



TULLOW C.S MATCH REPORT



NARROWEST OF MARGINS SEPARATE T.C.S & PRES CARLOW IN PADRAIG CUNNANE TROPHY FINAL

Reporting by: Active School Flag Reporting Team

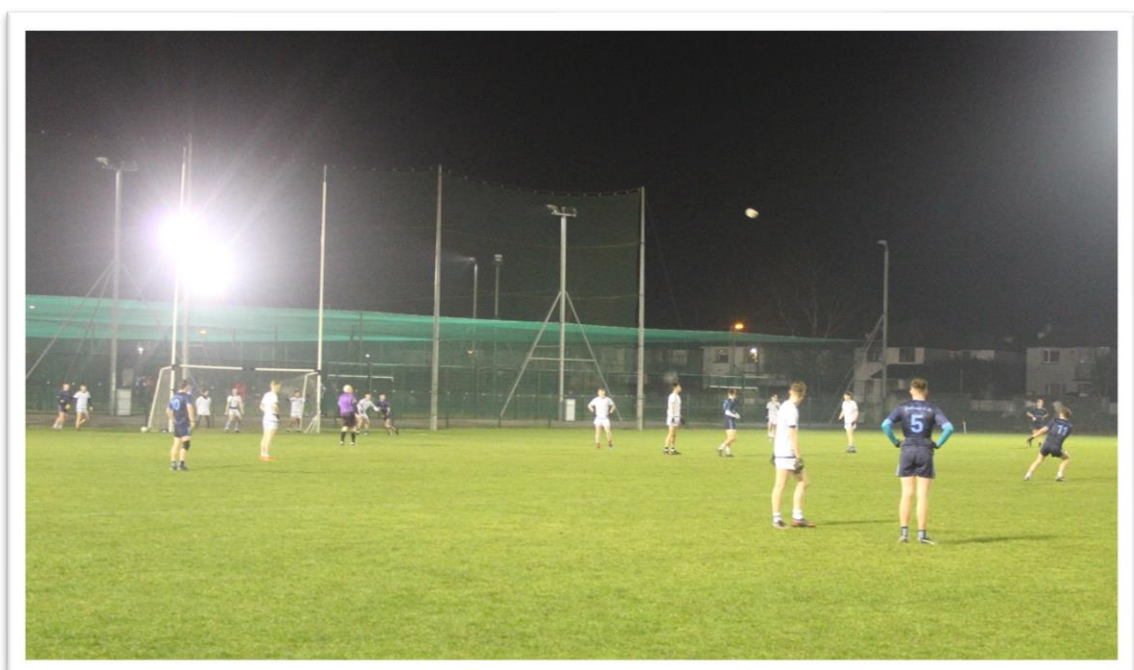


On Friday the 20th of January the Tullow Community School Senior Boys football team travelled to the excellent facilities at SETU Carlow Campus to take on Presentation College Carlow in the B Final of the Carlow Schools competition for the Padraig Cunnane trophy. Spurred on by some kind words of encouragement in the dressing room before the game from Paddy Quirke a Carlow GAA legend, former Tullow Community School teacher and for many years a colleague of Padraig Cunnane, the T.C.S team took to the field relishing the chance to play under the SETU lights for such a prestigious trophy.

In a shortened format of two 20-minute halves for a 40-minute game the onus was on both teams to start well, as was said many times during the build-up, this game would be more a sprint than a marathon. The game started positively with both sides moving the ball well on what was an immaculate surface for football but it was Pres Carlow who registered the first score of the game as a quick ball along the inside right channel found their centre forward who swung the ball left footed over the bar. Two minutes later Pres were to strike again as Tullow goalie Conor Elliot, unusually for the team, went for a short kick out to try and find

