



Cork's Cliona O'Callaghan played in the full-forward role against Kilkenny. Picture: Larry Cummins

## Cork should be wary of a Meath side that badly needs a victory

**TOMORROW: Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Intermediate Championship, Cork v Meath; Castle Road, 5pm**

THE Cork intermediate camogie team welcome Meath to Castle Road tomorrow for round three of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Championship.

Cork are joint leaders with Derry. Both teams have two wins to their credit.

Meath have yet to win a game having lost to Derry in their opening game before falling to Wexford last weekend.

They will come to Cork desperate to get a result.

Kildare and Meath are rooted at the bottom, having lost each of their games and both will be determined to avoid a relegation battle later in the season.

With three teams from the two groups to go forward to a quarter or semi-final, Meath have a lot of work to do to ensure they remain in the hunt for one of those spots.

In their opening game against Derry they were outclassed by a focused home side when they met in Swatragh.

Meath had a four-point lead within 10 minutes of throw-in, but the home side applied pressure and two first-half goals proved crucial as they held the upper hand and ran out 2-14 to 0-11 winners.

Meath faced Wexford last weekend in Navan and, with home advantage, looked to be the side who would win, but Wexford, who lost to Cork in round one, had other ideas.

Level at the interval, Wexford hit four goals in the second half which saw them run out deserving winners and inflict another disappointment on a Meath side who came into this championship hoping to build on a league campaign which saw them finish third behind Cork and Wexford. Meath will be very disappointed

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with their performances to date and they will come to Cork under a lot of pressure to perform and get a result. In their league meeting in Navan in March Cork were full value for their 2-12 to 0-7 victory over a Meath side that failed to impress.

Meath have excellent players in Aoife Minogue, Jane Dolan, Sinead Hackett, Amy Gaffney, and Kristina Troy, but they just seem to lack that finish and drive to get over the line in games. That outing was do or die as it was a crunch decider to see which of them would advance to the Division 2 Littlewoods national league quarter-final as both teams had six points on the table. On the day it was Cork who made no mistake; they moved the ball fast and showed great work-rate, something Trevor Coleman will be looking for again tomorrow.

Cork have been superb in their two championship outings as they overcame the challenges posed by Wexford and Kilkenny. In their opening game they totally outclassed Wexford, hitting an impressive 3-15 while only conceding 0-7 which is a tribute to a solid and reliable defence. Last weekend the challenge posed by last year's All-Ireland runners-up Kilkenny was dealt with efficiently. As a unit the Cork defence held firm while at midfield and up front the work-rate was superb.

Joanne Casey continued to convert vital frees and this ability to punish is something opposition teams will be mindful of.

Form points to a Cork win, but they need to be mindful that Meath are on a mission to overturn the league result between the sides.

## Lillis 'over moon' at Limerick's first win

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Limerick manager, John Lillis could not keep the smile off his face as he spoke after his young side secured their first competitive victory of 2022 in front of a raucous home support at Cappamore GAA.

The Shannonsiders defeated Offaly by 0-11 to 0-9 in Group 1 of the All-Ireland senior camogie championship, after a ding-dong tussle that could have gone either way, to give themselves a chance of reaching the final six.

Thanks to a resolute defensive effort and nine points from Caoimhe Costelloe that included a sensational closing score from play, they were able to overcome a number of missed opportunities and some stellar saves by Eleanor Clendennen to prevail.

"They dug extremely deep," remarked Lillis. "I'm so happy. It's been a long time coming to try and get a win for this group and to get it today in a home venue is outstanding. I'm just absolutely over the moon at the moment."

"The subs we brought on made a massive impact. Caoimhe Costelloe putting over points for fun when she got the room. And the crowd from Limerick supporting us, gave us that little extra bit."

"It's great for us. We're finally back on the road. We can look forward to Down now in two weeks, knowing we have the win and we can now, some way look at the possibility of a quarter-final. We're delighted, and it's well overdue."

Offaly manager, Susan Earner was distraught. The former Galway All-Ireland-winning goalie declared herself "angry" with some of the decisions of ref Liz Dempsey.

"They're absolutely devastated," Earner declared. They gave it everything and there was nothing in it.

"I'm just so angry at some of the decisions that were made. It just seemed like the rub of the green went with Limerick all the time. Not taking away from Limerick's performance, they brought their A-game but some of the decisions were terrible and it's disappointing because we worked so, so hard."

First-half goals from Rebecca Hennelly, Niamh Hanniffy, and Niamh Kilkenny and seven points from Ailish O'Reilly were just some of the highlights for All-Ireland champions Galway, who utilised a stiff wind in that opening period to fashion a 3-23 to 0-6 verdict over Down at Kenny Park.

The win moves Galway top of the group on score difference and assures them of a place in the knockout stages, along with Kilkenny, who also maintained their 100% record. The Stripecy women had to work hard for a 1-15 to 1-9 success against Antrim at Dunloy Cuchullain GAA grounds.



Cork's Michelle Murphy plucks the ball out of the air from Meath's Maeve Clince during the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship at Castle Road. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## Rebels made to work for victory against a dogged Meath side

**Cork 1-12**  
**Meath 0-11**

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

CORK came out on top in this Glen Dimplex Intermediate Championship clash but only after a tough hard battle with a Meath side that came to Castle Road gunning for their first win in the round-robin series.

A strong crosswind made it difficult and with it favouring Meath in the opening half they got off to a good start with a Jane Dolan point with their first attack of the game.

Cork quickly got into their stride. Drawing frees as they ran at the Meath defence, Joanne Casey duly slotted over they led 0-3 to 0-1 inside 10 minutes of the throw-in.

Rachel O'Shea and Sinead Hackett swapped points before Cliona O'Callaghan grabbed what was to be a vital goal for Cork as she cut through the Meath defence before firing an unstoppable shot to the net.

Meath responded well hitting the next four scores with Sinead Hackett unerring from placed balls and Jane Dolan also on target they cut the Cork lead to a point. Now coming under a lot of pressure Cork had to work hard but they regrouped and finished the half with points from Michelle Murphy and a Casey free, giving them a 1-6 to 0-6 half time lead.

Meath came at Cork from the restart. Dolan had the opening score of the half and with O'Shea and Kristin Troy swapping points, Cork held their three-point lead.

They had to really dig deep

to hold firm against a strong physical Meath who were throwing everything at them in a bid for an equaliser.

At midfield, Cork were winning a lot of breaks and with Casey, Lauren Homan and Kaitlin Hickey pointing they went six points clear with seven minutes remaining.

To their credit, Meath responded to the challenge and pressuring the Cork defence they won frees.

Dolan duly converted three in a row they had it back to a one-score game.

It took a good save from an alert Stefanie Beausang to deny them before Ciara Crowley hit a late injury-time point to give Cork breathing space as they held on for victory but not before a stern test.

Cork with three wins under their belt and two games to go against Derry and Kildare are in a good position as they continue to head the group.

**Scorers for Cork:** J Casey 0-6 (0-5), 0-1 (4), C O'Callaghan 1-0, R O'Shea 0-2, K Hickey, L Homan, C Crowley M Murphy 0-1 each.

**Meath:** J Dolan 0-7 (0-5), S Hackett 0-3, K Troy 0-1.

**CORK:** S Beausang; G Hannon, N O'Leary, A Moloney, L O'Sullivan; K Kilkenny, J O'Leary; L Callanan, K Hickey; J Casey, M Murphy, S Hutchinson; R O'Shea, C O'Callaghan, H Ryan.

**Subs:** L Homan for R O'Shea (42), C Finn for S Hutchinson (48), C Crowley for M Murphy (57), T McCarthy for C O'Callaghan (63).

**MEATH:** M Randle; S Payne, C Coffey, S Leonard; T King, M Clinch, A Keogh; K Troy, E Burke; S Kealy, A Minogue, A Slattery; J Dolan, S Hackett, A Gaffney.

**Subs:** A Minogue for S Kealy (11), E Regan for A Slattery (51), A McNemey for S Hackett (51).

**Referee:** E Morrissey (Waterford).



Joanne Casey continues to convert vital frees for Cork.



Cork's Lauren Callanan is tackled by Meath's Kristina Troy.

# Amy happy she chose camogie over soccer



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

A coincidence and a tough decision were Cork camogie's gain and soccer's loss as Amy O'Connor picked the small ball over the big one.

For a number of years now she has been a star for both her county and club and for her recent display in the Munster final, amongst other games, she has been picked as the May winner of The Echo Women in Sport Awards.

But it all could have been so different and just like her fellow northside star Roy Keane, we could easily have been saluting Amy for her displays with Arsenal or Chelsea or some other professional soccer side.

Amy started playing camogie fairly young and it was pure coincidence or random as she puts it that the St Vincent's star picked up a hurley.

"My cousin started playing and his mum bought him all the gear and he quit after a few weeks," said Amy. "She was talking to my mum Tracy and was telling her that she might have to just give the gear away."

"Before that, my dad (Connie) had bought me a hurley and we used to be pucking a ball on the green most evenings. He never played himself but we used to go out in the evening to have a puck around for fun. There was hardly a night of my young childhood that we were either out in the park or up at the pitch pucking a ball around."

"I was doing a bit of dancing as well and I decided to join and my aunt gave me the gear and from the minute I started playing I just loved it. Then I woke up one morning and I said to my mum that I didn't want to do dancing anymore and that I loved the camogie and wanted to concentrate on that."

"I was playing soccer too at the same time and I joined the boys' team at Temple United as my grandfather (Felix Manning) was one of the founding members. I played away with them for a couple of years but then you get to an age where you can't play with the boys anymore and I had to transfer to Wilton United when I was U14."

Amy felt that playing against boys until then was a good thing and it helped to make her a better soccer and camogie player.

"I definitely think it helps alright, even there with Cork now you could pick out the girls that played with the boys when they were younger. I don't think it's as common anymore as there are more girls clubs available which is a good thing."

"But I do think it does help you with fitness levels and being a bit more physical in games. Even with soccer, we used to play challenge matches against the boys teams because you come on a level. Last year with Cork we played a challenge match a lot of weeks against the U16 boys as they are just that bit faster and stronger and it brings you on."

Amy has enjoyed a lot of success



The Echo Women in Sport Awards monthly winner Amy O'Connor, Cork Camogie is presented with her award by Rory Noonan, The Echo.

Pic: Larry Cummins.



## Honours won by Amy

- All-Ireland senior camogie winner 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018.
- Munster senior Camogie winner 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022.
- UCC School of Pharmacy awards 'Outstanding Achievement' winner 2019.
- Camogie All-Star 2019.
- Selected on the Cork team of the decade in both senior camogie and soccer from 2010-2019.
- Quercus Talented Students Program Scholarship recipient 2014-2018.
- Cork North, City and District 'Sports Person of the Year' 2019.
- Littlewoods Ireland Overall Camogie 'Style of Play' Award winner 2017.
- Selected on the RTÉ Sunday Game's Camogie 'Team of the Year' in 2017.

- Selected on the Third Level Colleges Soccer 'Team of the Year' 2015 & 2017.
- Third level Colleges Camogie All-Star 2016 and 2017.
- Ashbourne Cup final runners-up with UCC senior camogie 2016, 2017, 2018.
- The Echo Special Achievement award at the 'Ladies Sports Star of the Year' awards 2015.
- Cork City and County Youth Sports award winner 2015.
- FAI 'Team of the Year' 2015.
- UEFA women's U19 European semi-finalist with the Irish soccer team 2014.
- Cork's 'Sports Woman of the Year' nominee 2012.
- Minor Munster Championship 2014.
- Cork Senior County medal - Seandun 2021.

to come in the next few years. In some ways, the lockdown was a blessing for camogie as people didn't have much to do so they might throw on the game.

"They then saw that Katrina Mackey hit the ball over the bar off her left side from 50 metres out or others as well who can do the same."

Reflecting on her senior successes Amy said the one that stands out was 2017.

"We had lost in 2016 and we were trying to come back from that and I felt really involved with the win in 2017, so it stands out for me. The sheer joy at the final whistle is just a magical feeling."

