

20th June 2010

JUNIOR LEAGUE (Semi final)

RESULTS: Skellig Rangers 2-7 Derrynane 1-8

After the high of last weekend, it was always likely that playing the same opposition again one week later would be a bit anti-climatic and so it turned out to be. A very physical Rangers just got the better of a spirited Derrynane in a close contest.

It all started very well for Derrynane. David Breen won the throw-in and burst forward, was fouled and pointed the free. Derrynane were dominant with the forward line of Ray Gleeson, Cormac Breen and Cian Boland all showing well, but Derrynane missed three kickable frees and were unlucky with a goal effort. Misses that proved costly as Rangers, in a rare attack, goaled. Michael O'Connor then carried the ball from the heart of the defence and got a fine point. From the kick-out Shane Mac fielded superbly, was fouled yet again, and from the free, Donal Galvin plucked it from the sky and in one fluid movement turned to put it over. A Galvin/O'Connor combination then won another free, tapped over by Shane Mac to put the visitors a point ahead. Rangers then equalised. Next, a Derrynane attack was defended with vigour by the home defence, but Declan Gleeson managed to put it over. Following that, Michael O'Connor took a heavy blow to the shoulder and had to depart the action, a serious blow to the visitors. Rangers pointed twice and Derrynane missed another couple of chances, including one for goal, which left it 1-3 to 0-5 at half-time for the home team.

Rangers scored another point to start the second half. Kevin O'Sullivan, just on the pitch, won the ball and went on a good run at the heart of the home defence before being fouled and D.Breen pointed the free. Rangers came back for another point and John Galvin had to be quick off his line to prevent a certain goal for the home side. With Morgan O'Donoghue making great runs and David Mac tackling tigerishly, Derrynane were getting back into the game. A D.Breen '45 was broken down and John O'Shea buried it into the roof of the net to put the visitors 1-6 to 1-5 up and lift their ever loyal and vocal following. Derrynane tried to drive on and M.O'Donoghue was just short with a point effort while at the other end two fine points from frees by B.Casey put Portmagee a point up again. Then came the turning point in the game. The Derrynane defence failed to clear a high ball from a free and in a big scramble around the goalmouth J.Casey netted and there was no way back for the visitors. Derrynane fought on and M.O'Donoghue scored two fine points, but while seeking a clinching goal time ran out for the visitors. The loss of O'Connor and the concession of a soft second goal helped to undo the visitors, but once again there was very little between the two sides. Good luck to Portmagee in the final.

For Derrynane, Mark Healy had a good game at full-back, Shane O'Donoghue and David Mac did well in defence, while elsewhere Shane Mac had some good moments. Cian Boland gave it everything, and Morgan O'Donoghue was most impressive. In general, youth to the fore, but all put in a decent effort on the night.

Team: J.Galvin, S.O'Donoghue, M.Healy, J.Quinlan, M.O'Connor 0-1, D.Gleeson 0-1, D.McGillicuddy, D.Breen 0- 2(f), J.O'Shea 1-0, M.O'Donoghue 0-2, D.Galvin 0-1, S.McGillicuddy 0-1(f), C.Breen, R.Gleeson, C.Boland

Subs used: I.Casey, K.O'Sullivan, D.Casey

FIXTURE: A huge game this weekend as Sneem/Derrynane visit table-toppers Kenmare on Saturday for a crucial league fixture. A big crowd expected for this one.