Boys U13 Roinn A League Semi-Final: Urlingford NS v St. Canice's

Urlingford NS faced St. Canice's in the Boys U13 Roinn A League semi-final in Freshford, as the two sides met for the second time this year. Having lost out by eight points in the group stages, Urlingford were determined to close the gap and produce a strong performance against a formidable opponent.

Urlingford have represented themselves admirably throughout the competition, winning two of their four matches in a grade where the size of their school puts them at a considerable disadvantage compared to many of their competitors. With Stephen Delaney officiating, Urlingford won the toss and elected to play with the breeze towards the dressing-room end.

St. Canice's made a strong start, registering several early scores from play and placed balls. Their physical advantage was proving difficult for the Urlingford defence to contain. Despite limited opportunities from frees, David Maev led by example, while Paudie Power and Oisín Sweetman worked tirelessly at the heart of the defence. Ray Choe was also kept busy in goal, producing his usual steady performance.

Two quick goals from St. Canice's midway through the first half proved a significant setback. However, Urlingford responded positively, earning two frees which Eoin Gibbons converted. Darragh Joyce, Cian Doyle and Conal Lyng also showed some excellent passing and determination as Urlingford continued to battle. The sides went in at half-time with St. Canice's leading 2-6 to 0-2.

The second half was a much tighter contest, with Urlingford showing tremendous heart and determination. Niall Rothwell epitomised the fighting spirit of the team at wing-back, while Rian Lawlor, Barry Joyce and James Power all battled hard. Johnny Bennett, David Greene, Lennon Smyth and Michael Neary also made positive contributions.

Despite their best efforts, St. Canice's proved too strong on the day, eventually running out winners on a scoreline of 2-10 to 0-2.

While the result was disappointing, the boys can be extremely proud of their efforts and progress in Roinn A. Their attention now turns to a quarter-final meeting with Dunnamaggin NS next week, another tough challenge, particularly given last year's encounter. The boys will undoubtedly give it everything once again!