But days like that may not have happened if Amy hadn't made the decision to give up soccer at U19

level, despite the fact she was an established underage international at that stage, with nine goals to her name between U17 and U19. By then she has played in a European championship semi-final where they lost to Holland, but had victories over countries like Sweden and England to her name.

Twice in internationals against Sweden she was named Player of the Game and her success at soccer led to a scholarship to UCC for that, rather than camogie.

Eventually, she had to make the decision to give up one or the other and Amy picked camogie rather than soccer.

Reflecting on that decision Amy said: "Looking back on it at the time it seemed like one of the most diffi-

cult ones I ever had to make. But really it wasn't because I loved camogie. When I was away all over the world playing soccer all I wanted to do was be at home either training or playing camogie. I always felt like I was missing out on this when I was playing soccer."

"At the time Declan Kidney was head of sport at UCC and I had to go see him to say I was giving up soccer and thinking this was so hard to have to tell him. But he said to me that I was so lucky to have two sports that wanted me to play with them."

"But I have great memories of playing soccer and when you got player of the game you got a special pendant and it's nice to have two of them at home. I look now at sides like Arsenal, Man City, and Chelsea and see some of the girls I played against with them. But it was never for me, I was always into my education as well as camogie so it was never for me. I went to UCC and studied pharmacy and then I went on to the Royal College of Surgeons and did a Masters in Pharmacy for 18 months."

Ironically after all that she now works for Workvivo, which has nothing to do with her studies.

"My poor mum and dad were traumatised when I told them I wasn't going into pharmacy but I love what I do now, which is involved with internal communications within big companies. It was the best decision I ever made to join them."

That was one of many decisions that Amy has made over the years and her decision to pick camogie is one that Cork has definitely gained from and will continue to gain from for a few years yet.



The Echo Women In Sport Awards monthly winner is camogie player Amy O'Connor. Picture: Larry Cummins

## Amy: Davy has helped to build a great atmosphere in group

Cork camogie star Amy O'Connor is delighted with the way the season has gone so far and hopes that it will continue into August to see them lift the O'Duffy Cup at Croke Park. But she said no one is getting carried away and there is a long road ahead yet, before they get there. This season had seen Matt Twomey come in as manager and Davy Fitzgerald as a coach, a decision that shocked many when he agreed to get involved. "It has been a very positive year so far and I think we have built a good atmosphere within the group," said Amy. "It has been different from what we used to do and it has been tough at times, with all of Davy's training, but it has been great to have him involved."

Speaking about Fitzgerald's involvement, she said: "I don't think anyone can build an atmosphere within a group as he can. We had it last year, but he has brought it on even more this year. "I didn't believe he was going to get involved. I thought it was a bit of a joke that was trending on Twitter. But it's great that someone of the stature of Davy was willing to get involved with a camogie team."

"I remember, at the start, they were saying he might only be involved once or twice a month or maybe once a week. I didn't think that was right, because at this level, when you commit you have to commit 100%."

"But he never misses a session and he is the first one at training and the last one to leave, so he has been very committed right from the start and it's unbelievable to have him involved. He also brings a few people down from Clare with him and the dynamic between himself and Matthew is brilliant."

"It's great, as it might lead to other top coaches getting involved with camogie around the country. I'd say there are

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coaches who would have turned their heads at getting involved with camogie sides. But when you see someone like Davy making the move across from hurling, then, hopefully, others will follow."

This season, Amy has scored 9-37 in nine games, which is an average of 1-4 per game. She said: "I've been plodding along nicely, but happy enough overall, but there's plenty more in the tank and, like everyone, I will be looking to improve with every game. I had a couple at the start that I wasn't happy with, but we are taking it game by game and looking to get better all the time." With Cork's win over Dublin securing their semi-final spot, some players prefer that, while others say that having an extra game in a quarter-final can be beneficial to the team.

But Amy prefers the direct route and straight into the semi-final. "It's kind of a hard one, as we have won going both ways, but the only thing with a quarter-final is you don't know who you are going to draw. You could get caught, so I prefer to go straight to the semi-final."

"Going straight through the front door is better, but the main thing is always to get out of the group and to make sure you are involved in the knock-out stages of the All-Ireland."

"We have a whole new style of play this year and we are not shooting the lights out at the moment, but we are improving all the time and the aim, like all sides, is to peak in the All-Ireland final. There is a lot of work to do before then, though, but, hopefully, we can keep going and get there," said Amy.

■ Amy was speaking after being selected as The Echo Women in Sports award winner for May. See P42 for more.



Tracton, Junior A camogie league winners

## Tracton's goals see them past Sars to claim Junior A league crown

**Tracton** 2-10  
**Sarsfields** 0-13  
**CAMOGIE**  
■ Mary Newman

TRACTON were crowned Junior A league camogie champions as they overcame the strong challenge posed by Sarsfields in Castle Road on Friday last.

Goals proved vital and two in the opening half from Tracton were enough to see them over the line but they had to show huge character to hold off a huge fight back from a Sarsfields side that fought hard in the second half and outscored Tracton to bring themselves to within two points with two minutes remaining.

The closing stage was played out in great excitement with Sarsfields pressing hard but Tracton stood firm to take the title thanks in the main to their excellent opening thirty minutes.

Tracton made a superb start with an early Clara O'Sullivan and Oragh Dempsey points before an Anna Fahy goal helped them opened up a five point lead before Ella Woods opened the Sarsfields account with a point. Edel Lonergan hit three in a row for Sarsfields but Aoibhinn Kidney, Anna Fahy Clara O'Sullivan on target Tracton maintained their lead.

Anna Fahy grabbed her second goal to ensure Tracton kept control and with Edel Lonergan, Chloe Casey Ella Woods and Clodagh O'Donovan hitting points for Sarsfields it was Tracton who held a five point interval lead 2-7 to 0-8.

From the restart, Sarsfields applied pressure as they battled to cut the deficit and points from Chloe Casey and Ella Woods were replied to by Aoibhinn Kidney, Anna Fahy and Oragh Dempsey as Tracton battle to hold their lead that was slowly being eaten into by a Sarsfields side who upped the pace significantly in the second half.

However, try as they might, they failed to breach the Tracton defence for a goal and in the finish thanks in the main to their two first half goals Tracton ran out winners to take the title.

Scorers for Tracton: A Fahy 2-3, A Kidney 0-3, C O'Sullivan, O Dempsey 0-2 each.

Sarsfields: E Woods 0-6, E Lonergan, C Casey 0-3 each, C O'Driscoll 0-1.

Tracton: J Dempsey, K Lynch, K McCarthy, K Murphy, J Keely, C Castellon, G Mc Guinness, L Murphy, O Dempsey, A Kiely (c), A Kidney, C O'Sullivan, M Mc Guinness, A Fahy, E Mc Guinness.

Sub's: A Bell for G Mc Guinness, E Harrington for M Mc Guinness.

Sarsfields: C Ahern, S Scanlon (c) F Holmes, A McCarthy, K Walsh, C Casey, Ellen Twomey, C O'Donovan, Evie Twomey, E Woods, E Lonergan, A Mullins, E Hegarty, I Kelly, M McCarthy  
Subs: M Sheehan for I Kelly, A Fitzgerald for E Hegarty, C O'Sullivan for E Lonergan, K Fennessy for M Sheehan, C Galvin for K Walsh, E O'Brien for A Mullins.

Meanwhile, the adult camogie league competitions are reaching their conclusion and we recently have had some exciting games in all leagues from senior to junior with the Junior A final already decided (see below).

In the senior league semi-final Inniscarra and Glen Rovers served up a cracker of a game [played at championship pace in Castle Road where a point from Aileen Sheehan three minutes into injury time gave Inniscarra a one point victory on a 1-11 to 1-10 score line just when it looked as if it was heading to extra time.

Inniscarra lead at the break 1-9 to 0-3 but the Glen Rovers girls fought back and held Inniscarra scoreless for 21 minutes.

A Nora O'Riordain goal on the restart helped them fight their way back in the game and it was level on 1-10 apiece when Aileen Sheehan pointed to give Inniscarra a place in the final after a tremendous battle.

The second semi-final was a one sided affair as an under-strength St Catherine's lost out to St Finbarr's.

With Keava mc McCarthy, Clara golden, Aoife O'Neill and Grainne Cahalane prominent St Finbarr's laid the foundations for victory in the first half and always in control they closed it out in the second half to advance despite a spirited display from St Catherine's.

In the Junior B league final set for June 17, Youghal meet Bishopstown and in the Junior C final Middleton take Bride Rovers on a date to be confirmed.



Cork defender Saoirse McCarthy.

## McCarthy: The more we play, the better we become

BY GER MCCARTHY

SAOIRSE McCarthy is confident that Cork can keep their 100 percent record in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship as the Rebels prepare for a Munster derby.

Cork head into this Saturday evening's Group 1 clash with Waterford at Walsh Park (5.30pm) on the back of three consecutive victories over Wexford, Clare and Dublin.

The Rebels need to be wary of an improving Déise even though Matthew Twomey's side sit top of the table on maximum points. Waterford lost narrowly to Dublin in their opening championship encounter but have seen off Wexford and Tipperary since.

'This is not going to be an easy game for us,' Cork wing back McCarthy says.

'None of our (All-Ireland) games this year have been easy but we have not underestimated anyone. Tipperary drew with Clare, we beat Clare and then Waterford beat Tipp so it really is all to play for in this group.'

The championship games have been coming thick and fast since the conclusion of the national league. Cork received a welcome weekend off following their recent trip to Dublin before hitting the road for Waterford. Playing a large volume of games in a shortened inter-county season doesn't bother Courcy Rovers star McCarthy.

'To be fair, we have been out a good few weeks on the trot but I think the more games we play, the better we become,' she says.

'We learn more about ourselves playing matches than we ever would at training. It is

nice to have a couple of games on the go and then you can work on things straight after.

'I am definitely one of those players who just wants to play all of the time. The more games the better!'

Since taking over from Paudie Murray, new Cork manager Matthew Twomey has guided Cork to a national league final (lost to Galway), Munster final win over Clare and an unbeaten run in the early stages of the 2022 All-Ireland Championship. Orla Cronin and Sorcha McCartan's recovery from their respective injuries coupled with Hannah Looney's return from the USA means Twomey has an increasing number of options.

'Having depth within our squad is something we might have been missing in recent years,' McCarthy admits.

'Look at this year's league final and the players Galway were able to bring off the bench. Cork is building though. We are building all the time.'

'I think having Hannah Looney back is a massive, massive boost for Cork camogie. She was a double All-Star in football and camogie last year. Hannah was also up for Player of the Year. You can't not appreciate having a player like that in the dressing room. We are delighted to have Hannah back.'

'There is plenty of competition for places even though training has not been as intense as it normally is in recent weeks. That is because we have been playing so many matches. Also, we have our hard block of training completed so it is a case of just working on things we need to improve on in between games right now.'



Katrina Mackey was on the goal trail in Dublin.

Picture: INPHO

## Cork to win but Deise could be a hard nut to crack

**TOMORROW: Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Championship: Cork v Waterford, Walsh Park, 5.30pm**

BOUYED by two wins in the Glen Dimplex senior championship and with home venue, Waterford will feel they can get one over on Cork and really make an impact in this year's championship. They're sure to have their periods of dominance but Cork should win their fourth group game. Despite a first-round two-point loss to Dublin, Waterford responded with a 3-18 to 0-9 win over Wexford and a 1-16 to 0-13 over regressing Tipperary to secure second place to Cork with just an eight-point scoring difference.

That shows a Waterford side not too far off the mark. Beth Carton, a household name in camogie, Niamh Rockett and captain Lorraine Bray will lead the way. And it will be a physical game, of that there is no doubt.

After three weeks on the bounce, Cork welcomed a weekend off before they head into their final games with Waterford and Tipperary, a home venue on July 2. Hit with a number of injuries over the past few months, bad fortune continues in the Cork camp. Sorcha McCartan, out since mid-March, has just recently resumed training and made brief appearances in games for club and county, but she dislocated her finger at Cork training on Sunday morning.

