

Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup> 1995

Clara 3-16

Daingean 1-8

### **Clara Ease To Quarter-final With Powerful Display**

Clara regained their true form in Geashill last Saturday evening when they totally outclassed Daingean to storm to a 14 point victory in an unexciting Senior Football Championship encounter.

The victory was expected, but the manner in which Daingean collapsed was surprising and brought them firmly back down to earth following their shock victory over Rhode.

The game was only interesting as a contest for a brief period in the first half when a Sean McEvoy goal left the scoreline 0-7 to 1-2 in favour of Clara, but the favourites hit back immediately and at half-time held a comfortable 1-8 to 1-4 lead. The second-half turned out to be a total mis-match with Clara cruising to victory adding 2-8 to their total with Daingean restricted to just four points.

Clara must be commended for a skilful and committed display but Daingean never posed a huge threat and have much improving to do if they are to beat Ballycumber and get through to the quarter-final. They won a great deal of possession at midfield early on but were unable to transfer this to scores on the board and against the hill and the breeze in the second half their cause always looked next to impossible.

Clara started without the injured Willie Reynolds, and his usual full-forward berth was occupied by brother Davie, who went on to cause havoc for the overworked Daingean defence. They were also minus the services of Fergal Moran, with Robert Dunne taking over his wing-forward position. These changes cause little disturbance with the championship favourites easing into a quarter-final, the expected three-way play-off avoided because of Ballycumber's surprising win over Rhode.

### **Full Advantage**

Clara took full advantage of the target practice which was granted to them and displayed some expert shooting, registering only a handful of wides during the hour. Davie Reynolds and Mark Scanlon were tied at the top of the scoring table, Reynolds registering 0-7, while corner-forward Scanlon accounted for 2-1.

The first of his goals was in direct reply to Daingean's only goal and came about when an Alan Cronin shot came off the upright with Scanlon on hand to blast to the back of the net from an acute angle. His second such score came in the 52<sup>nd</sup> minute with the game well and truly over as a contest when he collected a Ronan Scully pass and blasted to the back of the net from close range.

In total, five of the six forwards got on the scoresheet in a faultless display, which could have resulted in more goals but for the fact they blasted some close range shots over the bar as the game neared a conclusion.

Their midfield endured some problems, particularly in the first half, but became more influential as the game wore on, and Mark Daly's substitution had undoubtedly more to do with the fact that he was booked in the first half than a reflection on his play, while Tony Dalton, Derek Coyne and Colm Kane were the pick of the defence.

As the scoreline implies, Daingean endured problems all over the pitch. John Greene and Brendan Donagher tried hard in defence while John Kenny and Martin Daly can be satisfied with their play at midfield, with Kenny displaying flashes of brilliance that has come to be expected of him. Tony Kenny, Sean McEvoy and Paul Jordan made an impression in the forwards but received little or no reward for their efforts.

### **The Play**

Alan Cronin opened the scoring with the first of his two almost identical points from play in the second minute. Martin Daly immediately replied for Daingean but Clara soon showed their first sign of dominance with five unanswered points, three from frees, which put them in a commanding position with a quarter of the game played.

Daingean then began a mini revival when after both teams scored a free each, Sean Farrell burst through the defence and his punched pass was boxed to the net from close range by the onrushing Sean McEvoy. Clara quickly answered with a goal and a point before Daingean closed the scoring with two points, one each by John Kenny and John F. Kennedy while they also made the first major tactical move of the game by introducing Matthew Corcoran at full-back for J.J. Stapleton.

Although the second-half ended up totally one-sided it surprisingly started evenly, with the sides swapping two points each inside the first eight minutes which left four points between the sides. From then to the finish the pattern of the game changed dramatically. It is suffice to say that Clara just stepped up a gear and scored at will with Scanlons goal preceeded by a similar score by Ronan Scully after a Davie Reynolds cross was fumbled in the goalmouth and capped off a fine performance by Scully, who was starting his first game for the team this year. Clara eased off a little towards the end, taking off both Mark Daly and Pauric Moran, but by then the tie was well over as a contest.

Clara now look likely to top the group and so avoid old rivals Ferbane in the quarter-final. They will definitely meet stronger opposition as the championship progresses, but on this performance will definitely be in the shake-up for honours whenever the championship concludes. Daingean will have to forget about this game as quickly as possible before their crunch game against Ballycumber at the weekend, which will decide who joins Clara in the knockout stages.

**Scorers:**

Clara – D. Reynolds 0-7 (5 frees), M. Scanlon 2-1, R. Scully 1-1, P. Moran & A.

Cronin (1 free) 0-3 each, M. Daly 0-1.

Daingean –Sean McEvoy 1-0, M. Daly (1 free), J.F. Kennedy & P. Jordan (both frees) 0-2 each, J. Kenny & T. Kenny 0-1 each

**Clara:** Daragh Scully, Pat Flanagan, Larry Carroll, Tony Dalton, Derek Coyne, Aidan Stewart, Colm Kane, Mark Meehan, Mark Daly, Alan Cronin, Pauric Moran, Robert Dunne, Ronan Scully, David Reymolds, Mark Scanlon. Subs – Paddy Maher for Mark Daly, Tony Egan for Pauric Moran.

**Daingean:** Mick Wright, John Greene, J.J. Stapleton, Joe Gallagher, Seamus McEvoy, Brendan Donagher, J.J. Hanlon, John Kenny, Martin Daly, Mark Whittle, John F. Kennedy, Tony Kenny, Sean T. Farrell, Sean McEvoy, Paul Jordan. Subs – Mattie Corcoran for J.J. Stapleton, Mark Smyth for Sean T. Farrell.

Referee: John Dillon (Edenderry)