

Urlingford vs St. Canices Match Report

Urlingford NS 0-3

St. Canice's 3-2

Urlingford NS faced their toughest challenge yet in Round Three of the Roinn A football league as they welcomed St. Canice's, one of the most successful schools in Kilkenny at Roinn A level. St. Canice's have consistently competed for and won Roinn A titles in both hurling and football, while Urlingford are newly promoted after their fantastic Roinn B success last year. With St. Canice's also boasting a school population around three times the size of Urlingford, this was never going to be a simple task.

Urlingford were dealt another blow before throw-in with key defender David Maev unavailable. However, the team showed great belief and lined out with Ray Choe in goal, Cillian Tobin, Oisín Sweetman and Cillian Tobin in the full-back line, while Niall Rothwell, Paudie Power and Tommy Moore formed the half-back line. Eoin Gibbons and Conal Lyng partnered in midfield, with Rian Lawlor, Darragh Joyce and Lennon Smyth in the half-forward line. David Greene, Cian Doyle and Barry Joyce completed the full-forward line.

Sixth-class student Rian Lawlor won the toss and elected to play with the breeze. The opening half was tightly contested, with both sides creating opportunities. Ray Choe was once again outstanding between the posts, producing several excellent saves and keeping a clean sheet from open play for the opening 20 minutes. Oisín Sweetman and Paudie Power anchored the defence superbly, with Power adapting impressively to his role.

At half-time, the sides were level at 0-1 apiece, with both scores coming from placed balls. Urlingford's free-taker Eoin Gibbons showed great composure throughout, while there were also some excellent passing moves from the visitors.

St. Canice's came flying out of the blocks in the second half, scoring two early goals which gave Ray Choe little chance. Urlingford responded with great character, refusing to lie down. Eoin Gibbons linked brilliantly with Conal Lyng to score from distance before adding another from a placed ball.

St. Canice's added a further point in the closing stages to finish 3-2 to 0-3 winners. Despite the defeat, Urlingford can take plenty of positives from a tightly contested battle and will know exactly the level required to compete for Roinn A honours.

With a week's break ahead, attention now turns to their final group game against De La Salle NS, with plenty of hope and potential remaining in this young Urlingford team.