



# TULLOW C.S MATCH REPORT



## *Final Drama as heroic fightback comes up just short for TCS Seniors*

Reporting by: *Eva Haskins, Sinead Kirwan & Emily McCarthy - Active School Flag Reporting Team*



On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, our senior footballers played Colaiste Bhríde, Carnew in the South Leinster Senior Football Final which took place in the Carlow GAA Centre of Excellence in Fenagh. With the two sides having played out a draw in the group stages, finishing joint top of their group and going on to win through their respective sides of the knockout draw this match promised to be a very tight affair.

A lighting failure late in the first half forced the game to be switched from the top pitch to the field below but this change didn't affect the quality of football

or the level of drama that had the crowd on edge from start to finish of what was an entertaining game of football.

Tullow started well, with Liam Gavin scoring the opening point of the game from a well taken free. Carnew soon responded and levelled the match after 6 minutes with their first score of the contest. Both teams were evenly matched and enjoyed spells of possession, but Carnew seemed to carry the greater attacking treat early on and were playing dangerously in the Tullow CS square. Their intent finally paid off when a dangerous attack left the Tullow defence with no option but to pull the Carnew No. 9 down at the cost of a penalty. Carnew's No.3 Oisin Keegan stepped up to take the penalty and luckily for the TCS lads he put his kick over the bar to register just a point.



Tullow rallied after the near miss and Shane Cormican and Adam Burgess then scored the next two points of the game to get their side right back into it. As had been the case in the previous game between these two sides Carnew were quick to reply and a nicely taken point by Eddie Cullen from a free to made it a level game once again. The introduction of Carnew No 15 Conor Byrne form the bench at this stage having not started the game would prove to be a pivotal moment. Carnew were almost in for a goal, but they could only find the side-netting until a few moments later the ball fell to Byrne who made no mistake and hit the Tullow net leaving Carnew with a 1-3 to 0-3 lead.

Aaron Dowling then had a good run at goal but unfortunately his efforts were stopped by Carnew's goalie. Tullow then went on the attack again but suddenly the pitches lights failed. The game was then restarted on the pitch below.

A few seconds after the restart, Tullow quickly scored another point from play. A few moments later though, Carnew got another goal from their No.15. Soon after, Tullow would then have a goal chance through Shane Cormican but his effort just went wide. The half time whistle blew with the score 3-5 to 0-6 leaving Tullow with a lot of work to do in the second half.



The second half started and Tullow started quickly with a goal chance just going wide. Liam Gavin then added another to his scoring tally with a point coming from

a free. Tullow then added another two points in quick succession leaving just 7 between the two teams and the slight hope of a comeback was kindled.

Around the 26<sup>th</sup> minute, Callum Murray made a massive impact coming off the bench and with nearly his first touch of the game he found the back of the Carnew net and drew Tullow within 4 points with the score at 3-8 to 1-10.

The TCS tails were now up and playing with the freedom of a team with nothing to lose they piled the pressure on the Cholasite Bhríde side. The Tullow fight back continued as they then added two more points from the boot of Cathal Healy and Adam Burgess closing the gap to 2 points. But time was starting to run out and as the clock ticked down Carnew showed great resilience to work the ball well against the Tullow press to score a vital point to reestablish a 3 point lead. But still Tullow would not lie down and kept pushing, two outstanding frees from Liam Gavin made it a 1 point game with just seconds remaining. Tullow won the resulting kickout and worked the ball well into the Carnew half but the Carnew side held strong and the TCS lads seen their final effort drop short and wide. The final whistle blew a few moments later with Tullow unlucky to lose out 1-14 to 3-9. Well done to all the lads who gave it everything they had and left it all on the field, they done the school and themselves proud and so nearly pulled off an epic comeback.





Tullow CS team:

1.Dylan Cunningham	2.Johnny Maher
3.Darragh Corcoran	4.Adam Denton
5.Harry Nolan	6.Tom Dillon
7.Daire Byrne	8.Shane Cormican
9.Adam Burgess	10.Liam Lobaiza Heydon
11.Liam Gavin	12.Cathal Healy
13.Ben Nolan	14.Aaron Dowling
15.Rory Gavin	16.Shane Conor Kehoe
17.Conor Brophy	18.Oisin Doyle
19.Brynn Nolan	20.Conor Cleary
21.Dylan Ruane	22.Callum Murray
23.Robert Coleman	24.Conor Nolan
25.Noah Mulligan	26.Nathan Dylan
27.Vijay Egharevba	28.Charlie Brennan
29.Joseph Maher Broderick	30.Danny Gibson
31.Padraig Nolan	32.Peter Burgess
33.Joseph Gibbons	