

Under 13 boys county semi-final vs Piltown

The long-awaited Under-13 Boys County Semi-Final between Urlingford and Piltown lived up to every expectation. Both sides arrived in MW Hire Dunmore full of confidence after strong recent performances, and with the pitch in perfect condition, everything was set for a cracking contest.

Piltown won the toss and chose to play with the breeze in the first half. Despite facing into the wind, Urlingford started superbly, dominating the opening minutes and creating good chances, but the early pressure didn't translate into scores. Piltown then settled, moving the ball with real calmness and accuracy. Their hard work was rewarded with the first two points of the game, both coming from excellent build-up play. Special mention must go to their number 9, who showed incredible technique to score frees off the ground in very windy conditions.

As half-time approached, Piltown struck a major blow. Their full forward slipped in behind the Urlingford defence and fired a brilliant finish past Alex Cashin. Urlingford rallied before the break, creating a number of chances, but Piltown added another point to lead 1-3 to no score at half-time.

Despite the deficit, Urlingford's spirit never wavered. After a positive team talk, they burst into the second half with real intent, landing two fine points to spark life into the contest. The game flowed from end to end, but the Piltown defence held firm. With five minutes remaining, the gap was still four points before Eoin Gibbons nailed a brilliant free to leave just a goal between the sides.

Huge credit must go to the Urlingford half-back line of Oisín Sweetman, Dara Hickey and Conal Lyng, who won every breaking ball and launched wave after wave of attacks. Deep into injury time, Pádraig Bourke broke a tackle and fed Gibbons, who was fouled 13 metres out. Facing five Piltown players on the line, he unleashed an incredible strike into the top corner—an unforgettable moment that levelled the game. The goal sparked wild celebrations, the Urlingford supporters exploding with excitement as the impossible suddenly became real. Seconds later, the whistle sounded. Extra time awaited the score 2-4 apiece.

Urlingford carried the momentum into extra time, with Gibbons flawless from placed balls. Just before the break, Pádie Power reacted quickest to fist home a dropping ball, giving Urlingford a four-point lead. Early in the second period, fourth-class star Tom Hickey produced a magical finish into the top corner to extend the lead further. With Will Bergin driving forward powerfully and adding a fine point, Urlingford pushed clear.

Piltown battled to the end, scoring 1-1 late on, but Urlingford held firm to win 3-6 to 2-5 after a thrilling contest. They now look forward to a county final against Rower Inistioge, with date and venue to be confirmed.