

GAA – ALL COUNTY LEAGUE

Division 2

Impressive win for Naomh Columba

MacCumhalls 0-13
Naomh Columba 2-13

FIRST half goals from Dara O'Donnell and Martin Cunningham (penalty) paved the way for Naomh Columba's impressive six point win over MacCumhalls in Ballybofey on Saturday evening.

The victory keeps alive the Glen men's promotion hopes although Anthony Molloy's charges have played more games than title rivals Kilcar and St Michael's while Pat McNabb's side continue to look over their shoulder against the threat of relegation.

The visitors got a perfect start to Saturday's game when Dara O'Donnell was perfectly placed to slot home the opening goal beyond Darren O'Leary after just two minutes.

At the other end of the field Marty Reilly (free) fired over MacCumhalls first score before Paucic Gillespie notched the first of his five points.

Gavin Gallagher, Bernard McGeehin (2) and Benny McLaughlin (free) also found their range for the home side with Gillespie and Oisín McGinley (2) responding for the Glen men. On the stroke of half time, referee Paddy McBride (Downings) awarded Molloy's team a penalty which corner back Martin Cunningham dispatched with ease. Half time MacCumhalls 0-06, N Columba 2-07

Two Marty Reilly frees and a point from substitute Brian Lafferty had the home side back to within three points by the 39th minute mark.

Gillespie responded with a point for the visitors only for Lafferty to fire over two unanswered points in a minute.

Oisín McGinley and Paddy McNulty traded scores as did Gillespie and Lafferty as MacCumhalls tried, unsuccessfully, to force their way back into the game.

MacCumhalls scorers: Brian Lafferty (0-4), Marty Reilly (0-4, 3 frees), Bernard McGeehin (0-2), Paddy McNulty (0-1), Benny McLaughlin (0-1, free), Gavin Gallagher (0-1).

N Columba Scorers: Dara O'Donnell (1-1), Martin Cunningham (1-0, penalty), Paucic Gillespie (0-5, 2 frees), Oisín McGinley (0-3, 1 free), Declan Maguire (0-1), Ciaran McBrearty (0-1), Dermot Maguire (0-1), Michael Byrne (0-1).

Referee: Paddy McBride (Downings).

Welcome win for Bundoran

Bundoran 0-12
Glenfin 0-09

IN terms of excitement and quality of football this was a game of three thirds building from a poor first twenty minutes and a mediocre middle third to an exciting final twenty. It was a welcome two points for Bundoran which moves them to third in the table. Glenfin, who were missing both Frank McGlynn and Stephen McDermott remain in relegation trouble second from the bottom, three points ahead of Termon and one behind Sean MacCumhalls.

Following a bright opening Glenfin came close before the ball was quickly moved upfield and Michael McEniff ran through the Glenfin defence and reversed passed to Christy Keane for Bundoran's first score. However, the next twenty minutes were turgid punctuated only by a good equalising score in 12 minutes by Leigh Herron and a converted 21 m free from Ciaran Moy on 14 minutes. Both teams were guilty of poor



St Michael's Lorcan McDaid in possession against Noel Hegarty of Kilcar. See report on page 42.

finishing, but particularly Bundoran with two missed frees and three balls dropped into goal-keeper Benji O'Meara. Glenfin similarly were short with three opportunities and twice ran the ball over the goal-line when punching it over the bar was an option. Bundoran finally equalised on 24 minutes with a Tommy Hourihane free.

The same player fluffed a goal chance a minute later but Johnny Ward gathered to restore Bundoran's lead and Hourihane extended the lead with an added time free and in the third minute of additional time Moy left the minimum between the teams 0-4 to 0-3 after a largely forgettable first half.

Ciaran Moy was again on the mark a minute into the second half, restoring parity with a well taken point. A Hourihane free restored Bundoran's lead but Glenfin, were looking the more purposeful and Malachy Martin's first score and another Moy free had given them the lead by the 37th minute. Martin could have copper-fastened their ascendancy when he found himself one-on-one with Ashley Mulhern on 40 minutes but the Bundoran keeper dispossessed him and this seemed to lift the home side.

Within a minute an excellent McEniff pass put McKiernan through but he seemed to lose control of the ball before volleying tamely straight at O'Meara. Almost immediately Bundoran had another golden opportunity.