Laura Treacy will remain out for a few weeks with a knee injury; she possibly won't be called back into action until the All-Ireland semi-final should Cork go the direct route as is expected. Orla Cronin is back. Cliona Healy has finally got back into a match-day jersey after a prolonged hamstring injury. She came on in just the 16th minute against Dublin but is flying in training and so is sure to now start. She will be a welcome addition in a forward line that has seen a bit of change from game to game.

Kate Wall started in place of Emma Murphy against the Dubs while Ciara O'Sullivan got 20 minutes or so, with the return of Hannah Looney a big plus and also coming in on 60 minutes. While Looney may not start against Waterford, she is sure to play a respectable part of the game to get her back to match



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

fitness with reports that she has returned from New York fit. Katrina Mackey's opportunism for two cracking goals against Dublin will do her confidence the world of good. While getting just a point on the scoresheet against Clare her work-rate and distribution was excellent. But forwards like to score themselves too and Mackey should go into Walsh Park with a spring in her step.

Cork look to have what they perceive as their strongest six forwards ready to line out for this one with Cronin, Fiona Keating, Chloe Sigerson, Cliona Healy, Amy O'Connor, and Mackey all available. Meabh Murphy, to her credit, has grown with every game at right corner-back, the experience gained during the five-game round-robin series invaluable. She will complete a full-back line that contains dual players Libby Coppinger and Meabh Cahane, who will line out with the footballers on Sunday.

Ashling Thompson may drop back to centre-back in place of Treacy and I think that's a good decision. Leave Laura Hayes and Saoirse McCarthy in their wing spots where they excel. And Thompson is pretty good at roaming in a defensive role. Who will partner Katie O'Mahoney at midfield? Cork's mental strength and work-rate looks better this season. It's something the manager and coaching team have been working on. Effort from the forwards back when not in possession is good. Winning their own puck-outs is something that does need work.

The game in Walsh Park has been pushed back to 5.30pm at the request of Waterford with Cork obliging. Cork manager Matthew Twomey isn't taking this game lightly. 'Waterford had a poor opener against Dublin but they're on a good run. Their win over Wexford was very impressive and they should have beaten Tipperary by far more than they did so we're under no illusions as to the challenge that awaits us.'



Cork's Lauren Callanan taking on Meath's Aine Keogh and Ellen Burke recently. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## Not many changes for Group 2 while Group 1 teams have rest week

Camogie

Linda Mellerick

WITH Cork and all other teams in Group 1 having last weekend off, it was catch-up time for the teams in Group 2.

All teams now have three games behind them, with Clare, Dublin, Waterford, Cork, Wexford, and Tipperary playing their fourth today. Group 2 have a weekend off.

There isn't much change in the Group 2 table with Galway top, Kilkenny second, and Antrim lying in third which is a huge achievement for them, in their first year in the senior championship.

Cork remain in top position in Group 1 but the second-placed team, now Waterford, has consistently changed week in and week out. It's strange to see Clare bottom after such a brilliant start to their year. But Waterford in second place, just eight points in scoring difference adrift of Cork, is a big statement. Cork could increase that scoring difference today and if Cork defeat Waterford and Dublin defeat Clare then Dublin will swing back into second place again.

Tipp face a tall order to progress now. If Dublin beat Clare today, then Tipp won't make the top three even if they beat Wexford as that will put leave on five points with a final game away to Cork which they won't win. Their only chance to advance would be to beat Wexford and for Dublin to lose to Clare and their final game to Wexford.

First goes straight to the semi-final, second and third placed into the quarter-finals.

In Group 2, Limerick kept their hopes of making the knockout stages with a strong finish to overcome Offaly, 0-11 to 0-9.

With Galway and Kilkenny assured of advancing to the last six as a result of their triumphs against Down and Antrim respectively, there is just one qualifying spot up for grabs.

Offaly look out of contention, they have lost all three of their outings and prop up the table with Down, who are ahead on one point. Limerick are now on three points, behind Antrim, who retain third spot on four points.

Offaly were the superior side in the first half, at the end of which they led by 0-6 to 0-4. A Christine Cleary point soon after the restart stretched

their advantage, but Limerick came roaring into it, player of the match Caoimhe Costelloe shooting six points in the course of bringing her tally to nine, to drive the Treaty county women to a brilliant victory.

Champions Galway continue their march, producing a lethal first-half performance before dispensing with Down by 3-23 to 0-6 at Kenny Park, a result that sees them overtake Kilkenny at the top of the group on score difference.

The Cats retained their perfect record but had to sweat before getting the better of Antrim in a far more competitive affair at the Dunloy Cúchulains grounds, by 1-15 to 1-9.

Galway led by 2-17 to 0-0 at half-time. Niamh Mallon finally got Down on the board from a free in the 34th minute and finished with five points.

Rebecca Hennelly finished top scorer for Galway with 1-5, 1-3 from play, while Ailish O'Reilly registered seven points, three from play and Aoife Donohue shot four. Niamh Kilkenny pounced for a third goal in the 54th minute.

The clash between reigning intermediate champions Antrim and Kilkenny was an entertaining one that started with Miriam Walsh powering through before goaling in the fourth minute.

Though Róisín McCormick and Caitrin Dobbin pointed for Antrim, they still trailed by seven points midway through the opening half. They began to gain more traction around the middle as the game wore on however, and a 21st-minute goal from Dobbin, who was sent clear by Lucia McNaughton, brought the Saffrons to within touching distance at the interval, just 1-7 to 1-5 in arrears.

Kilkenny doubled that lead in the next 10 minutes but when Mary O'Connell was sent off with the margin at just four with 20 minutes remaining, the potential for a shock seemed on the cards.

Points from Denise Gaule, Walsh, and Julieanne Malone, who scored three as she continues to impress on her return to the squad after a lengthy absence, gave the No-residers vital breathing space.

## ALL-IRELAND GROUP 1

|           | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | SD  | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| Cork      | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 59 | 29 | +30 | 9   |
| Waterford | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 58 | 36 | +22 | 6   |
| Dublin    | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 33 | 38 | -5  | 4   |
| Wexford   | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 30 | 58 | -28 | 3   |
| Tipperary | 3 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 33 | 39 | -6  | 2   |
| Clare     | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 32 | 45 | -13 | 1   |

## County final heartbreak for Clonakilty and Kilbree

BY GER MCCARTHY

WEST Cork clubs - Clonakilty and Kilbree - suffered double disappointment in their Cork camogie county league finals last weekend.

Castle Road was the venue for last Sunday's triple-header of camogie county league deciders with Inniscarra coming out on top in the senior final against St Finbarr's.

West Cork's interest was in the two preceding matches. Kilbree battled Aghada for the junior B Plate before Clonakilty and Agh-

abullogue faced off in the county intermediate league final.

Aghada dominated the first half of Junior B Plate clash and built an impressive 2-10 to 0-3 lead. Adjusting to the difficult windy conditions, Kilbree were much improved in the second period but eventually lost 3-14 to 0-15 to a more experienced opponent.

Mairead Crowley finished as Kilbree's chief scorer with 0-9 (seven frees) with Caoimhe Murphy (0-4), Grainne O'Brien and Mary Murphy (0-1 each) also contributing.

Despite the defeat, Sean O'Brien's side has made huge strides over the past couple of years and Kilbree are ready to make their presence felt in the 2022 junior B championship.

**Kilbree:** Heather Brimble, Sarah O'Donovan, Sinead O'Donovan, Sinead O'Connell, Rebecca Hurley, Aine Crowley, Rachel Deasy, Kate O'Donovan, Mairead Crowley, Margaret Collins, Mary Murphy, Leanne Sheehy, Aoife Dullea, Caoimhe Murphy, Grainne O'Brien, Ava Murray, Niamh McCarthy, Megan McCarthy, Kathryn McCarthy, Holly McCarthy.

Clonakilty and Aghabullogue's intermediate final proved a closer affair with the latter leading at half time. Aoife O'Flynn Meade and Katie O'Driscoll goals kept Clonakilty in touch during an entertaining opening 30 minutes that finished 1-8 to 2-1 at the break.

Amid extremely windy conditions, the West Cork side managed to restrict their opponents to a single point in the second period. It wasn't enough to prevent a 1-9 to 2-4 defeat. O'Flynn Meade, Louise Collins, Clodhna

Nagle and Ciara Ryan were the Carbery divisional club's other scorers.

A management team consisting of Keith Kennedy, Donal McCarthy, Kenneth Meade, Adrian White, Natalie O'Driscoll and Caitriona Ni Mhurchú will be hoping a young Clonakilty team can build on their positive county league efforts heading into this year's intermediate championship.

Clon are likely to face Na Piarasigh, Milford, Carrigaline, Watergrasshill, Kilbrittain-Timoleague and Aghab-

ullogue, again, in this year's intermediate county competition.

**Clonakilty:** Mary Hurley, Susie Forristal, Anna Meade, Anna O'Hea, Aoife Whelan, Louise Collins, Ciara White, Allannah O'Brien, Orla Lowney, Niamh Kennedy, Ciara Ryan, Clodhna Nagle, Aoife O'Flynn Meade, Sarah Hayes, Katie O'Driscoll, Amy Harrington, Danielle O'Brien, Alice White, Mairead Connolly, Aoife Ni Mathuna, Aoife O'Neill, Sarah Lowney, Wicky Wycherley, Erica Harrington, Kelle O'Garman, Sinead O'Neill, Meabh Deasy, Lauren O'Sullivan.

# REBELS ON THE MARCH

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

CORK guaranteed automatic progress to the semi-final of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship by virtue of their hard-fought victory over Waterford at Walsh Park yesterday, but it remains all to play for in Group 1 as four of the other five teams battle it out for the two quarter-final berths.

Waterford remain in second on six points and with a healthy score differential while Tipperary, who struck late to deny Wexford, are level on five points with Dublin, who let a five-point lead slip late on against Clare to leave Ennis with just a share of the spoils.

With the teams having drawn in their previous clash, it is the fact that the Premier side have scored three more points that puts them ahead.

Despite their reverse, Wexford remain in contention too, while Clare will consider what might have been as they cannot now make it to the last six after two draws and two narrow defeats.

The Clare-Dublin tie at Cusack Park ended in a welter of excitement as the home team stormed back from a five-point deficit after Leah Butler's 56th minute score to snatch a 1-9 to 1-9 draw.

Clare Hehir plundered a goal from the very next attack and Eimear Kelly reduced the margin to the minimum right on the hour. Exchanges were fraught thereafter but it was Clare who found the key score, Lorna McNamara slotting a free in the fifth minute of injury time to bring the sides level.

A brace of McNamara points gave Clare an early advantage but a goal and two points from Aisling O'Neill put the Dubs 1-4 to 0-4 ahead at half-time. It was nip and tuck after the resumption but when Butler arced one over after Issy Davies had done likewise, it looked like Adrian O'Sullivan's charges had done enough. Ultimately though, they had to settle for one point rather than three.

Cork were given a real test by Waterford before chiselling out a 0-16 to 0-10 triumph at Walsh Park. The Déise girls were a constant nuisance that their neighbours could never shake off and it was a sense of relief to Rebel followers when the final whistle sounded.

Waterford made their intentions clear with points from Niamh

Rockett and the magnificent Beth Carton in the second minute but Cork settled and with Méadbh Murphy, Katrina Mackey (two), Fiona Keating and Cliona Healy dispatching shots between the posts, it looked like Cork would pull away.

That wasn't to be however, as Carton landed two more points, though Waterford were fortunate when Chloe Sigerson missed an injury-time penalty and it was 0-6 to 0-4 at the change of ends.

The outstanding Mackey and Laura Hayes doubled the margin and though Sarah Lacey and Carton kept the Suirersiders in contention, it was Matthew Twomey's crew that just had a little more gas in the legs in the closing stages.

Amy O'Connor, Healy and Hayes raised white flags late on while captain Amy Lee saved Carton's 70th minute penalty.

Grace O'Brien floated over a delightful point in injury time to snatch a 0-15 to 1-11 victory for Tipperary over Wexford at Bellefield and keep their aspirations of advancing to the last six alive.

