

Urlingford NS Face Mooncoin in Roinn A Football

These were exciting times for Urlingford NS as they won the Roinn B County Final last year and were looking to build on that success as they stepped up to Roinn A. Their opening opponents today were Mooncoin, who are renowned as a strong football side in Kilkenny. With many players from last year's county final team returning, Urlingford were hopeful of another successful campaign. With plenty of additions from 4th class, the squad was also big and full of enthusiasm.

Urlingford lined out with Rae Choe in goal. Cillian Tobin, Oisín Sweetman and Tom Hickey made up the full-back line, while Niall Rothwell, David Maev and Tommy Moore formed the wing-back line. Eoin Gibbons and Conal Lyng lined out in midfield. The forward line consisted of Rian Lawlor, Paudie Power, Cian Doyle, David Greene, Darragh Joyce and Lennon Smyth.

Mooncoin won the toss and elected to play with the breeze. Both sides battled hard, with the game ebbing and flowing from end to end. The standard was a clear step up in Roinn A, but Urlingford looked right at home at this level. There was some rustiness from both sides, with attacks breaking down, but the tackling and effort were ferocious. Mooncoin scored two pointed frees in the opening half in a tightly contested battle.

Urlingford's spine of Oisín Sweetman and David Maev performed strongly, while Niall Rothwell and Tommy Moore provided excellent options on the wings. Conal Lyng and Eoin Gibbons were skillful in midfield and acted as the launchpad for many Urlingford attacks. Paudie Power and Darragh Joyce looked dangerous up front, while Cian Doyle came close on several occasions.

The second half started brightly for Urlingford. After ten minutes, the score was 3 points to 2 following points from Conal Lyng and Cian Doyle. Johnny Bennett and Michael Neary were introduced and made positive contributions, but Mooncoin grabbed a late score to win 4 points to 2.

Despite the result, it was a very positive day for Urlingford. With more training, brighter days lie ahead. They now look forward to next week's Round 2 battle with Gaelscoil Osraí.