

## **1996 Offaly Senior Football Championship**

Tubber 1-14  
Daingean 1-8

### **Tubber Forwards On Mark To Defeat Daingean**

Boasting an attack that was full of dangerous energy, Tubber recovered from a slack start to score a deserved 1-14 to 1-8 win over Daingean in a well contested Offaly senior football championship game played in Durrow last Sunday. In a game illuminated by skill, style and good sportsmanship victory went to the more deserving of two impressive sides.

Defeat does not represent the end of the world for Daingean, for this was their first championship outing. Tubber, on the other hand, having already lost to Clara could ill-afford to slip up a second time.

Although Daingean shaded the midfield exchanges thanks to the prolific partnership of the Kenny brothers, the response from the forwards was not as positive as that of the opposing attack. Once they got going the Tubber front runners proved that they possessed both punch and penetration. All six forwards hit the target from play, thus making up for the fact that place-kicker Ciaran McManus had an off-day with his free-taking.

Tubber will be happy to have got over this hurdle without their regular sturdy full-back Padraic Farrell who picked up a suspension as a result of being sent off in a league game. Andy Sheridan proved a very able deputy in the number 3 shirt, despite being pitted against Daingean's most dangerous forward in J.J. Stapleton. The Heavin brothers, Damien and Martin, also did sterling work on the halfback line, and if Ciaran McManus was out of touch with his shooting he was, nevertheless, the mainspring of most of his side's attacking movements.

With corner forwards Willie Colgan and Ger Robbins using the wings as runways, Tubber spread their attack in a manner that kept the Daingean defence stretched to breaking point. Tommy Gorman provided a perfect link at full-forward, and the forwards really clicked late in the game, for Daingean's last score came in the 43<sup>rd</sup> minute and the closing eight minutes saw the men from the county border run riot with a string of five points that clinched victory.

Daingean, fielding a mainly young side, set a cracking pace early on. They looked really sharp and impressive as they opened up a lead of 1-2 to 0-1 by the 13<sup>th</sup> minute. However, the promise of that flying start was not fulfilled and they were to go a further 14 minutes before scoring again. In the meantime Tubber drew level and then took a lead which they held to the final whistle.

The Daingean defence found the opposing forward line too hot to handle, particularly after centre half-back Brendan Donagher was forced to retire injured four minutes before half-time. His departure brought about a reshuffle which left the side unbalanced.

Daingean welcomed back Alan O'Reilly after his spell in Germany, and he served the side well in goal. Mark Whittle, Joe Gallagher and Ciaran Carey were all sound at the back, but the real strength of the side stemmed from the forceful play of John and Tony Kenny who, between them, accounted for 0-6 of their side's total.

It was up front that the Maroons floundered despite the individual touches of Mick Connolly, J.J. Stapleton and Martin Daly.

### **Scoring Sequence**

An early indication that Ciaran McManus had left his shooting boots at home came when he failed with his first two frees, leaving it to John Kenny to open the scoring when he pointed a Daingean free in the 4<sup>th</sup> minute. Tony Kenny added another point in the 9<sup>th</sup> minute, and although Tommy Gorman broke the sequence with a magnificent Tubber point from long range to open their account in the 11<sup>th</sup> minute, they were rocked back on their heels two minutes later.

Daingean's 13<sup>th</sup> minute goal was the result of a well constructed movement, with corner forward John F. Kennedy putting the final touch to the god approach work of Tony Kenny and Martin Daly. Daingean were now in a strong position, but Tubber were by now settling in and points by Ger Robbins, Willie Colgan (free), Ciaran McManus ("45") and Kieran Lowry enabled hem to draw level in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute.

The turning point followed within two minutes when a great burst by Ciaran McManus upset the Daingean defence and placed Tommy Gorman to crash a close range shot past the helpless Alan O'Reilly. A second goal almost followed within minutes when Ger Robbins and Willie Colgan combined to set up Tommy Gorman for a shot that crashed back off the butt of the post.

### **Injury Upset**

The injury which forced Brendan Donagher to retire brought about a reshuffle of Daingean's forces. He was replaced by Sean Farrell, with Richie Galvin taking over at centre-half back and Seamus McEvoy dropping back to wing-half back. John Kenny (free) and Paul Robbins exchanged points before Daingean closed the first half scoring with a point by John Kenny from play that cut Tubber's interval lead to two points – 1-6 to 1-4.

The width of a coat of paint deprived Daingean of the lead inside the first minute of the second half when J.J. Stapleton's astute pass was punched against the upright by Mick Connolly. Martin Daly's point left the minimum margin between the sides, but then Tubber upped the stakes again with a trinity of points by Ger Robbins, Willie Colgan and a great long range effort by Ciaran McManus.

In no way awed, Daingean hit back with a hat-trick of their own in the form of points by Tony Kenny, John Kenny and J.J. Stapleton, in between which Sean Farrell set the crossbar rocking.

### **Scoring Momentum**

A scoring moratorium between the 43<sup>rd</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> minutes during which both sides missed chances saw Daingean in particular apply pressure that went unrewarded. Having survived that spell, Tubber suddenly regained control to dominate the closing eight minutes during which Robbie Donoghue, Ger Robbins (2) and Kieran Lowry tacked on the late points which inflated Tubber's winning margin.

### **Scorers:**

Tubber – G. Robbins 0-4, T. Gorman 1-1, P. Robbins, W. Colgan (free), K. Lowry & C. McManus 0-2 each, R. Donoghue 0-1

Daingean – J. Kenny 0-4 (2 frees), J.F. Kennedy 1-0, T. Kenny 0-2, M. Daly & J.J. Stapleton 0-1 each

**Tubber:** James Grennan, Michael Doolan, Andy Sheridan, Aidan King (captain), Damien Heavin, Martin Heavin, Chris Daly, Patrick Doolan, Ciaran McManus, Paul Robbins, Robert Donoghue, Kieran Lowry, Willie Colgan, Tommy Gorman, Ger Robbins. Sub – Brian McManus for Aidan King.

**Daingean:** Alan O'Reilly, Colm Jones, Mark Whittle, Joe Gallagher, Richie Galvin, Brendan Donagher, Ciaran Carey, John Kenny (captain), Tony Kenny, John Greene,

Martin Daly, Michael Connolly, John F. Kennedy, J.J. Stapleton, Seamus McEvoy.  
Sub – Sean Farrell for Brendan Donagher.

Referee: Noel Cooney (Erin Rovers)

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Half</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Wides</b>	<b>Frees</b>	<b>45's</b>
Tubber	1	6	2	9	1
Daingean	1	4	5	12	0
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Half</b>					
Tubber	0	8	5	6	0
Daingean	0	4	5	9	2
<b>Total</b>					
Tubber	1	14	7	15	1
Daingean	1	8	10	21	2