

SPORT

U17 DIVISION 1 LEAGUE FINAL

Late, late goal sees first U17 crown head west

Dernacrieve Gaels 3-5
Drumloman Gaels 0-13

THE first ever U17 Division 1 football league final in Cavan is one that will live long in the memory of not only the players and their families present to witness it but also the lucky neutrals in attendance as a late, late goal by Killian Murray snatched a win for the boys from the west.

For Drumloman, it was the cruellest of defeats and for Dernacrieve it was the sweetest of victories.

Drumloman (Mullahoran and Ballymachugh) settled into the game the quickest opening up a three point lead in the first ten minutes. Shane Tynan converted on the fourth minute after Liam Corr was taken down and soon followed with his second from the 13-metre line almost on the right sideline at the town end.

Wing back Tom Harten completed Drumloman's perfect start, playing a one-two with Caolan O'Reilly before kicking the ball over the bar in the crowded Dernacrieve defence.

County minor Caoimhin McGovern then broke through the Drumloman defence but his shot on goal just went wide of the post. Undeterred, McGovern sent over a free in the 12th minute to set Dernacrieve on their way.

Drumloman enjoyed the li-



Dernacrieve joint-captains Kevin McGovern, Dara McGoldrick and Sean McHugh and Man of the Match Caoimhin McGovern celebrate after the presentation by Brian Seagrave and Jim Brady, The Lakeside Manor (sponsor). PHOTO: ADRIAN DONOHOE.

on's share of the ball but thanks to the defensive structure of Dernacrieve they were forced into shots under pressure which went wayward. Dernacrieve's counter-attacking game worked perfectly as they turned over a Drumloman attack to find Stephen Fitzpatrick at the other end of the field who finished to the net and the comeback was complete.

A Shane Tynan free after Ryan O'Reilly was fouled level the game for the first of five times with the clock showing 16. Tom Harten again found himself up the field and after a well-timed run of the shoulder at speed he sent the ball over the bar from just inside the 45 with the outside of the right boot. Drumloman up by one.

Dernacrieve again showed they could find the net on the 25th minute as Caoimhin McGovern's 45 ended up in it

only to be called as a square ball much to the relief of Drumloman. The Corlough, Swanlinbar and Shannon Gaels amalgamation finished the half the strongest as James Maguire looked to have run into trouble before sending over a brilliant snap shot followed by a Caoimhin McGovern point from the resulting kick-out to give them a one point lead at the break.

It didn't take long for Drumloman to level the match at 0-6 to 1-3 through another Shane Tynan free and when Ryan Smith was fouled while picking up the ball Ryan O'Reilly gave them the lead for the third time in the game.

Goals can not only win games they can keep you in them. On a rare attack Dernacrieve sent a shot towards the net which was saved but only to fall back out to the feet of Caoimhin McGovern who nutmegged before the



was fouled on the 45-metre line, up stepped Caoimhin McGovern to reduce the gap to one with the perfect strike. McGovern had the chance a minute later to level the game once more but his free went wide for the first and only time in the match.

As the game entered injury time with Drumloman up by one they kept possession of the ball for what seemed like an eternity and still had the ability to take the chance when it came to the hands of Caolan O'Reilly for what looked like the winning score.

And then came the amazing finale. With the clock reading 33 minutes, Dernacrieve won their kick-out. Man of the Match Caoimhin McGovern grabbed the ball and took off running up the stand side of Kingspan Breffni only to be taken down just a few yards inside the 45.

Referee James Clarke informed him it was the last play of the match and they needed a goal. Nevin O'Donnell, the Dernacrieve coach, came in to make sure McGovern was okay after the tackle and began to instruct him how to deliver the ball and where to aim.

With 28 players inside the Drumloman 20-metre line, a goal looked impossible. The ball had to avoid the small square but still end up in the danger area.

McGovern delivered it perfectly to the top of the far side of

the square where hands, bodies, heads and foot attempted to connect but the vital touch came from Killian Murray to send it to the back of the net immediately followed by the sound of the full time whistle.

The finish was the stuff of legend and although Dernacrieve lifted the cup both teams were winners as they produced a game that was the talk of the county.

Dernacrieve Gaels: Philip McGoldrick, James McGovern, Dara McGoldrick, Fionnan McGovern, Adrian McGovern, Kevin McGovern (0-1), Peader Caferty, Ryan Prior, Sean McHugh, Sean Cassidy, Stephen Fitzpatrick (1-0), Caoimhin McGovern (1-3,2f), Mark O'Reilly, Paucir Lyons, Cillian Murray (1-0)

Subs: James Maguire (0-1), Nevin McBrien, Ciaran Hurley, Breffni O'Reilly

Drumloman Gaels: Jamie Masterson, Jack O'Reilly (0-1), Conor Masterson, Conor Fitzsimons, Cormac McKeogh, Dara Sheridan, Tom Harten (0-2), Ryan Smith (0-1), Ryan O'Reilly (0-1f), Shane Tynan (0-6,3f), Liam Corr, Charlie Mulligan, Jamie Coyle (0-1), Matthew McGahern, Caolan O'Reilly (0-1)

Subs: Peter Devine, Aaron Galligan, Ben Tierney, Dwayne Mulvey, Patrick Goldrick, Conor Coyle.



Dernacrieve Gaels, U17 Division 1 champions 2018. PHOTO: ADRIAN DONOHOE.



Man of the Match Caoimhin McGovern sends the ball low and hard towards goal. PHOTO: ADRIAN DONOHOE.