

Carrigaline 2-16  
Fermoy 1-15

They say that lightening never strikes twice – but that is exactly what happened in this thrilling U16 hurling championship quarter final encounter against Fermoy in Castlelyons on Wednesday night. After a dramatic and nerve tingling victory over Sliabh Rua a week earlier where the team overcame a significant 8 point half time deficit with a superb second half display, we witnessed a similar come back this time, being 9 points down with seconds to go in the first half. Again the team displayed huge character and self-belief and the desire within to succeed came through. It became clear mid way through the second half that Carrigaline were once again going to succeed where lesser teams could so easily have lost hope.

Playing against the elements, on this occasion Carrigaline settled well and played a very solid opening 15 minutes of hurling to have the sides level at the quarter hour mark. However, in the second quarter a very physically strong Fermoy side started to dominate the mid-field exchanges and the continuous supply to the crafty Fermoy forwards was beginning to tell as they added significantly to the score line and found themselves a whopping 9 points ahead with seconds to go in the first half. However in that final minute the signs were there that Carrigaline were coming back into this game and a superb goal by Daniel Greene on the stroke of half time brought the deficit to a more manageable 6 points.

It is well known that how you respond to the challenge in the second half will determine what you become after the game, whether you are a winner or a loser and with this Carrigaline team there was only going to be one outcome here. Straight from the throw in Carrigaline increased the intensity to a level that the Fermoy team were struggling to match and within minutes were eating into that 6 point lead. The defence at this stage were very solid with Dylan Cooney & Jack Kelly now both dominating the central positions and once again at mid field Jack McCarthy was inspirational, driving forward at every available opportunity which eventually led to a superb individual goal that gave Carrigaline the lead with about 10 minutes remaining. Fermoy were not ready to succumb at this point though and were proving difficult to finish off – however a final push by the whole team allowed the Carrigaline forwards, to deliver the final killer blows and allow Carrigaline to run out 4 point winners in the end of this enthralling and highly competitive second half.

They say that persistence can change failure into extraordinary achievement and for the second time in the space of a week this Carrigaline team have displayed tremendous persistence in the face of adversity. The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a team's determination and this team is displaying all the characteristics of a team that has the desire to achieve what they set out to obtain.

Next up for them is a semi-final outing against the Barrs on Bank Holiday – all support is welcome to get this team to a final that they truly deserve.

Team: Niall Fitzgearld, Euan Doyle, Dylan Cooney, Tomas O'Donoghue, Josh Clifford, Jack Kelly, Olin Barry, Jack McCarthy, Eanna Desmond, Brian Kelleher, Sean Desmond, Denis McBarron, Ian O'Donoghue, Daniel Greene, Jack O'Mahony.

Subs used: Jack Ryan, Glen Sexton.