Wexford started well and led thanks to a kicked goal by Joanne Dillon, who had gathered from Leah Walsh's delivery. Cáit Devane got Tipp back into the game with five points to push them in front for the first time at the end of the first quarter.

Anais Curran was accurate from placed balls for Wexford and with

Sarah O'Connor and Dillon adding points, they looked like heading in at the break in front but Tipp finished strongly and it was 1-6 to 0-9 at the break.

It was the home team that made all the early running in the second half, their star operators Dillon and Ciara O'Connor contributing along with Curran and Sarah O'Connor as they shot five points in succession.

This prompted a change of tactics by Bill Mullaney and co, with the spare defender dropped in favour of pushing up player on player. Devane was also brought out from full-forward in a bid to get her more involved. It proved a masterstroke.

With the omnipresent joint cap-

tain O'Brien in inspirational form, Tipp chipped away with five scores on the trot. O'Brien hit the first, then came a Devane trio including two from play before O'Brien bagged the dramatic winner.

That means it's all to play for on July 2, with Tipperary travelling to Páirc Uí Rinn to take on Cork, Waterford going to Clare and Wexford playing host to Dublin. Remarkably, Waterford, Tipperary and Dublin could lose and qualify, but they could draw and not do so.

Therefore, like Wexford, who have no other option but to win, they will be playing for all the marbles. It promises to be an enthralling conclusion to a competitive Group 1.

## Cork are first side into semis but all other spots are still up for grabs



DRAWING TO A CLOSE: Clare and Dublin finished all square at Cusack Park

## Race is on to join Cork in sealing semi-final spots

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Another week, another round of enthralling action in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship.

And another draw. It was the fourth time in as many rounds that two teams could not be separated but notably, three of those have come in Group 1, where a number of other clashes have gone down to the wire.

It all means that Clare are the only side out of contention for qualification to the knockout stages but they still have something to play for in the final round on July 2, as they bid to avoid a

relegation play-off.

Indeed only Cork can afford to experiment, as they are assured of top spot and the direct route to the All-Ireland semi-final. That leaves Waterford, Tipperary, Dublin, and Wexford vying for the two quarter-final positions.

It speaks to a level of competitiveness that may be at an all-time high. Certainly, Eimear Kelly noted the positivity for camogie, though she was devastated that despite a player-of-the-match contribution that enabled Clare to reel in a five-point deficit late on and draw with Dublin 1-9 each at Cusack Park, the Banner women would not make the final six.

Kelly shot three second-half

points and set up Clare Hehir for the crucial goal before Lorna McNamara clipped over two points to secure the share of the spoils. A brilliant solo goal from 18-year-old Leaving Cert student Aisling O'Neill, who has lit up this year's championship, looked to have sent Dublin on their way but they had to settle for a point in the end.

"I'm just sickened now to be honest," said Kelly afterwards. "I'm so proud of all of our girls. It's incredibly hard at this time of the summer to be putting it up, week-on-week and fair play to Dublin, they were excellent as well."

"It was such a battle and in terms of camogie, our group, the way it was laid out at the

start, it was so exciting for every single team that was in it. That side of it has been brilliant but at times, it took its toll. And there's a lot of hurt on bodies, and inside as well.

"There were a couple of tough calls (from the referee) as well and it's a very hard one to take. It was tooth and nail. Everything seems to be coming down to a draw. I know Tipp won by a point today. In terms of camogie, camogie is the winner this year in the group, in terms of the standards and keeping the matches close for spectators coming. But yeah, I'm absolutely gutted. That's the highs and lows of it. But there'll be no fear of us. We'll regroup now for two weeks and put the

heads down. We're always proud to put on the Clare jersey so there'll be no fear of us. We'll come out fighting again the next day and give Waterford one hell of a go."

Elsewhere, an excellent performance by Katrina Mackey as well as late scores from Amy O'Connor, Cliona Healy, and Laura Hayes finally enabled Cork to shake off a gritty Waterford by 0-16 to 0-10 at Walsh Park with Beth Carton impressing for the hosts. Tipperary kept their hopes alive by scoring the last five points, three from Cáit Devane and two, including the winner from joint captain Grace O'Brien, to snatch victory from Wexford's grasp on a 0-15 to 1-11 scoreline at Bellefield.



Cork's Cliona Healy out in front of Waterford's Orla Hickey.

Picture: Noel Browne



Cork's Izzy O'Regan and Waterford's Aoife Landers in a battle for possession during the first half at Walsh Park.

Picture: Noel Browne

Not very pretty but case of job done

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

IT was a case of job done for Cork despite the game not being as pretty as spectators would have liked in Walsh Park on Saturday evening.

Cork manager Matthew Twomey was happy to come away with the win.

"It was scrappy yeah but all you want is a result. We're in an All-Ireland semi-final, we're after winning our four games. Every game is kind of similar, every team throws it up to us.

"We finished well enough, we finished with three points to make the gap six. We have to be happy with it.

"We were missing a few players but the ones that came in we were happy with. We wanted to grow our panel; we seem to have it now."

Cork were forced into another change during the week.

"Yeah Orla (Cronin) has a niggly. I suppose we were advised not to play her.

"It was a risk against Waterford, but we did it and we'll hold Laura (Treacy) until the semi-final. Sorcha (McCartan), should be back for the Tipperary game but we've another two worries now in Katrina and Chloe.

"Katrina got a bang on her hand in the first half and another in the second and it came out like a balloon. Chloe got a bang on her knee, so precaution was key."

It was a bit strange to see Meabh Murphy move into corner forward early in the game and then score Cork's opening point.

"In fairness to Meabh everything we've asked her to do she's done. She's great. They wanted to play a second sweeper and we didn't want them to have two so that's what happened there."

Waterford played so defensively it was hard for Cork to flow.

"Yeah, we were disappointed with our play. We said it to them at half time to run the ball as we were hitting balls in, but they were lazy balls.

"We asked them to run it a bit more and then Laura (Hayes) came up with a point and I think Saoirse (McCartan) got one as well.

"Fiona Keating had a strong game and I thought Meabh Cahalane did really well on Niamh Rockett, so we were delighted with her."

Referring to the sweeping role of Ashling Thompson.

"She's a great athlete and she'll play wherever we want her to play, she does her job."

What will Cork's plan be for their final group game with Tipperary, will they still go out all guns blazing?

"Absolutely because if we leave it from today on, we'd be five weeks without a game, so we'll use that as another strong game, and we want to go into the semi-final without losing a game."

# Win secured after a lacklustre game



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| Cork      | 0-16 |
| Waterford | 0-10 |

CORK are through to the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie semi-final after a six-point win over Waterford in a game that failed to ignite in Walsh Park.

The job however was done. They were forced into another change to their planned line-up with the omission of Orla Cronin, her failure to partake in training during the week the deciding risk factor.

Cliona Healy and Izzy O'Regan came in for Cronin and Kate Wall from last week's clash with Dublin. Ciara O'Sullivan replaced the injured Laura Treacy, named at centre-back but playing at midfield because Ashling Thompson, as expected, played defensively in Treacy's slot.

Perfect conditions with just a slight wind blowing left to right from the stand side favoured Waterford.

Going into the game Waterford goalkeeper Brianna O'Regan and right half-forward Abby Flynn held worrying injuries to their ankle and hamstring respectively it was no surprise to see Flynn replaced on 25 minutes.

A defensive Waterford, often with four in their full-back line, were hoping to capitalise on the distance striking of Beth Carton and Niamh Rockett.

Looking up the pitch during the opening 10 minutes, there was no attacking player inside Waterford's own 45, Roisin Kirwan and Rockett drifted in and out but with Thompson as a free player, Waterford weren't making much headway. Thompson was on too much ball and Cork were working it out with ease.

Cork always kept two or three attackers inside with Katrina Mackey hovering between the 30 and 45. It was strange to see Cork's number two Meabh Murphy take up a corner-forward position as Cork pushed up their free defenders.

They didn't need more than the one



Cork's Ciara O'Sullivan passes forward under pressure from Waterford's Lorraine Bray.

Picture: Noel Browne

sweeper in Thompson. Murphy was the one to get Cork on the scoreboard in the third minute.

Some poor passing by Cork gifted a couple of opportunities to Waterford around the 25-minute mark but they failed to capitalise, hitting dropped shots and their fifth wide, seven by the end of the opening 30 minutes.

Accuracy

Had Waterford's accuracy not left them down they would have led at the break. A low-scoring first half wasn't of the standard expected with passes going astray, overplaying the ball and missed targets.

Mackey was Cork's biggest threat up front and a one-two with Amy O'Connor saw the latter pulled down in the square on 34 minutes, leading to a penalty and a booking for Keeley Corbett-Barry. Chloe Sigerson shot wide leav-

ing Cork just two points to the good at half-time.

Beth Carton and Saoirse McCarthy swapped points by the 36th minute. The free Thompson was still doing a lot of damage to Waterford.

Hannah Looney replaced Ciara O'Sullivan and moved into midfield and there were a couple of wasted chances by Cork before Mackey stretched their lead by three.

Cork couldn't quite shake the Waterford challenge off. They'd hit two, Waterford would hit one back with Cork only extending their lead by an additional one by the 50th minute.

Two from Cork, two from Waterford before two converted frees by O'Connor in additional time gave Cork a cushion. Cliona Healy, Laura Hayes and Carton stuck points before a 69th-minute penalty was awarded to the home side.

Up stepped Carton and she struck it well but a brilliant diving save and clearance by Amy Lee signalled the final whistle and Cork are gone the direct route on 12 points. Waterford remain on six and in second place.

Scorers for Cork: K Mackey 0-4, A O'Connor 0-4 (0-3 f), C Healy 0-3, L Hayes 0-2, M Murphy, F Keating, S McCarthy 0-1 each.

Waterford: B Carton 0-7 (0-4 f, 0-2 45), N Rockett 0-2, S Lacey 0-1.

CORK: A Lee, M Murphy, L Coppinger, M Cahalane, L Hayes, C O'Sullivan, S McCarthy, K O'Mahoney, A Thompson, C Healy, F Keating, I O'Regan, A O'Connor, C Sigerson, K Mackey.

Subs: H Looney for C O'Sullivan (39), E Murphy for I O'Regan (43), K Wall for K Mackey (59), A Smith for C Sigerson (59).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).



The Éire Óg Féile squad who are Cork's representatives at the national Féile Na nGael tournament.

## Cork book semi-final spot with battling win

Cork guaranteed automatic progress to the semi-final of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship by virtue of their hard-fought victory (0-16 to 0-10) over Waterford at Walsh Park, but it remains all to play for in Group 1.

The Clare-Dublin tie at Cusack Park ended in a welter of excitement as the home team stormed back from a five-point deficit after Leah Butler's 56th-minute score to snatch a 1-9 to 1-9 draw.

Clare Hehir plundered a goal from the very next attack and Eimear Kelly reduced the margin to the minimum right on the hour. Exchanges were fraught thereafter but it was Clare who found the key score, Lorna McNamara slotting a free in the fifth minute of injury-time to bring the sides level.

Cork were given a real test by Waterford before chiselling out victory (0-16 to 0-10) at Walsh Park. Waterford made their intentions clear with points from Niamh Rockett and Beth Carton in the second minute but Cork settled and with Méadbh Murphy, Katrina Mackey (two), Fiona Keating and Cliona Healy on target, it looked like Cork would pull away.

That wasn't to be however, as Carton landed two more points, though Waterford were fortunate when Chloe Sigerson missed an injury-time penalty and it was 0-6 to 0-4 at the change of ends.

The outstanding Mackey and Laura Hayes doubled the margin and though Sarah Lacey and Carton kept the Suirsiders in contention, it was Matthew Twomey's crew that just had a little more gas in the legs in the closing stages.

Grace O'Brien floated over a delightful point in injury-time to snatch a 0-15 to 1-11 victory for Tipperary over Wexford at Bellefield.