A super catch, turn and pass by Christy Keane put Jonathan Ward through but he also lost control and his weak ground shot was easily smothered. McKiernan levelled the game on the 45 minute mark but straightaway a Seamus McGlynn free edged Glenfin again.

Bundoran continued to apply the pressure. Hourihane and Christy Keane converted short-range frees and by the 50th minute Bundoran had stretched their lead out to two points when good work by Ciaran McCaughey, Gary Clancy and Shane McGowan set up Hourihane for his first point from play and an easy free a few minutes later after McEniff was upended in front of the goals left Bundoran three ahead. Glenfin seemed to get off the hook when a poor shot from McEniff fell short into the arms of Johnny Ward inside the squared and while he appeared to have been dragged to the ground by Gary Herron, the referee signalled for a free-out.

Like Bundoran ten minutes earlier Glenfin took heart from this escape.

Kieran McGlynn set up Martin for a super point from distance.

An excellent long-range pass from Stephen McGlynn then found marauding midfielder Michael McGlynn on the edge of the square but Mulhern quickly narrowed his options and he lobbed the ball over the bar from close range to bring it back to a one point game. Glenfin came close to taking the lead but Mulhern managed to tip a dangerous Leigh Herron shot out for a 45 which was subsequently missed.

Bundoran lifted the siege when a McEniff solo run ended with a point. As the game entered its last minute Keane missed a short-range free which could have proved costly but on the resumption Glenfin coughed up possession and wing-back Paul Sheridan linked with Clancy to hit an insurance point of sorts. The game was still in the melting pot though as Glenfin threw everything at the home defence.

Ciaran Moy's usually reliable left boot let him down for once as a shot from 30 m went narrowly wide on 61 minutes and their next attack saw a goal-mouth scramble that ended with Seamus McGlynn's low-range drive going narrowly wide. Bundoran won the ensuing kick-out and worked the ball up to Hourihane who had the time and space to tap the ball over the bar.

Glenfin had time for one more attack but Shane McGowan broke it up and Dara Hoey's raking pass set up McKiernan and while he squandered the opportunity with a bad wide it no longer mattered as Seamus McGonagle sounded the final whistle for a relieved Bundoran and a dis-appointed Glenfin. Mulhern, and the two Keaneys, McEniff and Dara Hoey were best for Bundoran, while Mark McGinty, Michael McGlynn, and Malachy Martin shone for Glenfin.

Bundoran: Ashley Mulhern, Diarmuid McCaughey Stutterd, James Keane, Jonny McHale, Paul Sheridan (0-1), Shane McGowan, Dara Hoey, Michael McEniff (0-1), Ciaran McCaughey, Paul Delaney, Gary Clancy, Fergal McKiernan (0-1), Jonny Ward (0-1), Tommy Hourihane (0-6, 4f), Christy Keane (0-2, 1f). Subs used: Niall Dunne (17 mins).

Glenfin: Benji O'Meara, John Harkin, Gary Herron, Dean Herron, Mark McGinty, Gareth Martin, Gavin McDermott, Michael McGlynn (0-1), Paddy Costello, Leigh Herron (0-1), Kevin McGlynn, Stephen McGlynn, Ciaran Moy (0-4, 2f), Malachy Martin (0-2), Seamus McGlynn (0-1, f).

Division 3

Burt end Naomh Mhuire's unbeaten run

Burt 0-10
Naomh Mhuire 0-6

League leaders Naomh Mhuire surrendered their unbeaten record in Division 3 with a four point defeat at Hibernian Park, Burt, yesterday. A hard-working and committed Burt side led by 0-4 to 0-2 at half time and Naomh Mhuire's cause wasn't helped the sending off two defenders in the second period. Burt had extended their lead to four points early in the second half, and while Naomh Mhuire twice reduced the deficit to two points Burt responded and kept the scoreboard ticking over. Two injury time points from the excellent Joe Boyle and

Enda McDermott put something of a gloss on the final scoreline, but Naomh Mhuire can have few complaints about the outcome.

