

Saturday July 8th 1995

Daingean 2-6

Ballycumber 1-7

### **Daingean Survive Late Rally To Reach Quarter-Final**

Two soft goals, one in each half, were the main factor's behind Daingean's slender, two point victory over Ballycumber in Geashill in the Offaly Senior Football Championship on Saturday evening.

It was these two goals, along with a penalty save by Mick Wright, that gave Daingean the opportunity of reaching the quarter-final which they gladly accepted. For a long period it seemed that Daingean were easing to a comfortable victory, but a determined fightback by Ballycumber in the closing stages, which resulted in 1-3 without reply, left a mere one point between the sides. However, Daingean put over the final point of the hour to seal the victory and surprisingly march on to the quarter-final.

The situation is now that Daingean must play-off with Clara to see who tops the group. Ballycumber are now left with the task of defeating Rhode for the second time in a fortnight if they are to avoid a return to Intermediate football, less than a year after winning that particular title.

Games such as this are often decided my mistakes or lucky breaks and on this occasion, Daingean were the benefactors. They scored two goals, which at the end of the game, were the main reasons for their victory. The first of these was registered in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute when a long range shot by Paul Jordan was deflected into his own net by unfortunate goalkeeper Alan Rigney. This gave Daingean a 1-3 to 0-1 lead and put them in a commanding position as the first half neared a conclusion.

### **Second Goal**

The second, more crucial goal, came in the 12<sup>th</sup> minute of the second half. On this occasion it was a long ball sent in by Daingean midfielder, Tony Kenny, which was tipped onto the crossbar by Rigney and corner forward Sean Farrell was on hand to punch the ball to the back of the net. It appeared that the goal was disallowed because of a "square ball", but the referee then consulted with his umpires and the green flag was raised. It was only after this goal that Ballycumber played their best football, possibly believing that they had nothing to lose as they went on an all out attack.

Both teams went into the game with positional and personnel changes. Daingean played John Kenny at centre-forward with brother Tony moving to centre-field. Ballycumber gave Leonard Casey his senior debut at wing-back, and although he was substituted in the second half, he can be reasonably happy with his performance while Ger Minnock was switched from his usual defensive role to a wing-forward position.

### **The Play**

The opening stages were scrappy, with both teams squandering good opportunities for scores. The first major incident of the game occurred in the 10<sup>th</sup> minute when Diarmuid Daly was fouled as he attempted to shoot and Ballycumber were awarded a penalty. However, Kenneth Daly's penalty kick, although well struck towards the bottom corner of the goal was brilliantly tipped out for a '45 by veteran goalkeeper Mick Wright, and Daingean averted the resultant danger.

It took until the 13<sup>th</sup> minute for the scoring to commence when John Greene pointed for Daingean from close range. Paul Jordan doubled this lead three minutes later when he put over after a scramble in the Ballycumber goalmouth. Daingean, at this stage, were enjoying the lions share of possession and soon went three points clear when John Kenny scored a great point from long range from an acute angle.

In response, Ballycumber made a tactical switch, moving Diarmuid Daly to centre-forward with Dermot Egan taking over the full-forward role. This had an immediate impact as Daly passed to Andrew Grennan who pointed from close range. However, Daingean quickly regained the initiative with their first goal before a Kenneth Daly free for Ballycumber closed the scoring to leave Daingean in front on a scoreline of 1-3 to 0-2.

### **Second Half**

The scoring in the second half began much quicker than the first with Colm Quinn sending over a free for Ballycumber in the opening minute of the half. Kenneth Daly added another free before Daingean replied with John Greene's second point of the evening. Ballycumber introduced Nicholas Grennan for Leonard Casey, but Daingean continued to remain on top and a J.J. Hanlon point was followed by their second goal. At this stage there seemed no way Ballycumber could come back into the game, but to their credit, they kept battling and brought themselves right back into the game.

### **Great Point**

The Ballycumber revival began with what was definitely the best score of the hour when Ger Minnock, from what appeared to be an almost impossible angle sent over a great point from near the sideline. Colm Quinn followed this with a further great score and Diarmuid Daly scored their third point in succession in the 26<sup>th</sup> minute.

The excitement reached a climax with two minutes of normal time remaining when Colm Quinn gathered a breaking ball and blasted to the back of the net. Ballycumber, Daingean and indeed Rhode (remembering that a draw in this game would see them relegated) were all nervously awaiting the outcome and it was Daingean who claimed the honours with a J.F. Kennedy point following a free in the centre of the field. This closed the scoring and sent Daingean into the knockout stages of the championship.

### **Daingean Stars**

Daingean did not play to their true potential and will have to improve considerably if they are to make an impact in the latter stages of the championship. Mick Wright played well in goals and of the backline, J.J. Stapleton, Seamus McEvoy and J.J. Hanlon all played well. Midfield shaded the honours, and up front, Paul Jordan, John Greene and J.F. Kennedy all starred.

Ballycumber were obviously devastated after this defeat as they never reproduced the form of the previous week. In defence, Barry Daly and Michael Walsh played well. Colm Quinn won a lot of possession and did well to score the goal. Up front, Andrew Grennan and Diarmuid Daly tried hard, but the forward line as a unit never got going.

### **Scorers:**

Ballycumber – C. Quinn 1-2 (1 free), K. Daly 0-2 (1 free), G. Minnock, A. Grennan & D. Daly 0-1 each

Daingean – P. Jordan 1-1, S. Farrell 1-0, J. Greene 0-2, J. Kenny, J.J. Hanlon & J.F. Kennedy 0-1 each

**Ballycumber:** Alan, Rigney, Mick Dunican, Barry Daly, Cyril Egan, Leonard Casey, Adrian Corcoran, Michael Walsh, Jody Quinn, Colm Quinn, Ger Minnock, Dermot Egan, Kenneth Daly, Andrew Grennan, Diarmuid Daly, Matthew Power. Subs – Nicholas Grennan for Leonard Casey, Kenneth Dunne for Michael Walsh (injured).

**Daingean:** Mick Wright, Mattie Corcoran, J.J. Stapleton, Joe Gallagher, Seamus McEvoy, Brendan Donagher, J.J. Hanlon, Tony Kenny, Martin Daly, Paul Jordan,

John Kenny, John Greene, John F. Kennedy, Sean McEvoy, Sean T. Farrell. Sub –  
Mark Whittle for Sean T. Farrell.

Referee: Pat Colgan