



TULLOW C.S MATCH REPORT



Tullow Seniors advance to South Leinster Final!!

Reporting by: *Olwynn Doyle & Katie Kinsella - Active School Flag Reporting Team OGS*



The Tullow C.S Senior Footballers travelled to Gorey on Wednesday 24th of January to take on Creagh College in the semi-final of the South Leinster Championship. Having beaten St Kevins Dunlavin in the Quarter final the team travelled in confident mode but knew that an away semi final against a Creagh team who had also topped their group in the preliminary group stages would be no easy task.

The match threw in at 11 o'clock and it was Creagh College that came out of the blocks quicker with a swift attack to win themselves a close range free however they put it on the wrong side of the post. From the ensuing kickout Tullow keeper Dylan Cunningham delivered a pinpoint pass which set up Tullow up for the opening score of the game taken well by Cathal Healy. It was clear from the opening minutes that this match wasn't going to be easily won as both teams showed

patience in attack & defence and every ball was hard fought for. The Gorey lads were back on the attack soon after and again won a close range free but luckily for the Tullow side it fell short into Cunningham's hands. Creagh continued to press and were rewarded for their efforts when they registered their first score of the game shortly after. Tullow responded in kind with a great passage of play moving the ball swiftly up the field through the hands of Daire Byrne, Tom Dillon and Harry Nolan to create a great goal opportunity, but it was not to be this early in the game. As the game started to open up the play was moving quickly from end-to-end Gorey bounced back with their second point, but this was closely followed by a score from Liam Gavin to keep the game level.



A crucial moment in the game came next when after a harsh fowl in the square Creagh were awarded a penalty but Tullow keeper Dylan Cunningham wasn't to be beaten and stepped up for his team with a wonderful save. Creagh continued to press and got the next score of the game to regain the lead. As had been the pattern already in the first half Tullow responded soon after with a Liam Gavin free to level the scores again. The game then suddenly ignited when Creagh worked the ball brilliantly down the field and broke through the Tullow rear guard to score an excellent team goal. This score seemed to spark the Tullow lads into action and rather than drop their heads they started a period of play that seen them reel off the next five points in a row. Scores from Aaron Dowling, Liam Gavin, two from Adam Burgess and a wonderful long-range effort by centre forward Ben Nolan seen Tullow push from 3 points behind to 2 in front. Coming up

to half time and Gorey were awarded a difficult free but the ball went over the bar leaving the Half-time score: 1:04 to 0:08, Tullow leading by a single point.



TCS made a couple of half-time changes to add fresh legs with Brynn Nolan & Dylan Ruane taking to the field for the second half. Creagh College knew they would have to make a bright start to the second half which they duly obliged in the first opening minutes with a well taken score to draw the game level once again. However, the Gorey lads were to find themselves down to 14 men soon after when a Tullow attack was halted by a cynical foul and the referee was left with no choice but to show a black card. Liam Gavin was on hand for Tullow to kick the resulting free and he popped up again minutes later to add another to his tally to give Tullow a two-point lead.



Shane Cormican taking the role of the free man was starting to really influence the game and the turning point in the contest then came as a sweeping Tullow move from a breaking ball in middle field seen Cormican link up with Daire Byrne & Rory Gavin before a couple of quick hand passes between Liam Gavin & Aaron Dowling found Ben Nolan in space in front of goal and he finished with style to get that all important Tullow goal. Creagh College showed great fight do and bounced back as expected with two points while still a man down.



The Tullow defenders had to stem the tide and some excellent turn overs from Johnny Maher, Conor Brophy & Adam Denton helped to regain the Tullow foot hold in the game. Liam Gavin again kept the score board ticking for his side with another score. Dylan Cunningham was called into action again in the Tullow goal with another great save giving Gorey 1 point instead of 3. Tullow were retaining possession well for good periods now and gained a bigger lead with points coming from Aaron Dowling & Liam Gavin. In the last few minutes of the game Creagh threw everything they had at the TCS team and managed to add two points but unfortunately for them it wasn't enough to get themselves a win as the final whistle blew with the score of 1:10 to 1:14. Tullow now qualify for a South Leinster C Final against Colaiste Bhríde Carnew on the 2nd of February.



Tullow:

1. Dylan Cunningham
2. Conor Brophy
3. Johnny Maher
4. Adam Denton
5. Harry Nolan
6. Daire Byrne
7. Shane Cormican
8. Adam Burgess
9. Cathal Healy
10. Liam Lobiza Hayden
11. Ben Nolan
12. Rory Gavin
13. Aaron Dowling
14. Liam Gavin

15. Tom Dillon
16. Shane O'Connor Keogh
17. Dylan Ruane
18. Brynn Nolan
19. Conor Nolan
20. Oisín Doyle
21. Conor Cleary
22. Callum Murray
23. Noah Mulligan
24. Vijay Egharevba
25. Nathan Dillon Burroughs
26. Joseph Gibbons
27. Charlie Brennan
28. Joseph Maher Broderick
29. Danny Gibson