Naomh Mhuire had hit 3-13 on their previous outing, a win over Buncrana, but that was never on the cards on Sunday as Burt adopted their customary defensive strategy, drawing men back into defence and hitting their opponents on the break.

Two frees from Harry Harden in the 1st and 26th minutes was the sum total of Naomh Mhuire's first half efforts, while Burt opened their account on 12 minutes through Joe Boyle. The big full forward was in excellent form throughout, and he doubled Burt's tally on 14 minutes after collecting a diagonal ball and pointing on the turn. Boyle turned provider on 20 minutes as Ciaran Dowds extended Burt's lead.

There were first half goal chances too: Paul McHugh dragged one wide for Burt before Patrick McCafferty sliced a Harden cut back wide for the visitors.

Dowds and McHugh combined on the right wing with the latter creating another goal chance on the stroke of half time, but Enda McDermott volleyed the ball sky high over the bar and the home side took a 0-4 to 0-2 lead into the half time break.

It was more of the same from Burt in the second period as they continued to frustrate their opponents by packing defence and breaking out to attack. Joe Boyle converted a 33rd

minute free and put Burt 0-6 to 0-2 ahead on 38 minutes when Eamon Reddin intercepted a Naomh Mhuire attack and the ball was worked to the full forward who pointed from almost 40 yards out.

Burt: Stephen Gillespie; Jonathan Downey, Paul O'Brien, Kevin Glenn; Paul

McHugh, Mickey McCann, Benny Harrigan; Ciaran Dowds (0-1), Enda McDermott (0-2); Martin Donaghey, Eamonn Reddin, Mark McGavigan; Rory Grant, Joe Boyle (0-7, 3f), Niall Campbell. Subs: Paddy McDermott for M. McGavigan (43 mins); Darren McLaughlin for B. Harrigan (56 mins); Dara Grant for N. Campbell (60 mins).

Naomh Mhuire: Sean Gallagher; Aidan O'Gara (0-1), Thomas Duffy, Daniel Gallagher; Sean Gallagher (P), Brian Gillespie, Paul (Yank) Boyle; Dara White, Owenie McGarvey; Harry Harden (0-2, 2f), Patrick McCafferty, Eoin Grant (0-1); Sean (Yank) Boyle, Tom McHugh (0-1), Ciaran McGinley (0-1, 1f). Subs: Sean Pigeon for D. White (50 mins); Sean Boyle for H. Harden (56 mins).

Referee: Liam Browne (Four Masters).

Division Four

Moville win by nine

Moville 1-15
Na Rossa 0-09

In what was a hard hitting well contested Game Moville ran out 9 points winners with some good flowing football from both teams it was an excellent exhibition of flowing football.

Moville started the brighter when the Na Rossa attack dropped the ball on the edge of the Moville Square and the Moville full back and half back line broke quickly and played the ball to Bran McDermott who showed composure on the edge of the square to lay the ball inside to the on rushing Shaun Doherty to pass the ball into the back of the net to mark his senior debut with a goal. Na Rossa where next on the scoreboard with a free from the 30 metre line after the Moville defence had held out the Na Rossa attacker before committing a foul leading the free. When Moville where awarded a free outside the Na Rossa 45 a quick one two by Seamus Hegarty and Sean O'Hare gave O'Hare the necessary space to play the ball over the bar from just outside 30. When Wing back Stephen Kearney broke forward and played the ball inside to Seamus Hegarty who quickly moved the ball onto Sean O'Hare to again score. Na Rossa pulled the score closer with 2 frees from their main marksman. With half time approaching Moville added two more scores when Wing Back Eunan Hegarty broke forward to find Sean O'Hare to score again. The final score of the half came from Moville Midfielder Seamus Hegarty who broke forward to slot the ball over the bar.

With Moville leading by 6 points at half time Na Rossa came out to the blocks quicker in the second half scoring 3 quick points but this spurred the Moville team into life and they hit back with 8 successive scores from a Sean O'Hare free, 2 from Oran McDermott, one from Cathal Cavanagh, and four in a row from Danny Murphy.

Na Rossa showed hard to close down the Moville lead but again it was the home side who finished the brighter with a great solo run from Danny Murphy who made space to get his shot away and slot over for the last score, leaving the final score Moville 1-15 to Na Rossa 0-09

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