Wexford started well and led thanks to a kicked goal by Joanne Dillon. Cait Devane got Tipp back into the game with five points to push them in front for the first time at the end of the first quarter.

Anais Curran was accurate from placed balls for Wexford and with Sarah O'Connor and Dillon adding points, they looked like heading in at the break in front, but Tipp finished strongly and it was 1-6 to 0-9 at the break.

Sarah Fryday put Tipp ahead in the second half with her second point but it was the home team that made all the early running, their star operators Dillon and Ciara O'Connor contributing along with Curran and Sarah O'Connor as they shot five points in succession.

This prompted a change of tactics by Bill Mullaney and Co, Devane brought out from full-forward in a bid to get her more involved. It proved a masterstroke.

With the omnipresent joint captain O'Brien in inspirational form, Tipp chipped away with five scores on the trot. O'Brien hit the first, then came a Devane trio before O'Brien bagged the dramatic winner.

# All systems go for Éire Óg squad

IT'S all systems go as preparations continue for the National Festival of camogie and hurling on Saturday June 25th.

Cork will be represented in camogie by Éire Óg, who will travel to Abbotstown for the John West National Féile Na n-Gael Camogie competition.

Eight teams representing their counties will compete for the prestigious division 1 title and already earlier in the month there have been regional finals in lower divisions, but this is the big one, and excitement is at a high as the Éire Óg girls count down to their big day.

The John West Féile na n-Gael offers every player in every club at under 15 an opportunity to participate in these festivals of gaelic games at Club, Regional or National level.

Teams participating at the National Finals having come through their home county competition, and Éire Óg

## FÉILE CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

had to battle to the finish before winning through to represent Cork.

In the semi-final it took extra time to separate Éire Óg and Ballincollig before Éire Óg emerged as winners to contest the final.

The final was another close encounter where a first half Clara Murphy goal helped Éire Óg lead by two points 1-0 to 0-1 at the interval, but Sarsfields battled back and at the full time whistle it was level pegging, Sarsfields 1-4 Éire Óg 2-1 and so on they went again to extra time.

At half time in extra time Éire Óg led by two points with Clodagh Fitzgerald having converted two frees.

Both sides battled hard to take the title but Éire Óg, thanks to solid de-

fending, held out to win the right to represent Cork at the National Féile competition.

The team have prepared well and are looking forward to representing Cork and their club under the guidance of their management team Conor Healy, Trevor Casey, Adrian Malone, Evelyn O'Shea and Breda Twohig.

Eight counties will contest division 1 and there are two groups of four.

Éire Óg are in group 2 with Kilmacud Crokes, Dublin, Glynn Barntown, Wexford, and Boherlahan/ Dualla, Tipperary.

In group one you have Killeady, Limerick, Athenry, Galway, Kilmaley, Clare and Windgap, Kilkenny.

Matches will be twelve minutes aside, and two teams will emerge from each group to contest the semi-finals.

The top team in each group will play the runners up in the opposite group. There will also be a Féile Shield com-

petition, which the bottom four teams will contest.

Éire Óg's first game will be at 11.40, where they will take on Wexford representatives Glynn Barntown.

They will have a rest until 1pm when they will then meet Tipperary side Boherlahan/ Dualla and all going well, they will contest one of the semi-finals.

The semi-finals are listed at 3.15pm with the Shield semi-finals at 3.45pm, the Shield final is down for 4.15pm with the big one, the National Féile final, at 4.45pm.

**Éire Óg Féile Panel:** Kate O'Riordan, Leah Sheehan, Phoebe Wharton, Julie White, Maria Barry-Murphy, Laoise Ahern, Gemma Young, Clara Murphy, Clodagh Fitzgerald, Jessica Power, Laura Healy, Fiadh Malone, Ali Hayes, Rionagh O'Leary, Erin Healy, Abbie Hyde, Emma Casey, Alannah Whelton, Clodagh O'Sullivan, Ciara Healy, Claire O'Regan.

## Late Looney goal seals victory in very tight match

|              |      |
|--------------|------|
| Inniscarra   | 2-11 |
| St Finbarr's | 1-12 |

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Ella Wiggington-Barrett was fouled.

St Finbarr's got back on level terms with three points in a row, and again twice the sides swapped points as it remained level but a goal from Joanne Casey seven minutes from the break edged Inniscarra three points clear. Casey pointed to push the lead to four points before Wiggington-Barrett finished a long range Keeva McCarthy free to the net to cut the lead. Casey pointed on the half time whistle to leave Inniscarra 1-7 to 1-5 ahead.

St Finbarr's were back on level quickly as Nicole Olden and Keeva McCarthy pointed and it was nip and tuck as the sides traded point on three occasions.

On 28 minutes, Wiggington-Barrett edged St Finbarr's back in front and a McCarthy free put them

two clear.

Inniscarra dug deep and a pointed Casey free on thirty minutes had just one between the sides as the game went into injury time.

Winning the puck out, Inniscarra again applied pressure and with Aileen Sheehan showing all her experience evading tackles, she hit what look to be the equaliser, however it was stopped going over the bar by the St Finbarr's keeper only for the inrushing Looney to first time it to the net to put Inniscarra two points clear with a minute remaining.

From the puck out Inniscarra won possession and ensured they were not going to be denied. They held on to the full time whistle after an excellent contest.

**Scorers for Inniscarra:** J Casey 1-7 (0-4fs), E Looney 1-0, A Sheehan 0-2, B Holland A O'Regan 0-1 each.  
**St Finbarr's:** K Mc McCarthy 0-6 (0-5fs) E Wiggington-Barrett 1-1, N Olden 0-4.

Inniscarra and St Finbarr's had supporters on their toes to the final whistle as they battled for the senior league title.

In the end, a late Erin Looney goal sealed victory for Inniscarra just when it looked as if St Finbarr's had done enough to win the game.

It was a great game of camogie with both sides giving it their all and both teams deserve great credit for their application and desire.

All through it was close with little dividing the sides, who both had moments of dominance. Inniscarra opened up a 0-3 to 0-1 lead inside ten minutes of the throw in and it took a penalty save from Caoimhe Buckley to deny St Finbarr's Keeva McCarthy after



Camogie players from Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil, Glanmire. Pictures: Larry Cummins



The team from Scoil Padre Pio, Churchfield.



Special guest Amy O'Connor, Cork camogie player, with girls from Gaelscoil Pheig Sayers.



St Patrick's NS, Whitechurch, before their first game.



Pupils from Scoil Mhuire NS, Rathpeacon, enjoying their day.

# Girl power at



Organisers of the Cork primary school camogie blitz with some school representatives.



Teacher Caoimhe de Burca, special guest Cork camogie player Amy O'Connor, teacher Rebecca Ní Shíocháin and principal Donal O'Buachalla, Gaelcholáiste Mhuire, North Mon AG at the Cork primary school camogie blitz.





# camogie blitz



The Gaelscoil Mhuscraí, Blarney, squad at the camogie blitz for Cork primary schools.



Girls from Scoil Oilibhéir, Ballyvolane having a bit of craic at the blitz.



A team from Scoil Aiséirí Christ, Farranree, that was competing in the blitz.



Team picture of Gaelscoil Uí Riordáin, Ballincollig.



Goalkeeper Sarah Jane O'Donovan from Gaelscoil Pheig Sayers gets a chance to practice her skills.



Some of the players from Scoil Oilibhéir, Ballyvolane, at the AG.



# Enniskeane ace's season blighted by injury woes

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

HER season has been blighted by injury – but Orla Cronin should be fit for Cork's final All-Ireland senior camogie championship Group 1 game on July 2nd.

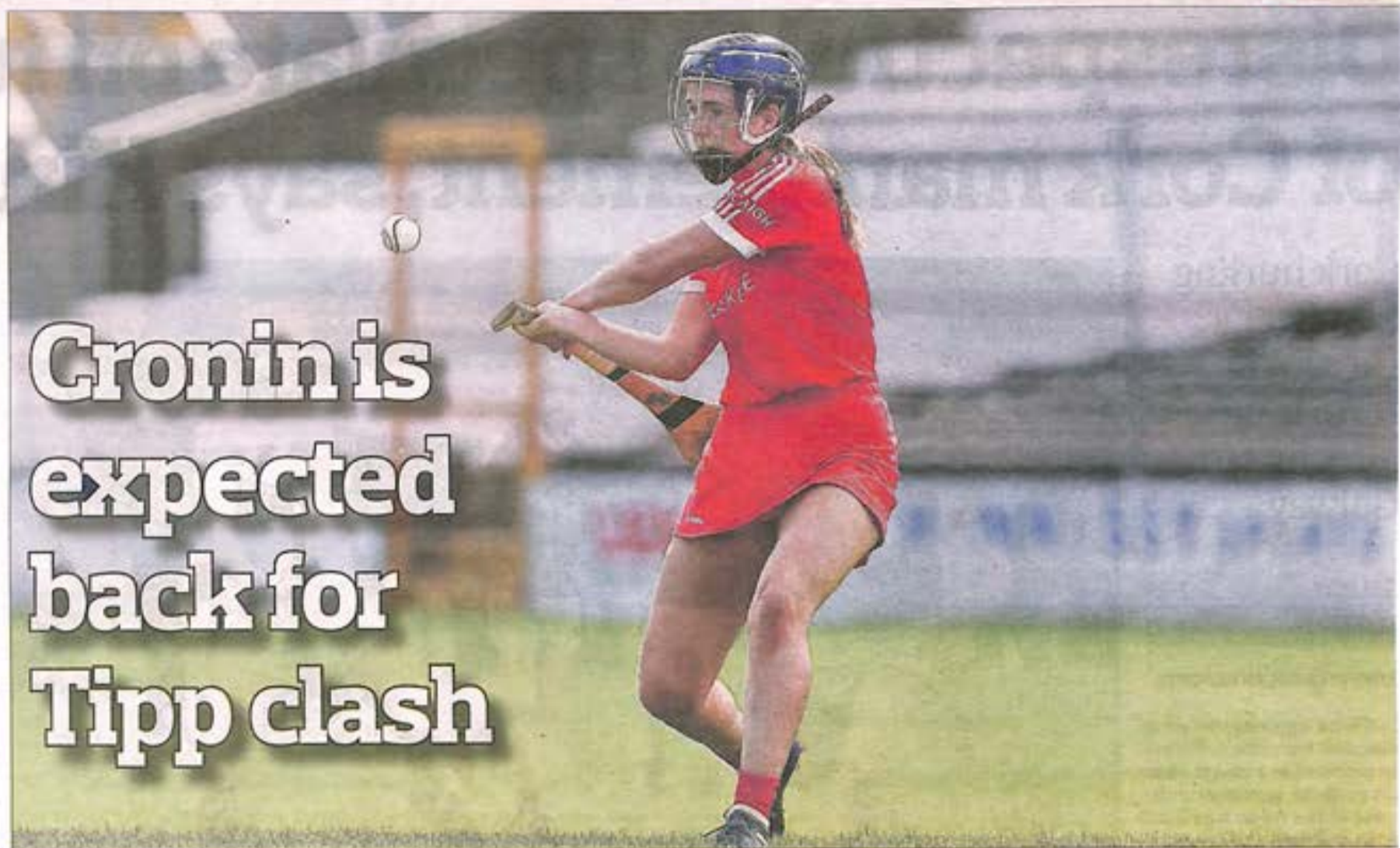
The Enniskeane woman missed last weekend's 0-16 to 0-10 win away against Waterford in Walsh Park because of a groin injury, as the Rebels booked their All-Ireland semi-final spot with one group game to spare.

It was the latest setback for the All-Star forward who didn't feature in the county's national league campaign.

Cronin came on as a sub in Cork's opening Group 1 championship win against Wexford, started in the wins against Clare and Dublin, but missed last weekend's clash with Waterford.

Cork camogie boss Matthew Twomey knows he needs a fit-and-firing Cronin for the latter stages of the championship.

'Orla picked up another injury and we were told



# Cronin is expected back for Tipp clash

on the Thursday before the game that she couldn't play against Waterford,' Twomey confirmed.

'The good news is that it's

not a long-term injury.

