

Friday May 3rd 1991

Kilcormac/Killoughey 1-10

Daingean 1-9

Daingean Kick Away a Golden Opportunity

Daingean kicked away the chance of a surprise win in the SFC on Friday evening in O'Connor Park, Tullamore when they were unluckily defeated by Kilcormac/Killoughey, 1-10 to 1-9.

Opportunity certainly knocked for Daingean against a K/K side that didn't fulfil their potential but they failed to answer the door.

Daingean dominated for long periods after a shaky start in which it seemed that K/K were going to walk away with the game without breaking into a sweat. If Daingean had taken a fraction of the chances that came their way subsequently, K/K would have broken more than a sweat – they would have had their hearts broken.

K/K have got into the habit in recent years of starting off the SFC campaign like a greyhound out of the trap chasing a live hare. This year they started more like a tired tortoise going home to bed. They should have been punished to the hilt by a Daingean side that had got a late reprieve from Senior 'B' football by the decision of the County Board to refuse Sarsfields permission to enter the championship.

Daingean's forwards showed a total lack of gratitude for that reprieve. The facts of the game are simple. K/K took 95% of whatever chances came their way, Daingean took about 45% of their chances. K/K kicked a miserly four wides whereas Daingean kicked 17 wides.

Daingean need not be too discouraged by this defeat. A vital two points may have gone abegging but they showed sufficient grit and determination to suggest that they may make an impact on this year's championship. K/K have reason to thank their lucky stars that they got off to a successful start.

Surpassed Expectations

This was a game which surpassed all expectations. It is a pity that it wasn't witnessed by a bigger attendance. The game was given a low profile by the authorities in O'Connor Park. The scoreboard was not operated. Unfortunately the game was soured by an exchange which led to the sending off of Daingean's John F. Kennedy and K/K's John Troy after a brief punch-up midway through the second half. Troy struck the first blow but Kennedy deserved the line for foolishly retaliating.

K/K led from start to finish but in truth it was a travesty of justice that Daingean did not get at least a draw. While K/K may have finished like a tortoise, Daingean had started like a snail. They were nearly submerged under a wave of K/K attacks in the opening minutes and after 17 minutes they were down 0-6 to 0-0. The difference between the sides was fully illustrated by the fact that K/K had seven shots on goal in those opening 17 minutes and six of them were on target.

Many a lesser team would have lain down and died, but not Daingean. They fought back like cornered tigers and by half-time, they had reduced the deficit to two points. Daingean would have been ahead had Martin O'Rourke availed of the clear cut goal opportunity which presented itself in the 18th minute.

The second half could have been a carbon copy of the first with K/K opening up a six point lead and being slowly pegged back by Daingean. Missed chance after missed chance were to have an irrevocable effect on the game for Daingean. Cianan Carey missed a clear cut goal chance in the 10th minute. With nine minutes remaining Daingean had reduced the deficit to a point but try as they might they could not get that vital equalising point which they deserved.

How They Played

K/K have reason to be grateful to their forwards for taking most of the chances that came their way. Their half forward line of Barry Scully, Pascal Troy and Eamon Doyle excelled. Niall Hand and James Buckley were the stars in defence while Seamus Spain had a fine game in midfield.

Daingean's Stars

Daingean's star player was substitute Darren Hanlon. The Offaly minor star changed the course of the game when he came on in the second half. One can only speculate as to why he didn't start. Mattie Corcoran and Sean McEvoy played well in defence. Inexplicably both midfielders, Brendan Donagher and Brendan Reynolds were substituted. Donagher was one of Daingean's better players in the first half. In the forwards, Martin Daly, Ciaran Carey and Paul Jordan tried hard.

The Scoring

K/K started with a slight breeze on their backs and they took advantage of this with the opening score from Barry Scully in the first minute. Sean Farrell was wide with a goal chance before K/K increased their lead in the third minute with an Eamon Doyle point after a mistake by Mattie Corcoran. Further points from Seamus Spain (free) and Eamon Doyle gave K/K a four point lead after 9 minutes.

Daingean came more into the game after this but two shameful wides from Sean Farrell and John F. Kennedy (free) set them back on their heels. A brilliant effort from Seamus Spain and a Pat Troy point increased K/K's lead to 6 points after seventeen minutes. Daingean finally got on the score sheet with a Martin O'Rourke point in the 18th minute. It should have been a goal. Daingean were guilty of the cardinal sin of over-elaboration but they were sufficiently dominant to continue to create chances. Points from Martin O'Rourke and Martin Daly (free) reduced the deficit to three points after 23 minutes.

Two bad wides from John F. Kennedy and Paul Jordan were punished when Seamus Spain broke away for a point in the 27th minute. Daingean finished the half with a flourish with points from Martin Daly (free) and John F. Kennedy.

2nd Half

Daingean made a good start to the second half with an early John F. Kennedy point but a K/K onslaught nearly buried them alive. Points from Pascal Troy and Eamon Doyle reopened a three point gap before K/K goaled six minutes into the half. Eamon Doyle was fouled running towards goal after being put through by Barry Scully. Jimmy Dunne was slightly fortunate to score with a weakly struck penalty.

K/K should have gone on to win easily from here but Daingean fought back in determined fashion. Ciaran Carey pointed a goal chance in the 10th minute. This was followed by the Daingean goal. A brilliant move involving Darren Hanlon and Ciaran Carey ended with Paul Jordan shooting against the post and Sean Farrell finishing off the rebound.

K/K responded in the best possible fashion with a Barry Scully point in the 15th minute but that was to prove to be their last score. Points by Ciaran Carey and a Martin Daly free reduced the deficit to a point with nine minutes remaining. Daingean literally kicked the game away in those closing minutes with some terrible wides.

Scorers:

Kilcormac/Killoughey – S. Spain (1 free) & E. Doyle 0-3 each, J. Dunne 1-0 (penalty), B. Scully 0-2, Pascal Troy & Pat Troy 0-1 each

Daingean – M. Daly (all frees) & J.F. Kennedy 0-3 each, S. Farrell 1-0, M. O'Rourke 0-2, C. Carey 0-1

Kilcormac/Killoughey: P.J. Murray, Sean Guinan, James Buckley, Aidan Spain, Seamus Kiely, Jimmy Dunne, Niall Hand, Seamus Spain, John Troy, Barry Scully, Pascal Troy, Eamon Doyle, Pat Troy, Mick Spain, Damien Hand. Sub – John Rigney for Barry Scully.

Daingean: Alan O'Reilly, Peadar O'Grady, Willie Kennedy, Mattie Corcoran, Seamus McEvoy, Sean McEvoy, Greg Corcoran, Brendan Reynolds, Brendan Donagher, John F. Kennedy, Martin Daly, Ciaran Carey, Sean T. Farrell, Martin O'Rourke, Paul Jordan. Subs –Darren Hanlon for Brendan Donagher, Ger Galvin for Brendan Reynolds.

Referee: Noel Cooney (Erin Rovers)