

Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup> 1993

Daingean 1-11

Kilcormac/Killoughey 0-10

### **Three Sent-off As Daingean Reach Semi-final**

Daingean's progress to the Offaly S.F.C. semi-finals has been sensational to say the least. Not content with shocking Tullamore in the first round they supplied the competition with its most controversial moment yet on Sunday when they saw off Kilcormac/Killoughey in bizarre circumstances at O'Connor Park. A quarter-final which they seemed ill-equipped to win was all tied up at 0-10 each with five minutes left when it took a most unexpected turn for the worse.

First Kilcormac/Killoughey's Joe Daly was sent off by referee Eddie Dunne. Then Daingean celebrated as Martin Daly, who himself was carrying an injury, kicked over a '45' three minutes into added time. But the coup de grace was yet to come.

As an ambulance prepared to take away the injured Paul Jordan, an incident developed involving a number of players – one man at least excluded. That was Tony Kenny. Disregarding the mayhem developing to his right he gained possession nearly 50 yards out and ran unchallenged to kick a ball into an empty Kilcormac/Killoughey net. Nearly 40 minutes had elapsed in the second half by the time order was restored by the referee. After Willie Kennedy and Seamus Spain were sent off, the referee allowed the goal to stand. Soon after, the final whistle was sounded. Daingean had booked their place in the semi-final.

Since knocking out Tullamore in the opening round Daingean had been marked down as the team to watch – but for different reasons than were evident on Sunday. Deprived of the services of Pat Spollen because of suspension on inter-county duty, they never once recaptured the spirit, fluidity and will to win which had set them apart only a few weeks earlier.

But that's not to say they didn't deserve their victory on Sunday. Clearly they had better footballers than Kilcormac/Killoughey but they lacked the resolve and wherewithal to translate that into a comprehensive triumph. The aftermath of their victory over Tullamore was predictably bacchanalian but they had plenty of time to recover for the quarter-final.

Strangely enough the first semi-final pairing now decided brings together two sides, Clara and Daingean, who have come through indifferent form in the quarter-finals. Picking a winner there is a hard one to call.

Nobody was bold enough to predict a Kilcormac/Killoughey victory on Sunday in spite of their emphatic trouncing of Walsh Island in the first round. And the first quarter of the match seemed to justify that caution as Daingean gradually constructed a 0-6 to 0-2 lead with points from John Kenny, Brendan Donagher, Martin Daly, Tony Kenny and Paul Jordan (two) in answer to James Buckley's two early frees.

Martin Daly had established a commanding presence at centre-field. Richie Galvin was raiding up from the half-back line and Paul Jordan was threatening repeatedly among the forwards. What little headway Kilcormac/Killoughey managed to make was engineered chiefly by Niall Hand from centre-back and Seamus Spain, as resourceful as ever all over the forward line.

### **Frees**

But they plugged away and earned a succession of frees from the Daingean defence. By the 21<sup>st</sup> minute they were only two points down thanks to Seamus Spain and James Buckley, and the sides shared four more points by the interval to make the score 0-8 to 0-6.

Daingean were far too subdued at the beginning of the second half for their own good and the Kilcormac/Killoughey midfield started winning more ball. Seamus Spain continued to win

practically every ball that went his way so that by the fifth minute of the half the match had been squared at 0-8 each.

Martin Daly put Daingean ahead with a free but Seamus Spain levelled for Kilcormac/Killoughey. Martin Daly put Daingean ahead again but Mel Currams supplied an equaliser after 25 minutes. All the while Daingean had been having most of the play but didn't make it count on the scoreboard. Paul Jordan had the misfortune of kicking four wides before suffering an injury.

After the dismissal of Joe Daly, Martin Daly pointed a '45', earned by Sean Farrell, 33 minutes into the half. Then the real drama unfolded when the unsightly melee broke out at the Kilcormac/Killoughey end. Most importantly, Tony Kenny's goal stood and Daingean recorded their four-point win.

**Scorers:**

Daingean – M. Daly 0-5 (2 “45’s”), T. Kenny 1-1, P. Jordan 0-2, J. Kenny, S. Farrell & B. Donagher 0-1 each.

Kilcormac/Killoughey – J. Buckley 0-6 (frees), S. Spain 0-3 (1 free), M. Currams 0-1.

**Daingean:** Alan O'Reilly, Peadar O'Grady, J.J. Stapleton, Greg Corcoran, Richie Galvin, Sean McEvoy, J.J. Hanlon, Martin Daly, John Kenny, Paul Jordan, Tony Kenny, Seamus McEvoy, Sean Farrell, Brendan Donagher, Brendan Reynolds. Subs – Ciaran Carey for Brendan Reynolds, Willie Kennedy for Paul Jordan.

**Kilcormac/Killoughey:** Liam Lowry, Ger Gleeson, Aidan Spain, Noel Ryan, Brian Delaney, Joe Daly, Seamus Kiely, James Buckley, Mel Currams, John Delaney, Niall Hand, Fergal Lynch, Gordon Mooney, Mick Spain, Seamus Spain. Subs – Joe Slevin for Gordon Mooney, Seamus Horan for John Delaney.

Referee: Eddie Dunne (Ballinagar)