'We couldn't play her last weekend and it wasn't worth the risk because we need players like Orla for the busi-

ness end. She has had trouble with injuries all through the year. We have virtually been without her all year so we are hoping that we can get her

back on the pitch for the last couple of games.'

Twomey is confident that Cronin will feature in Cork's final group game against Tip-

perary on July 2nd.

'Orla has to be play in that game, otherwise she's going into the semi-final with very little played,' he explained.

# Twomey pleased with squad development

## Rebels book semi-final spot with one game to spare

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

CORK manager Matthew Twomey hailed the depth of his squad after the Rebels booked their All-Ireland senior camogie championship semi-final spot with one game to spare.

The latest win, away to Waterford at Walsh Park last weekend, means Cork top Group 1 with a 100 percent record following four successive victories. They cannot be caught at the top so they now go straight into the semi-finals with one group game (home to Tipperary) left to play.

'We were down Orla Cronin, Laura Tracey, Sorcha McCartan and Hannah Looney didn't start, but we still won. That's a huge plus for the so-called inexperienced players. To play the way they did was very good,' Twomey told *The Southern Star*.

From the opening champi-

### SENIOR GROUP 1

|           | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | SD  | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| Cork (Q)  | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 39 | +36 | 12  |
| Waterford | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 68 | 52 | +16 | 6   |
| Dublin    | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 45 | 50 | -5  | 5   |
| Tipperary | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 48 | 53 | -5  | 5   |
| Wexford   | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 44 | 73 | -29 | 3   |
| Clare     | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 44 | 57 | -13 | 2   |

onship win against Wexford to the latest victory against Waterford (0-16 to 0-10), Twomey is pleased with his side's progress, especially their growing strength in depth.

'That is something I was very conscious of since last year. We want to develop as many players as we can, players that we know we can call on,' the Cork boss explained.

'Our subs against Waterford did turn the game. Kate Wall did very well when she came on, Emma Murphy did well, and Hannah Looney is a huge plus too. We have had good displays and we are happy with the squad and the depth that we now have.'

Cork, as expected, were given a real test by Waterford. Twomey knows the pressure is on his team in these games, as they are the favourites, but he's delighted with the character Cork are showing. The first

half was tight and Cork led 0-6 to 0-4 at the break, thanks to scores from Méadhbh Murphy, Katrina Mackey, Fiona Keating and Cliona Healy, though Chloe Sigerson did miss an injury-time penalty. Beth Carton was keeping Waterford in touch and scored 0-3 in the opening half.

'Every game has been different and difficult. All we wanted was to get a result, and we did, and we finished the game very strong which is a testament to our fitness work,' Twomey said.

Waterford never went away in the second half, but Cork always held the lead, with the outstanding Mackey, Laura Hayes, Amy O'Connor and Cliona Healy all scoring. Cork goalkeeper Amy Lee, who had her best game of the season according to Twomey, then saved Carton's 70th minute penalty.

This latest win means Cork go directly into the semi-final,



Cork boss Matthew Twomey is delighted with his side's development through their All-Ireland championship campaign.

but Twomey wants to keep momentum building with a fifth group win against Tipperary.

'We will still put out a strong team against Tipperary because we want to keep our momentum and make sure we are in the best possible shape for the semi-final,' the Cork boss added.

#### Scorers

Cork: K Mackey 0-4; A O'Connor

0-4 (3f); C Healy 0-3; L Hayes 0-2; M Murphy, F Keating, S McCarthy 0-1 each.

Waterford: B Carton 0-7 (4f); N Rockett 0-2; S Lacey 0-1.

CORK: A Lee; M Murphy, L Coppinger, M Cahalane; L Hayes, C O'Sullivan, S McCarthy; K O'Mahony, A Thompson; C Healy, F Keating, I O'Regan; A O'Connor, C Sigerson, K Mackey.

Subs: H Looney for C O'Sullivan (40), E Murphy for I O'Regan (43),

K Wall for K Mackey (59), A Smith for C Sigerson (59).

WATERFORD: B O'Regan; K Corbett-Barry, I Heffernan, M Power; O Hickey, C Carroll, A Landers; L Bray; C Griffin; A Flynn, B Carton, M O'Brien; R Walsh, R Kirwan, N Rockett.

Subs: T Power for A Flynn (25), S Lacey for O Hickey (35), C O'Sullivan for R Kirwan (49), A O'Sullivan for L Bray (56).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).



Cork defender Leanne O'Sullivan (Glen Rovers) with possession in wet and windy conditions against Derry. Picture: Larry Cummins

## Tricky Derry side is the next obstacle for Cork Intermediates

**SUNDAY**  
Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Intermediate championship:  
Cork v Derry, Owenbeg, Co Derry; 1pm

ROUND four of the Glen Dimplex Intermediate championship and a long trip to Derry for Cork but they make it in confident form with three victories to their credit with wins over Wexford, Kilkenny and Meath to ensure they top group two as we enter the latter stages.

The chasing pack has Derry and Kilkenny hot on their heels in pursuit with two wins and one defeat.

Kilkenny lost out to Cork before recording a victory over Derry in a tough battle on home ground.

The trip to Derry is a long one for Cork and one which is sure to be energy sapping. Derry need to win this to stay in contention to grab one of the top spots as do Kilkenny who travel to take on Wexford.

If Derry were to overcome Cork and Kilkenny defeat Wexford it would see three teams on equal points as we head into the last round where Cork will take on Kildare, Derry meet Wexford and Kilkenny are away to Meath. Whilst the three teams at the end of the table won't be in the running for quarter finals spot, none of them will want to be facing into relegation play-off, so all will be battling for victories on what could very well be an exciting last weekend of round-robin fixtures.

The sides met earlier in the season in the league, where Cork recorded narrow 1-10 to 1-8 victory in Castle Road on a day where conditions were tough with heavy rain and wind making life difficult for both sides. In that clash, Cork led at the break by a point after a Rachel O'Shea goal gave them the upper hand but Derry battled back and with time almost up it took late Joanne Casey pointed free to ensure Cork edged home. Derry had two excellent victories to get their championship campaign up and running.

They defeated Meath by nine points before going on to overcome Kildare by seven points but they failed to match the intensity of a Kilkenny side who bounced back after the disappointment of their previous weekends defeat at the hands of Cork.

**CAMOGIE**  
Mary Newman

Martin Coulter will be hoping to get his campaign back on winning ways and they will be looking to avenge the league result. Captain Shannon O'Doherty, Aoife Ni Chaiside, Grainne MacNicholl, Therese Mallon and Aoife Shaw will lead the way for the home side.

Cork are been going well they had to dig deep against a determined Meath side in their last outing where four points separated the sides a Cliona O'Callaghan goal in the opening half proving vital.

In defence Cork held their composure under huge Meath pressure whilst the work rate around the middle was huge where Lauren Callanan showed huge energy all through, the unerring free taking of Joanne Casey is a huge plus and their ability to hold out under immense pressure ensured victory was secured.

With a semi-final spot within touching distance Cork will need to stay focused as Derry will not be an easy place to get a result.

**SUNDAY**  
All-Ireland U16 Championships: Cork v Galway, Castle Road, 2pm  
Exams are over its time for the All-Ireland U16 championship to get underway and on Sunday Cork welcome Galway to Castle Road.

Since 2015, Cork and Galway have shared the honours between them Galway enjoyed an incredible run from 2015 to 2018 winning four titles in a row. Cork breached a 16-year gap in 2019 to take the title and in the process denied Galway five in a row as they finally got over the line. 2020 brought covid and with no championship played they were denied the opportunity to make it of back-to-back titles but undeterred Cork were back strong in 2021 and in a thrilling clash with Kilkenny they retained the crown.

Now it all started again and preparations have been good as Cork retained their Munster crown earlier in the season. Donie Daly continues at the helm and he will be hoping to get one over on the old enemy and get their campaign off to a good start.



Cork's Katrina Mackey receiving treatment at Walsh Park. Picture: Noel Browne

## Weekend battle ahead for second and third places in quarter-finals

WHILE Cork are through to the All-Ireland semi-finals with a game in hand there's still a massive weekend ahead on July 2 to determine second and third places for the quarter-finals.

Dublin slipped up by drawing with Clare, with Tipperary defeating Wexford at the same time. Tipperary, who struck late to deny Wexford, are level on five points with the Dubs, who let a five-point lead slip late on against Clare to leave Ennis with just a share of the spoils.

Had Dublin won they'd have overtaken Waterford who remain in second on six points after their loss to Cork, but Tipp are now hot on their heels by virtue of their victory, whose win was their first of the championship, after two draws with Clare and Dublin. Coincidentally, both Dublin and Tipp are deadlocked on points and scoring difference. Waterford's destiny is in their own hands against Clare who must come out fighting to avoid relegation.

Wexford could be in a relegation battle while equally jumping into third place depending on how the last day goes. They have just made the step back up to the Division 1 league for 2023. It would be a massive blow to either Wexford or Clare to go down.

Waterford won't have it all their own way in Ennis, but you would have to fancy them coming out on top, thereby ensuring that Dublin's and Tipp's outcome with Wexford and Cork respectively are knockout games. Wexford will have to come out all guns blazing against Dublin to avoid a relegation battle and potentially take a third spot, so everything is on the line here.

You would expect Tipperary to lose in Cork's backyard considering their form to date and with Cork manager Matthew Twomey saying he intends to put out as strong a team as he possibly can for the clash.

So, to call it, I'm going for Cork, Waterford and for Wexford to pip Dublin with Clare going into the relegation final.

At the CIT grounds on Tuesday evening, Laura Treacy, Chloe Sigerson, and Amy O'Connor were sitting out the training session. Treacy was doing some individual running, but her AC shoulder injury won't be ready until the

**CAMOGIE**  
Linda Mellerick

semi-final. Sigerson and O'Connor just had little niggles and will be fine. This weekend off is welcomed.

Group 2 are a game behind with all six counties in action today with their final games also on July 2. So, we'll know what we have at that point. The key game there is Galway and Kilkenny on the final day of the group championships to determine who will finish first or second. Whoever finishes first is sure to avoid Cork in the semi-final and that's what both teams will want.

With two games left there are too many conundrums to make a call, but the third-place battle should be between Antrim and Limerick. Limerick sit a point behind Antrim but have their games against the top two behind them whereas Antrim must face Galway. I don't see an upset there so if Limerick defeat Down this weekend they'll go two points ahead and it will again all come down to the final day between the two counties where the winner takes all. So, the table for the 'non top three', as we'll call them, is incredibly exciting.

Dublin boss Adrian O'Sullivan admitted after their draw to not yet being able to decide whether the result was a good or a bad one.

"It was a game we were in control of and should have won and it was a game we hung on to for dear life to get a point out of," he said. "It was one of those manic games where it lost all shape. We tried our best to control but ultimately Clare stuck to the task. They're a savage outfit and clawed it back to get the draw out of it in the end but maybe we'll look back on it disappointed that we should have held on for the win."

While the championship is out of Clare's reach now Eimear Kelly doesn't intend going out in their last game on a losing note.

"We're always proud to put on the Clare jersey. I certainly am and I know everyone inside is so there'll be no fear of us. We'll come out fighting again the next day and give Waterford one hell of a go." An exciting end awaits.



Mariead O'Donovan, chairperson Cork County Camogie Board, presents the 2021 Cork County Senior Camogie Championship trophy to Seandún captain Lauren Homan. Picture: Howard Crowdy

## Cork Camogie: Guide to the 2022 SE Systems Championships

DATES for the SE Systems adult camogie championship were announced last week.

For clubs with inter-county players the senior championship won't get underway until two weeks after the All-Ireland finals. This is with the hope that both the Cork senior and intermediate teams will be in Croke Park on August 7.

Four games in four weeks will certainly test the stamina of players and clubs will be hoping to be injury free.

This week we take a look at the dates for the senior and intermediate championships.

Pencil them in and take note of a very busy few weeks which will begin on August 14 when the divisional section begins.

**SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP**  
At senior level, there are three groups with five club teams in each and one group with five divisional teams. The top two from each group will progress and one bonus place is available for the best placed club team from the groups, and they will go into the quarter-finals. The 2021 Senior Championship semi-finalists, Inniscarra, Sarsfields and St Finbarr's were seeded, as were county champions Seandún.

**FIXTURES**  
Group 1

Wednesday August 17: Inniscarra v Courcey Rovers.

Thursday August 18: Aug Douglas v Glen Rovers.

Friday August 26: Glen Rovers v Inniscarra; Douglas v Killeagh.

Saturday September 3: Killeagh v Glen Rovers; Courcey Rovers v Douglas.

Saturday September 10: Glen Rovers v Courcey Rovers; Killeagh v Inniscarra.

Saturday September 17: Courcey Rovers v Killeagh; Inniscarra v Douglas.

Group 2

Tuesday August 16: Newcestown v Ballygarvan; Fr O'Neill's v Cloughdun.

Friday August 26: Fr O'Neill's v Sarsfields.

Saturday August 27: Cloughdun v Newcestown.

Sunday September 4: Sarsfields v Cloughdun; Ballygarvan Fr O'Neill's.

Sunday September 11: Cloughdun v Ballygarvan; Sarsfields v Newcestown.

Sunday September 18: Ballygarvan v Sarsfields; Newcestown Fr O'Neill's.

Group 3

Wednesday August 17: Enniskeane v St Finbarr's.

Thursday August 18: Éire Óg v Ballincollig.

Saturday August 27: St Finbarr's v Éire Óg; Enniskeane v St Catherine's.

Saturday September 3: St Catherine's v St Finbarr's; Ballincollig v Enniskeane.

Saturday September 10: St Finbarr's v Ballincollig; St Catherine's v Éire Óg.

Saturday September 17: Ballincollig v St Catherine's; Éire Óg v Enniskeane.

Group 4

Sunday August 14: Imokilly v Carrigrohoun; Carbery v Seandún.

**CAMOGIE**

Mary Newman

Sunday August 21: Carbery v Avondhu.

Monday August 22: Seandún v Imokilly.

Sunday September 4: Avondhu v Seandún; Carrigrohoun v Carbery.

Sunday September 11: Seandún v Carrigrohoun; Avondhu v Imokilly.

Sunday September 18: Carrigrohoun v Avondhu; Imokilly v Carbery.

The senior quarter finals will take place on September 24 and 25.

The senior semi-finals are on Sunday October 9, with the final scheduled for Sunday October 23.

**INTERMEDIATE**

In intermediate camogie, there are two groups, one of seven and one of six teams with the top two in each group going to the semi-finals which are scheduled for Saturday, October 8, with the final on Saturday, October 22.

Group 1

Wednesday August 17: Na Piarasigh v Milford; Carrigaline v Clonakilty.

Friday August 18: Aghabullogue v Watergrasshill.

Wednesday August 24: Milford v Carrigaline.

Thursday August 25: Clonakilty v Na Piarasigh; Aghabullogue v Kibrittain/Timoleague.

Wednesday August 31: Watergrasshill v Milford.

Thursday September 1: Na Piarasigh v Aghabullogue; Kibrittain/Timoleague v Clonakilty.

Thursday September 8: Aghabullogue v Carrigaline.

Friday September 9: Milford v Kibrittain/Timoleague; Clonakilty v Watergrasshill.

Thursday September 15: Na Piarasigh v Carrigaline.

Friday September 16: Kibrittain/Timoleague v Watergrasshill; Milford v Clonakilty.

Friday September 23: Carrigaline v Watergrasshill; September Clonakilty v Aghabullogue; Kibrittain/Timoleague v Na Piarasigh.

Saturday October 1: Aghabullogue v Milford.

Sunday October 2: Watergrasshill v Na Piarasigh; Carrigaline v Kibrittain/Timoleague.

Group 2

Friday August 19: Blackrock v Brian Dillon's.

Saturday August 20: Newtownshandrum v Valley Rovers; Charleville v Ballyhea.

Sunday August 28: Ballyhea v Brian Dillon's; Valley Rovers v Blackrock.

Monday August 29: Newtownshandrum v Charleville.

Tuesday September 6: Blackrock v Ballyhea; Charleville v Valley Rovers.

Wednesday September 7: Brian Dillon's v Newtownshandrum.

Tuesday September 13: Newtownshandrum v Ballyhea; Valley Rovers v Brian Dillon's.

Wednesday September 14: Charleville v Blackrock.

Saturday October 1: Ballyhea v Valley Rovers.

Sunday October 2: Brian Dillon's v Charleville; Blackrock v Newtownshandrum.

# Murray looking for more of same

## Camogie

### Daragh Ó Conchúir

With two of camogie's big three in Group 2 of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Championship, it was always likely top spot and automatic qualification to the semi-final would be between champions Galway and Kilkenny.

And while as a result and with the way the programme of fixtures unfolded, you were unlikely to have four fighting for the two quarter-final slots as is the case in Group 1, you do have significantly high stakes for each of the six teams next weekend, when all will be decided with the prizes on offer related directly to the three games.

With a poorer score difference, Kilkenny will travel to Athenry needing to win to secure top spot but like Galway, are already assured of qualification to the knockout stages. A draw will do the hosts.

A share of the spoils will also be sufficient for Limerick in Antrim to bag the coveted quarter-final spot but the home team can advance on their return to the top tier, having garnered intermediate honours last year, if they triumph.

Nothing but a win will do for Offaly in a bottom-of-the-table clash with Down, who by virtue of a previous draw with Antrim, will avoid a relegation play-off against Group 1's basement dwellers if they can secure a similar result

against the Faithful women, who have yet to get on the board.

Both manager Cathal Murray and Glen Dimplex player of the match Carrie Dolan emphasised the policy of not looking beyond the next game as key to Galway's progression after overcoming Antrim by 2-17 to 0-6 at Dunloy Cúchullains' grounds.

Dolan excelled from placed balls in blustery conditions while Siobhán McGrath and Aoife Donohue goaled in each period but it was the second-half performance, into the wind and with the result already assured, that impressed Murray most.

"Antrim are a really good team, were really good intermediate champions," said

Murray. "There was a strong breeze in it and I know we were 10 points up at half-time but it didn't feel we were going well but our second-half performance, we were really happy with that. We're just hoping that we can carry that into next week. We need to."

"Everyone outside (the camp) was saying at the start it was going to come down to that game. We were taking every game at the time and doing our job. It's there now, we're ahead on score difference. It's going to be a massive game in Athenry."

Dolan concurred with her manager on the initial lack of cohesiveness in the Galway unit and reasserted the message on treating every opposition with maximum respect.

"We started shaky enough (with Sarah Healy having to make a great save) but the last 20 minutes we pushed on. Antrim are a very good team, they're very good forwards, they're very fast. We knew we couldn't take the foot off the pedal at any stage so when we came out in the second half, there was no excuses about the wind or nothing like that. We wanted to shove on and we did that."

Meanwhile two goals from Katie Nolan, another from Julieann Malone and the trademark accuracy of Denise Gaule were among the features as Kilkenny accounted for Offaly by 3-18 to 2-7 at UPMC Nowlan Park.

Elsewhere, Caoimhe Costelloe shot all bar one point of

Limerick's tally as John Lillis's team came from nine points down to prevail by five, 2-11 to 0-12 at Cappamore.

Costelloe's first goal just before the interval was vital, particularly as it came within seconds of a brilliant save by Claire Keating at the other end, with Niamh Mallon having helped establish a firm Down advantage.

The hosts kicked for home after the restart with the wind at their backs, as Costelloe grabbed a fortuitous second goal from a long-distance free but also arced over a hat of points from various distances and angles. Paula O'Hagan attempted to stall the momentum with two pressure frees but there was no holding back the green tide.

## Glory for Tipp's Dúrlas Óg and Cork's Éire Óg at hurling's Féile

### John Coleman

Dúrlas Óg of Tipperary were the big winners from the John West Féile na nGael hurling finals played across Dublin and Meath on Saturday — captain Evan Nolan lifting the Christy Ring Trophy after they defeated Ahane of Limerick in the Division 1 Cup final in Abbotstown.

A Leelan Donoghue goal had helped Dúrlas Óg edge James Stephens of Kilkenny by 1-7 to 2-2 in the semi-final while Ahane defeated Kilmacud Crokes by 1-8 to 1-4.

The final was finely poised at half-time before goals from Euan Murray and Killian Minogue put the youngsters from Thurles in the driving seat. Murray was also their top scorer while Keelan Dunne, Kyle O'Dowd, and Alex Coppinger also impressed as they won by 2-10 to 0-3 and brought the cup back to Thurles for the first time since 1990.

Douglas of Cork put the disappointment of an early defeat

to James Stephens behind them to claim the Division 1 Shield by defeating Athenry by 4-1 to 1-7 while Balinteer St John's defeated Mount Slon by 2-4 to 1-4 to take Plate title.

There was also joy for Éire Óg of Cork as they won the Division 1 Camogie crown by defeating Boherlahan-Dualla of Tipperary in the final by 1-3 to 0-0.

The Cork girls had defeated Windgap of Kilkenny in the semi-final by 1-5 to 2-0. In the final Clodagh Fitzgerald struck for 1-1 while Clara Murphy and Alannah Whelton also got on the scoresheet as captain Maria Barry Murphy brought the cup back to Ovens again, Éire Óg having previously won it in 2019.

The festival of hurling saw 80 clubs and close to 2,000 players involved as many golden memories were made in what is one of the biggest underage sporting events in Europe.

Ruairi Óg of Cushendall in Antrim enjoyed a memorable afternoon as they were



Éire Óg of Cork celebrate after winning Division 1 by defeating Boherlahan-Dualla of Tipperary.

Picture via Éire Óg Camogie Club @EireOgCI

crowned Division 2 hurling champions after defeating St Oliver Plunkett's of Westmeath by 1-7 to 1-6.

Ruairi Óg's camogie team also made the Division 2 final only to be defeated by Swatragh of Derry.

Tralee Parnells of Kerry went home with the Division 3 hurling trophy after they defeated Trim by 0-9 to 0-2 while Éire Óg an Charraig Mhór of Tyrone were Division 4 champions after they edged their provincial neighbours, Seán Mac Cunnahill's of Donegal, by 1-6 to 1-2 in the final.



DEFYING GRAVITY: Camogie player Issy Davis at the launch of the Beacon Hospital All-Ireland 7s Series 2022 at Croke Park yesterday. The annual fixture takes place on the eve of the All-Ireland finals. Games are played across a number of pitches in the local area with the culmination of the final, which is played on the home pitch of Kilmacud Crokes, Páirc de Burca.

Picture: Ramsey Cardy/Sportsfile

## Camogie

### Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Championship

Group 2: Kilkenny 3-18 Offaly 2-7; Limerick 2-11 Down 0-12; Galway 2-17 Antrim 0-6

|          | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Galway   | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 96 | 31 | 12  |
| Kilkenny | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 95 | 45 | 12  |
| Limerick | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 44 | 68 | 6   |
| Antrim   | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 63 | 69 | 4   |
| Down     | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 46 | 90 | 1   |
| Offaly   | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 44 | 85 | 0   |

### All-Ireland Inter Championship

Group 2: Wexford 3-13 Kilkenny 3-7; Meath 2-18 Kildare 2-8

|          | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Cork     | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 52 | 26 | 9   |
| Derry    | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 48 | 35 | 6   |
| Kilkenny | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 62 | 57 | 6   |
| Wexford  | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 55 | 69 | 6   |
| Meath    | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 61 | 66 | 3   |
| Kildare  | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 40 | 66 | 3   |

### Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship

Group 1: Limerick 1-11 Down 1-7; Armagh 1-18 Antrim 1-16

|           | P | W | D | L | F   | A  | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|-----|----|-----|
| Armagh    | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 129 | 40 | 12  |
| Antrim    | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 61  | 37 | 6   |
| Roscommon | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 31  | 66 | 3   |
| Limerick  | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 28  | 64 | 3   |
| Down      | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 25  | 67 | 0   |

3y Daragh Ó Conchúir

**G**LEN DIMPLEX All-Ireland senior camogie champions Galway will do battle with Kilkenny next week to determine who will emerge from Group 2 as table-toppers and earn the resultant automatic semi-final spot.

