



# TULLOW C.S MATCH REPORT

*Healy sisters make sure girls U17 Soccer team beat Creagh College Gorey in South Leinster league quarter final in a thriller.*

**Reporting by: Mr O'Reilly**



***Girls Junior League regional quarter final 20/03/2024***

**Creagh College: 3**

**Tullow CS: 6**

Tullow CS advance to the regional semi final of the girls u17 soccer after a very impressive win away from home on Wednesday. The score line doesn't do the game justice as it was three all with just five minutes remaining and looking like extra time before Orlaith Healy struck two stunning goals to seal the win after her sister had scored a 15-minute hat trick in the first half.

Tullow started the game the brightest and found themselves in front inside three minutes when a brilliant run by Grace Walker saw her play a lovely pass into Maria Healy who beat two players and smashed home to the bottom corner to give the visitors the perfect start they wanted. The home side settled and drew level after just six minutes with a well worked goal. Tullow started to dominate and the Gorey side struggled to cope with the direct running play from Katelyn Dempsey and Olwyn Doyle on the Tullow wings. After 10 minutes it was brilliant play from Dempsey who took Katelyn Sheppard's brilliant long kick out down on the half way line with a great touch, ran past the full back and ran half the length of the pitch to square it to Maria Healy to tap into the empty net for her second. Tullow didn't have to wait long for their next as Healy got her hat trick inside 15 minutes when she picked up Leah Mannion's pass just inside her own half and ran direct for goal smashing home to give a two goal lead they deserved. Gorey started to get into the game and it was great defending from Peggy Byrne, Aoife McFarland, Lauren Byrne and Ali McDonagh who kept Tullow's two goal lead until the final kick of the half when Gorey scored from long range to leave it 3 2 at the break.

The home side started the second half the stronger and where level after just three minutes after a great solo goal. The next 25 minutes were to be a very exciting game with both teams cancelling each other with defences on top. Tullow had center backs Lauren Byrne and Aoife McFarland to thank on more than one occasion for keeping them in the game with some last-ditch tackles and Katlyn Sheppard in the goal made a couple of good saves when Gorey did get in behind the defence. Tullow were struggling to create chance and while Leah Mannion and Orlaith Healy were doing brilliant in midfield the Gorey defense was standing firm and not letting any through balls past.

The game changed with five minutes remaining and tactical change saw Mannion moved further forward into the number 10 position to try and get her away from her marker who had stuck with her all game and the change worked almost instantly as Mannion got the ball midway in her own half and played a defence splitting pace for Orlaith Healy to run onto and smash home to the roof of the net to send the Tullow girls wild. The ref signalled just four minutes left and from tip Mannion once again played a great ball into Orlaith Healy who beat two players and smashed home to seal the win. This wasn't the end of the scoring as Mannion was to finish the game off with the last kick of the game as she got the goal her play deserved when this time Healy played her in and she turned back onto her good left foot sending the defender the wrong way and smashed home with the last kick to put a gloss on the score sheet. Tullow will now play Pres De La Salle Bagenalstown in the semi final after the easter break.

#### Tullow CS Team

Katelyn Sheppard, Peggy Byrne, Ali McDonagh, Aoife McFarland, Lauren Byrne, Holeigh Doran, Leah Mannion, Orlaith Healy, Grace Walker, Olwyn Doyle, Maria Healy, Katelyn Dempsey, Katelyn Rooney, Brodie Bolger, Katie Kinsella, Eabha Maxwell, Grace Canning.