

Sunday May 23rd 1993

Daingean 1-13

Tullamore 0-12

Tullamore Topped By Dashing Daingean

What Cappincur can do Daingean can do better. Little over an hour after one shock result at Walsh Island came another as Daingean dumped 1992 S.F.C. finalists Tullamore out of this year's title race in the first round.

Tullamore should have been on guard after Gracefield's unexpected exit but if anything the Daingean victory was even more resounding than that of Cappincur.

The men in Maroon – who suffered a sensational reversal at the hands of Cappincur this time last year – were a full seven points ahead of Tullamore at one stage in the second half.

They ended up earning a handsome four-point win in spite of missing a penalty and they annoyed the Tullamore defence so much that corner-back Joe Owens was sent off by referee Michael Mahon.

Like most clubs in the county Daingean raise their game when faced by Tullamore and now must fancy their chances of advancing in the championship as the second round squares them up against either Kilcormac/Killoughey or Walsh Island.

This first round victory was fashioned largely from dominance in an area where Tullamore would be expected to be very strong – centre field. John Kenny and Martin Daly played superbly all through against a combination of opponents including Joe Hughes, PJ Martin, Mark Plunkett and Mick Lowry.

And Tullamore were by no means under strength for this match. Dave Kavanagh was the only absentee from the side which went all the way to the final last year after beating defending champions Clara in a first round replay.

Daingean took the game to them right from the throw-in and after an evenly contested if somewhat dull first half, the game really came to life when corner forward Sean Farrell engineered a penalty from the unlucky Joe Owens. Paul Jordan's kick was athletically saved by Ken Furlong but it didn't have the inspirational affect on his side one would have expected. Rather it spurred Daingean – and their super centre-forward Pat Spollen – to four points on the trot.

It was clear there was little love lost between the sides, something which manifested itself in a couple of short-lived flare-ups, but Daingean's temperament enabled them to cope better with an aggressive game and they held their heads to win comfortably.

Tullamore's troubles at centre-field quickly translated themselves into problems all over the field. Bringing Mark Plunkett back from centre-forward deprived them of a useful ball-winner and potential scorer on the half-forward line. And bringing Mick Lowry back likewise weakened the full-forward line.

Damien Geraghty and to a lesser extent Larry Molloy had as much pace as ever but really tight marking by Daingean kept their scoring opportunities to a minimum. Tullamore's half-back line of Des McGirl, Pat Dolan and Pat Cooney could have been expected to perform well too. But it was rendered almost invisible by a rampant Daingean trio in the second half. Sean McEvoy, the Daingean Centre-back showed how it should be done with an inspirational display as he delighted in turning defence into attack.

Two points from Paul Jordan in the first four minutes signalled Daingean's intentions when the match began. Larry Molloy scored a free for Tullamore but Pat Spollen replied for Daingean. Tullamore began to reshuffle their forces at this stage with Mark Plunkett and PJ martin switching places. They drew level on 16 minutes thanks to points from Mick Lowry and Larry Molloy and then went ahead when Mark Plunkett scored following a quick one-two with Damien Geraghty. Daingean then went back in front when Pat Spollen and then

Sean Farrell kicked points. However, Tullamore still found themselves ahead at half-time following two Brendan O'Brien points but ominously for them the wind which was to blow in Daingean's favour after the re-start was strengthening.

The first 12 minutes of the second half was all Daingean. John Kenny kicked a point only seconds into the half and then after three minutes they had a penalty when Paul Jordan's sky-high centre was grabbed by Sean Farrell near the square. He fell awkwardly under the challenge of Joe Owens and the referee cleared the square for a penalty. Paul Jordan was denied by Ken Furlong's great dive to the right.

Daingean missed the resulting '45' but Pat Spollen quickly put them in front. It was the cue for a remarkable series of scores from frees for the centre-forward. He scored three in all, each one from a difficult position.

Suddenly four points down Tullamore rallied briefly with two points from Brendan O'Brien. But they were rocked when John Kenny turned on the left more than 30 yards out and launched a high ball which landed in the bottom left hand corner of the net to the consternation of the Tullamore defence. A little fluky it may have been but it was no more than Daingean deserved for their dogged persistence. They followed it up with two more points from Pat Spollen, one from play and another from a free.

Meanwhile very little was going right for Tullamore. Brendan O'Brien kicked two frees wide and Joe Owens was sent off. In between Mick Lowry had scored a point and O'Brien managed another.

Brendan O'Brien then scored another point with two minutes of normal time remaining but he blasted a penalty over the bar a couple of minutes later. In the 33rd minute of the half Larry Molloy scored another free just before the final whistle sounded.

Scorers:

Daingean – P. Spollen 0-8 (6 frees), J. Kenny 1-1, P. Jordan 0-3, S. Farrell 0-1.

Tullamore – B. O'Brien 0-7 (5 frees, 1 pen), L. Molloy (frees) & M. Lowry 0-2 each, M. Plunkett 0-1.

Daingean: Alan O'Reilly, Peadar O'Grady, J.J. Stapleton, Greg Corcoran, Richie Galvin, Sean McEvoy, J.J. Hanlon, John Kenny, Martin Daly, Paul Jordan, Pat Spollen, Tony Kenny, Sean Farrell, Ger Galvin, Brendan Donagher. Subs – Seamus McEvoy for Brendan Donagher.

Tullamore: Ken Furlong, Joe Owens, Sean Luskin, John Keane, Des McGirl, Pat Dolan, Pat Cooney, Joe Hughes, P.J. Martin, Phil O'Reilly, Mark Plunkett, Brendan O'Brien, Larry Molloy, Mick Lowry, Damien Geraghty.

Referee: Mick Mahon (Shannonbridge)