

Sunday June 16th 1996

Clara 4-16

Daingean 0-9

Daingean Swamped in Second Half by 14 Man Clara

Although they played catch-up all the way, Daingean turned in a respectable first half performance against fancied Clara in the first of Sunday's two-match programme in Tullamore's O'Connor Park last Sunday. They were, however, completely overwhelmed by the sheer power and pace of their opponents on the change of ends, despite the fact that Clara were down to 14 men following the dismissal of centre-half back James Mitchell for a scything tackle on Martin Daly three minutes before the interval.

Clara were hotter favourites than the blazing sunshine in which a disappointingly scant attendance basked on the hill, and they started off at a blistering pace, scoring 2-3 in the opening seven minutes. Their opening goal came from the penalty spot, for when David Reynolds was pulled down inside the area he exacted retribution by squeezing the ball just inside the foot of Sean Farrell's left-hand post.

That was in the 3rd minute, and four minutes later Farrell was picking the ball out of the back of the net again when a quickly taken free found Fergal Moran unmarked and he gave the 'keeper little chance with a perfectly-placed shot.

Daingean might have been excused if they had wilted in the face of such an early blitz, but with their county man, John Kenny, in the van of successive waves of attacks they eat into that lead until there was only a goal separating the sides – 2-3 to 0-6.

Sensing danger, Clara shook the reins and outscored their opponents by four points to two in the ten minutes spell before the short whistle, and they must have been happy enough going in for the break leading by 2-7 to 0-8 after playing against a diagonal breeze.

Interval Change

Clara resumed with Finian Moran on in place of Tony Dalton, and they immediately assumed the initiative. Indeed, they turned the second half into a procession of scores as they bore down on the Daingean posts in a series of unrelenting assaults.

Fergal Moran notched his second goal of the game after only three minutes, applying a clinical finish after his brother, Pdraig, had put in a great run to create the opportunity. The issue was well decided long before Clara scored their fourth goal in the final minute. Again it came from the penalty spot, with David Reynolds scoring with an almost carbon copy of his first spot-kick after a foul on Pdraig Moran which resulted in J.J. Stapleton receiving his marching orders from referee Noel Cooney.

Reasonable Entertainment

In a game in which the first half produced reasonable entertainment and the second 30 minutes developed into a huge bore the winners were not entirely convincing. Admittedly it was difficult for them to maintain their momentum once they had become assured of victory, but their management are unlikely to be too pleased about the twelve second-half wides which the forwards chalked up.

Once they survived their opponent's best spell between the 11th and 18th minutes when Daingean ran up an uninterrupted sequence of five points, the Clara defence had little to do. In the absence of Aidan Stewart Larry Carroll was moved to midfield to partner Mark Daly, with Pat Flanagan taking over at fullback. Flanagan, Derville Dunne and Derek Coyne looked best in a relaxed and composed defence. Although

forced to play second fiddle to the Kenny brothers in the first half, Larry Carroll and Mark Daly came into their own at midfield on the change of ends.

Destroyer-In-Chief

Clara's destroyer-in-chief was full-forward David Reynolds, for apart from his personal contribution of 2-7 he was always in the thick of the action and was a constant thorn in the side of the Daingean defence. Also dangerous up front were the Moran brothers, Pdraig and Fergal, who formed a lethal left wing partnership, whilst a third brother, Finian, also fared well when coming into the side for the second half.

Daingean turned a brave opening 30 minutes and looked like making a match of it for a while, particularly in their golden spell between the 11th and 18th minutes during which they ran up an uninterrupted sequence of five points. The effort, however, took its toll and they were completely eclipsed in the second half. Their outstanding player was county man John Kenny, whilst there were brave performances also from Brendan Donagher, Mick Connolly, Tony Kenny, Joe Gallagher, goalkeeper Sean Farrell and J.J. Stapleton who started at corner forward and later switched with full back Mark Whittle.

Scorers:

Clara – D. Reynolds 2-7 (2-3 frees), F. Moran 2-2, P. Moran 0-4, M. Daly, W. Reynolds & M. Scanlon 0-1 each

Daingean – J. Kenny 0-6 (4 frees), M. Daly, T. Kenny , & M. Connolly 0-1 each

Clara: Darragh Scully, Paddy Maher, Pat Flanagan, Derville Dunne, Derek Coyne, James Mitchell, Tony Dalton, Larry Carroll, Mark Daly, Willie Reynolds, Jimmy Stewart, Pdraig Moran, Mark Scanlon, David Reynolds (captain), Fergal Moran.
Subs – Finian Moran for Tony Dalton, Alan Cronin for Mark Scanlon.

Daingean: Sean Farrell, J.J. Hanlon, Mark Whittle, Joe Gallagher, Richie Galvin, Brendan Donagher, Ciaran Carey, John Kenny (captain), Tony Kenny, Michael Connolly, John Greene, Colm Jones, Sean McEvoy, Martin Daly, J.J. Stapleton.

Referee: Noel Cooney (Erin Rovers)

| 1st Half | Goals | Points | Wides | Frees | 45's |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Clara | 2 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| Daingean | 0 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 1 |
| 2nd Half | | | | | |
| Clara | 2 | 9 | 12 | 9 | 0 |
| Daingean | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| Total | | | | | |
| Clara | 4 | 16 | 14 | 14 | 0 |
| Daingean | 0 | 9 | 5 | 14 | 1 |