

Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup> 1996

Ferbane 1-16

Daingean 0-4

### **Ferbane Qualify Over Daingean, and Get In Some Shooting Practice**

Ferbane joined Clara as qualifiers from Group B of the senior football championship as a result of a facile 1-16 to 0-4 over Daingean in Clara on Sunday afternoon. The winners did no more than was expected in overcoming Daingean, who are rooted to the bottom of the group without a point to their credit, but the ease with which they progressed came as something of a surprise.

On the day Daingean were simply not in the same class as their opponents, although it must be recorded that they remained game right to the end and were putting just as much effort into their performance in the final minute as in the first. For Ferbane the game served merely to provide them with scope for shooting practice. A side that was guilty of shooting no fewer than 19 wides can certainly do with some practice in this area.

The pattern of the game was set from the first blast of referee Eddie Dunne's whistle, for it took Ferbane just 36 seconds to open the scoring, Diarmuid Ryan and Ken Claffey paving the way for Paddy Connolly to pick off a good point on the run.

The remainder of the half was dominated by Ferbane to such an extent that they could afford the luxury of shooting 8 wides and still turn over leading by 1-7 to 0-2. Their goal – the only one of the hour – came in the 14<sup>th</sup> minute and was gift-wrapped. Although the approach work by Brendan Wynne and Ken Claffey was excellent, the final shot by full-forward Nicholas Claffey should have been saved, but goalkeeper Sean Farrell could only push the ball against the upright and into his own net. This was the only blemish to mar the performance of the overworked 'keeper whose many saves prevented his side losing by an even wider margin.

### **Little Respite**

The second half brought little respite for the Daingean defence, for they continued to be subjected to sustained bouts of pressure. Although scoring freely, the Ferbane forwards continued to be erratic in their shooting, and a further 11 wides in this half will not have gone unnoticed by trainer Brendan Clarke. Nor is he likely to take too kindly to a certain lack of discipline which is reflected in the high number of frees conceded by his charges.

These are minor faults which can be worked upon in training, but the fact remains that Ferbane must be regarded as live championship prospects. Their forwards moved the ball about swiftly and accurately, with all six sharing the scoring. Their principal marksman was Nicholas Claffey, for the full-forward amassed the impressive individual tally of 1-8 in fronting a forward division in which Shane Gavin, Ken Claffey and Paddy Connolly formed an influential and constructive outer line.

### **Powerful Alliance**

The powerful alliance of Jimmy Grennan and veteran – in the playing sense – Denis Kelly took control of midfield, whilst in a relaxed defence Sean Grennan starred in his new position at full-back and Brendan Wynne and Paddy Egan were constructive wing backs. In the centre of the line Patrick Egan proved a huge stumbling block.

Daingean may have erred in placing county man John Kenny at full-forward for he was isolated for most of the game and was later employed at midfield. He retired injured in the second half, but was then forced to return to the fray as a replacement for Joe Gallagher who was stretchered off with a rib injury four minutes from the end.

All in all it was not a very happy day for Daingean, although their commitment could not be faulted. They were obliged to line out without Richie Galvin and J.J Stapleton, and their absence caused a reshuffle which saw several players operating out of position.

Sean Farrell, Brendan Donagher, Joe Gallagher and Mark Whittle fared best in an overworked defence, and Martin Daly tried hard at midfield. Best of a forward line which did not enjoy great possession were Paul Jordan, Tony Kenny and substitute Willie Ryan.

**Scorers:**

Ferbane – N. Claffey 1-8 (0-2 frees), K. Claffey 0-3, P. Connolly, J. Grennan, A.

Cooney, S. Gavin & D. Ryan 0-1 each

Daingean – P. Jordan 0-2, J. Kenny & M. Connolly 0-1 each

**Ferbane:** Vincent Egan, Paul Maher, Sean Grennan (Captain), Kevin Brazil, Brendan Wynne, Patrick Egan, Paddy Egan, Denis Kelly, Jimmy Grennan, Shane Gavin, Ken Claffey, Paddy Connolly, Diarmuid Ryan, Nicholas Claffey, Alan Cooney. Sub – Colm Maher for Brendan Wynne.

**Daingean:** Sean Farrell, Colm Jones, Ciaran Carey, Joe Gallagher, Mark Whittle, Brendan Donagher, J.J. Hanlon, John Greene, Martin Daly, Michael Connolly, Tony Kenny, Seamus McEvoy, Liam Greene, John Kenny (Captain), Paul Jordan. Subs – Willie Ryan for Liam Greene, Bernard Greene for John Kenny, John Kenny for Joe Gallagher.

Referee: Eddie Dunne (Ballinagar)