

U16 Hurling Championship – Carrigaline v Sliabh Rua

We watch sports for the excitement, but even moreso, we watch it for the drama. There's nothing more exciting than seeing a team come back to win that 4th series game after being down 0-3, or a fighter getting off the canvas to score a "come from behind" knock-out. Sports are all about those incredible moments where sheer human will and desire overcomes the odds. These are the moments we will always remember.

There is no more suitable way of describing Carrigalines enthralling victory over near rivals Sliabh Rua in this fascinating under 16 hurling championship encounter. On a damp and dreary Summers evening at Shambally Carrigaline turned in a stirring second half display of sheer quality hurling to brush aside a Sliabh Rua side that had dominated the exchanges in the first half. Playing against a stiff breeze in this first half Carrigaline found it hard to settle and struggled with the pace of the Sliabh Rua team who dominated throughout and built up a significant half time 8 point lead, with 2 goals about mid way through the first half that could so easily have caused a lesser team to submit – but not this team!

With their backs against the wall at the start of the second half – Carrigaline needed leaders to stand up and they found many of these throughout the team. The key battles in the middle third of the field – where we struggled in the first half - were now being totally dominated by inspirational characters where Jack Mc Carthy and Olin Barry in particular were outstanding. Such was the dominance in the second half in this area that it now allowed the Carrigaline forwards the lions share of possession. The Carrig defence in the second half also deserves great praise limiting the Sliabh Rua forwards to a single point from a free. Again here Carrigaline increased the intensity and physicality to totally dominate the Sliabh Rua forwards and with this solid platform now in place it allowed the forwards a large amount of possession. The half forward line of Denis McBarron, Sean Desmond & Brian Kelleher were now thoroughly enjoying this extra possession and picking off some delightful scores.

For entertainment value and excitement this second half had it all – it left the spectators breathless, buzzing with excitement and extremely proud of the character once again shown by this marvellous bunch of players. Next up for this team is a quarter final encounter with Fermoy and we will need a display that mirrors the second half performance to see us through to the semi-final.

Scorers: Brian Kelleher 1-09, Jack McCarthy 1-02, Denis McBarron 0-3, Daniel Greene, Olin Barry and David Crotty 0-1 each.

Team: Niall Fitzgerald, Ian O'Donoghue, Dylan Cooney, Glynn Sexton, Olin Barry, Eanna Desmond, Tomas O'Donoghue, Jack McCarthy, Jack Kelly, Brian Kelleher, Sean Desmond, Denis McBarron, Jack O'Mahony, Dan Greene, Sam Donworth.

Subs: Alan Barry, David Crotty, Niall O'Leary, Hugh Griffin.