate Community School braved the oncoming winter breeze to face a particularly strong side of Moyne Community School. After a long, tiring journey to Dromard GAA pitch, the girls prepared for a one o'clock throw in. It was clear from the start that Moyne shared the passion and drive that was so clearly alive in the MCS girls. An early opportunity appeared to Moyne as one of their star forwards escaped our defence only to come face to face with our goal keeper Christine 'Pringles' Warburton. Despite a shot that most goalies fear, Pringles managed to keep her goal line clear with strong hands and a determined mind. Mere moments later, Moate were awarded a free due to a Moyne player over carrying. A quick kick from Kalene McCormack into the full forward Arlene Coughlan left Moyne looking on as the ball sailed over the bar. It wasn't long before Moyne responded with a point of their own. When a free was awarded to Áine Kelly, the wing-forward saw her chance and took it. A light pass to Coughlan and the ball was buried in the back of the net. A quick response came from Moyne as quick passing resulted in a disheartening goal. It was this goal that lit a fire in Clodagh Flanagan who then began to show her true ability and managed to not only help defend her own goal line but also play as an impressive forward. Soon after, Isobel 'Izzie' O'Neill came on to the back line in place of Brenda O'Brien. A usual forward, Izzie had a challenge in itself settling into her new position. Moate began to feel pressure on their goal line as Moyne made it by our defence to take on Christine 'Pringles' Warburton yet again. After a spectacular save, Pringles was unable to prevent another goal tearing into the back of the net. This didn't faze the talented goalie as when faced with yet another challenge, she not only prevented another goal but when she cleared the ball to Izzie O'Neill, a pass to Aisling O'Neill and a further tap into Kelly Preston produced a point any team should be proud of. A sharp response from Moyne resulted in another goal and point from play. A great ball into Arlene Coughlan by Lorna Henson looked promising but the girls were unlucky as the ball was hit out by the end line. Shortly before half time, a free kick from Kalene McCormack left Moate with another point. At half time the score stood at Moate 1-5, Moyne 3-4.

A quick half time substitution saw Una Costello go on for forward Grace Coughlan. Despite going into the second half with a five point deficit, Moate were the first to score. A free from Kelley Preston into Nicole 'Nikki' Feery resulted in a well deserved point. This looked to be the kick start the MCS girls needed as many opportunities soon appeared to them. Unfortunately, these opportunities did not translate into scores despite the best efforts of the team. It was not long after this that Moyne took advantage of a defensive error leaving them to embrace the open goal. An impressive display of teamwork between the Moate girls resulted in a free being awarded to Coughlan. A strong block by the goalie diminished any chance of a score. The Moate girls didn't give up there as it was not long before substitute Una Costello came close to goal thanks to a pass from Vice Captain Claire Dolan. An impressive run by Coughlan followed by a neat pass to Nikki who was awarded a free, left Kelly Preston to finish with an admirable

point. Throughout the game, backs Sandra 'Sandy' Lynam and Captain Aisling Claffey were marking two very strong Moyne team members. Impressive games from both girls ensured their players never got into the game. The full time score was Moate Community School 1-7, Moyne Community School 4-6, a score which does not reflect on the game itself and the work ethic of the Moate senior girls. The girls are gearing up for a battle against Edenderry on Monday which they must win in order to qualify for the championship.

Moate team: 1. Christine 'Pringles' Warburton, 2. Brenda O'Brien, 3. Lorna Henson, 4. Sandra Lynam, 5. Aisling O'Neill, 6. Aisling Claffey (C), 7. Caitlin Sheridan, 8. Grace Coughlan, 9. Kalene McCormack, 10. Áine Kelly, 11. Kelly Preston, 12. Clodagh Flanagan. 13. Nicole 'Nikki' Feery, 14. Arlene Coughlan, 15. Claire Dolan (VC), 16. Isobel 'Izzie' O'Neill, 17. Una Costello, 18. Sorcha Galvin, 19. Aoife Costello, 20. Alice Duffy, 21. Louise Gavin