Tom Dillon which was marginally off target and intercepted by the Pres midfield. They worked the ball quick through hands but Elliot more than made up for the kick out with a brilliant save but unfortunately the rebound was bundled in for a Pres goal. Tullow were reeling from the impact of the early goal and another Pres score followed soon after when No.11 coolly popped over a free to make the score 1-02 to no score with 7 minutes gone. In a game that looked to be quickly getting away from them the Tullow lads showed great composure and spirit to dig deep and slowly begin to get themselves back into the game. Cathal Healy started the fight back when he tapped over Tullows first score of the game after a great individual run from midfield. Healy and Adam Burgess were beginning to get to grips with the Pres midfield helped with support from No.13 Tadhg Hutton playing a free role as a third midfielder. Tullow continued to press and another great individual run, this time from No.10 Shane Cormican, seen his shot blocked down for a T.C.S 45 which Liam Gavin dropped in and was tapped over the Pres crossbar for Tullows second point in quick succession.

As the first half quickly flew by the 12-minute mark Presentation College struck again with a free from their centre forward, his third of the half, to seemingly halt the Tullow momentum but this would be Pres last score of the half. Tullow rallied and their attacking cut soon paid dividend when they were awarded a penalty which crept agonisingly wide of the post from the boot of Cathal Healy. Not to be down hearted by the miss the T.C.S lads bounced back well scoring from the resulting kick out as Healy atoned for the missed penalty with a well taken point. Again, from the kick out Tullow pressed and good football & support play along the right-hand side from Ben Nolan, Conor Kelly, Tadhg Hutton & Brynn Nolan lead to a free which Cian Gorman Comerford duly converted. Just as the half was coming to an end patient build up play through the hands saw Tullow break the Pres lines again and Cathal Healy fisted over the bar. After a frantic first half that flew by with the shortened time, where both sides had periods of dominance, these two very closely matched sides went into half time all square 1-03 to 6 points.





The second half proved to be a lower scoring affair but wasn't lacking in excitement and drama. Presentation College started the half with intent and immediately had Tullow on the back foot but the Corcoran cousins Darragh & Eoin in the full back line kept them at bay with a couple of brilliant blocks and an interception. Tom Dillon was working tirelessly at centre back and helped set up his team's next score as his cross field ball found Harry Nolan who picked out the run of Adam Burgess and Liam Gavin came around on the loop to receive the ball and swing over a great team score. With 8 minutes gone in the second half the defining

score of the game was to come as a brilliant team move seen the Pres work the ball the whole length of the field and finish by rippling the Tullow net and leave the score at 2-03 to 0-07 with 12 minutes to play.

Sean Corcoran was introduced for Shane Murphy, who had a great game at corner back, and the all Corcoran full back line was holding out well against continued Pres pressure to keep Tullow in the game. With the full-time whistle fast approaching Rory Gavin was introduced and made an instant impact. A lovely direct ball from Shane Cormican along the right-hand side found Gavin who turned and went on a solo run passing two Pres defenders before he was fouled. Full Forward Cain Gorman Comerford was on hand again to kick the resulting free and with a minute to go there was the bare minimum between the teams. Despite the Tullow efforts they couldnt find that elusive equaliser as the Pres showed their resolve to hold out for the narrowest of wins. Both teams were to be applauded for what was a fantastic game of football, all players were a credit to both their schools and produced a fine spectacle in memory of a brilliant GAA man in Pdraig Cunnane.





Tullow Team:

1. Conor Elliot	2. Eoin Corcoran
3. Darragh Corcoran	4. Shane Murphy
5. Harry Nolan	6. Tom Dillon
7. Conor Kelly	8. Adam Burgess
9. Cathal Healy	10. Shane Cormican
11. Liam Gavin	12. Brynn Nolan
13. Tadgh Hutton	14. Cian Gorman Comerford
15. Ben Nolan	16. Thomas Fitzgerald
17. Liam Lobaiza Heydon	18. Adam Denton
19. Lachlan O Byrne	20. Thomas Nolan
21. Conor Cleary	22. Oisin Doyle
23. Rory Gavin	24. Danny Gibson
25. Sean Corcoran	