A quirk of the draw also has last year's intermediate winners Antrim going toe-to-toe with Limerick, with the third qualifying slot from the group up for grabs.

And that means that the final group game between Down and Offaly also has a huge amount riding on it, with the losers facing a relegation play-off against the bottom team in Group 1.

Right now, it is Offaly who prop up the table with no points. Susan Earner's crew battled all the way to the final whistle against Kilkenny and were particularly competitive in the second half, but by then the result was already assured, the Nonesiders leading by 12 points at the interval on the way to a 3-18 to 2-7 win at UPMC Nowlan Park.

The Cats racked up the scores with relative ease in the first half and, after Mairéad Teehan equalised Denise Gaule's opener, Julieanne Malone began a run of 12 successive scores for Brian Dowling's side that included six more points for Gaule.

Miriam Walsh, Aoife Prendergast and Michaela Kennelly also clipped over nice scores and, although Sarah Harding provided a brief respite for Offaly with a goal, Kilkenny's reply was ruthlessly swift, Katie Nolan rattling the Faithfuls' net from the next attack to make it 1-13 to 1-1 at the break.

Nolan grabbed her second goal six minutes after the resumption and, when Malone raised another green flag in the 29th minute, the margin was 18. Offaly fought valiantly and Teehan was their principal scoring contributor but they must now defeat Down next weekend to avoid a relegation play-off.

A draw will be enough for the Mourhewomen to cement their elite status, as they have a point on the board, having drawn with Antrim previously.

The red and blacks fell to Limerick by 2-11 to 0-12 at Cappamore but would have been harbouring quarter-final hopes approaching half-time as they led by nine points with the wind at their backs.

Limerick had only scored one point, from Caoimhe Costelloe, while Niamh Mallon converted five frees and Paul O'Hagan, Amy McAleenan, Anna Rogan and Clara Cowan also split the posts.

McAleenan had a chance to extend



**HOLDING ON:** Galway's Niamh Harding (left) and Antrim's Chloe O'Connell (right) slug it out for possession

# Crucial Cats clash for holders Galway

## Winners will top group and earn place in semi-final

that advantage but Claire Keating made a great save to prevent a goal and, within seconds, the sensational Costelloe executed a lovely one-two with Caoimhe Lyons to goal just before the short whistle. It was a telling six-point turnaround.

John Lillis' outfit had the wind in the second half but more significant was the presence of Costelloe, who finished with a tally of 2-10 as she dragged the Shannonsiders back into the game and then hauled them clear of the visitors.

Her second goal was fortuitous, as Down netminder Catherine McGourty spilled her 60m free ten minutes after the restart. That was

a major blow for the visitors and, even though O'Hagan converted a couple of frees, Costelloe punished a number of defensive indiscretions, before Lyons finally became the second Limerick player to score and ensure a victory that moved her side into third.

This result sets up a mouth-watering clash with senior newcomers Antrim next week. Having won two games in a row now, Limerick only need a draw while Antrim, who will have home advantage, must win.

The Ulster side will have to shake off any lingering effects of their 2-17 to 0-6 defeat by All-Ireland champions Galway who, like Kilkenny,

boast a perfect record and are certain of making the quarter-finals at least. The vastly superior score difference boasted by Cathal Murray's charges means that a share of the spoils will put them into the last four.

Galway had scored nine goals in three games and Siobhán McGrath's 23rd minute major was an important score as it opened up some clear daylight between the teams for the first time.

Caitrin Dobbins and Róisín McCormick had given the hosts a solid start with a couple of good scores but a pair of Dolan points that bookmarked scores from Sabina

Rabbitte and Aisling O'Reilly settled the Westerners.

Aine Magill had two points for Antrim but, after McGrath's goal, Dolan doubled her tally and Rebecca Hennelly slotted a brace, too, to make it 1-12 to 0-4 at the break. Sight of the latter being replaced by Catherin Finnerty just before the short whistle will concern Galway supporters, however.

The Tribeswomen's second goal came via the dynamic Aoife Donohue seven minutes from the end of normal time but it had been straightforward by then, with next week the one that counts for all six teams now.

# SE Systems Junior camogie championships are all set to get underway

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

THE dates for the SE Systems Junior camogie championship were announced recently, with six grades of junior championships to be played.

The grades are junior A, B, C, there is also junior second teams championship for teams from senior and intermediate clubs who wish to play in a championship for second teams.

There is also a second teams championship for teams from junior clubs and a 13-a-side junior championship for clubs who might not be in a position to field an adult team at 15-a-side.

All games will be played on a round-robin basis and with games each week.

**JUNIOR A**

There are only ten clubs graded Junior A, and they are divided into two groups of five with the top two in each group going on to contest the semi-finals. In Group one games get under way on Monday August 15, when Castletyons meet Mallow and league champions Tracton



The Tracton side who won the Junior A camogie league. They take on Sliabh Rua in the first round of the championship.

take on Sliabh Rua. In round 2 on Friday August 26 its Tracton against Castletyons, and Saturday 27 Mallow meet Sarsfields 2. Round 3 is on Friday September 2 with Sliabh Rua meeting Castletyons and Sarsfields 2 playing Tracton. Round 4 Wednesday September 14, Castletyons versus Sarsfields 2, and Sliabh Rua play mallow and onto the last round on Friday September 24, where Sarsfields 2 play Sliabh Rua and Mallow take on Tracton.

In Group 2 Round 1 Monday August 15, St Vincent's play Cobh and Ballinhassig meet Ballinora. Round 2 is on Friday August 26, Ballinora versus St Vincent's and Ballinhassig versus Ballinascarth. Round 3 Friday September 2, Ballinascarth will play Ballinora and Cobh meet Ballinhassig. Round 4 Wednesday September 14, its Ballinora versus Cobh, Ballinascarth meet St Vincent's and Round 5 on Friday September 24, while Cobh

and Ballinascarth meet with St Vincent's playing Ballinhassig.

**JUNIOR B**

Fifteen teams in Junior B divided into three groups of five with the top two in each going through to quarter or semi finals.

Group 1: Round 1 Saturday 20th August Castlemartyr v Youghal, Inniscarra 2 v Courcy Rovers 2; Round 2 Wednesday 31st August Courcy Rovers 2 v Castlemartyr; Round 3 Saturday 24th September Youghal v Rockban; Castlemartyr v Inniscarra 2.

Group 2: Round 1 Saturday 20th August Na Piarasigh 2 v Banteer; Blarney v Bishopstown; Round 2 Wednesday 31st August Bishopstown v Na Piarasigh 2; Blarney v Erins Own; Round Saturday 10th September Erins Own v Bishopstown; Banteer v Blarney; Round 4 Saturday 17th September Bishopstown v Banteer; Erins Own v Na Piarasigh 2; Round 5 Saturday 24th September Banteer v Erins Own; Na Piarasigh 2 v Blarney.

ney.

Group 3: Round 1 Saturday 20th August Aghada v Glen Rovers 2; Barryroe v Kilbree; Round 2 Wednesday 31st August Kilbree v Aghada; Barryroe v Erins Og 2; Round 3 Saturday 10th September Erins Og 2 v Kilbree; Glen Rovers 2 v Barryroe; Round 4 Saturday 17th September Kilbree v Glen Rovers 2; Erins Og 2 v Aghada; Round 5 Saturday 24th September Glen Rovers 2 v Erins Og 2; Aghada v Barryroe.

**JUNIOR C**

Ten teams make up the Junior C championship here. We have two groups of five with the top two in each group going on to contest the semi-finals.

Group 1: Round 1 Wednesday 20th July St Fanahans v Kilworth; Castletyons 2 v Bride Rovers; Round 2 Thursday 20th July Bride Rovers v St Fanahans; Castletyons 2 v Kinsale; Round 3 Friday 5th August Kinsale v Bride Rovers; Kilworth Castletyons 2; Round 4 Monday 15th August Bride Rovers v Kilworth; Kinsale v St Fanahans; Round 5 Wednesday 24th August Kilworth Kinsale; St Fanahans Castletyons 2.

# Holders Cork lose opener to Galway

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

|        |     |
|--------|-----|
| Galway | 6-3 |
| Cork   | 1-7 |

**HOLDERS** Cork had no answer to a well-drilled Galway side as they opened the defence of their Tesco All-Ireland Under-16 championship in Castle Road yesterday afternoon.

Three goals from Caoimhe Kelly in the second half helped propel Galway to top of the group. The first goal came from a long range free and two more in the space of eight minutes in the second half ensured no way back for a Cork side who will regret shooting 11 wides over the hour.

Rain made underfoot conditions slippery and it was hard on both sides but huge credit to the players as they played with huge intensity and determination despite having to deal with three torrential showers of rain over the hour.

With the sides level at 0-2 a piece after twenty minutes Cork won a penalty after Louise O'Neill was fouled en route to goal, but Michelle Gately stood firm to deny Ava McAuliffe, but with Cork winning the rebound they won a second penalty and this time Si-nead Hurley dispatched to the net to give Cork the lead. From the puck out Galway responded with Slobhan Carr setting up Abbie Massey to dispatch a blistering shot to the net.

Amy Sheppard edged Cork back in front but Sophie Flynn had Galway back in the lead as she outpaced three cork defenders and finished to the net to leave Galway two ahead at the break, 2-2 to 1-3.

McAuliffe narrowed the gap on the restart but Galway stretched it to four points with Kelly's long range effort ending up in the net.

Cork were now playing with more determination and had two points without reply, but with Galway dropping back an extra player in defence they weathered the storm as Cork hit three wides in a row.

With just two points between the sides, Cork could find no way past a strong Galway defence, and in the space of a minute Galway were eight points clear, goals from Flynn and Kelly helping steady their challenge again and when Kelly finished to the



Cork's Kate Fennesy, left, evades the attentions of Galway's Ruth Mannion during the Tesco U16 All Ireland Camogie Championship match at Castle Road, Cork. Picture: Jim Coughlan

net for her third goal there was no way back for Cork.

Galway won a penalty but Emma O'Sullivan denied Kelly her fourth goal with a good save before the sides swapped late points.

Cork travel to Kilkenny next weekend and this is a game they have to win in order to keep their hopes of progressing alive.

**Scorers for Galway:** C Kelly 3-2 (1-1 fso, S Flynn 2-0, A Massey 1-0, L Murphy 0-1.

**Cork:** S Hurley 1-0 (pen), A Sheppard 0-3 (0-2f), A McAuliffe 0-2, K Fennesy, L O'Connell 0-1 each.

**Galway:** M Gately, T Murray, A Collins, R Murphy; L Mc Grath, R Mannion, R Crowe; C Callaghan, E Brogan; S Carr, C Mc Grath, L Murphy; S Flynn, C Kelly, A Massey.

**Subs:** E Bergin for R Mannion (52), L O'Halloran for L Murphy (52).

**Cork:** E O'Sullivan; A O'Riordan, S Hurley, R Roche; A Daly, L Dunlea, O Cremin; A Fitzgerald, A O'Neill; A Mc McCarthy, K Fennesy, A Sheppard; A McAuliffe, L O'Neill, G Finn.

**Subs:** A Cottrell for A O'Neill (37), L O'Connell for A Mc McCarthy (41), S Murphy for K Fennesy (54), C Rice for R Roche (57), E Buckley for A Fitzgerald (59).

**Referee:** Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).



Cork's Grainne Finn, right holds on to possession from: Therese Murray of Galway at Castle Road. Picture: Jim Coughlan

## Derry join Cork on top after defeating the Rebels

|       |      |
|-------|------|
| Derry | 1-15 |
| Cork  | 3-7  |

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**COURTESY** of their two-point victory over Cork in Owenbeg on a 1-15 to 3-7 scoreline on Sunday, Derry join the Rebels at the top of Group 2 of the Glen Dimplex Intermediate camogie championship with one game to play for both sides.

Next weekend, Cork take on Kildare who, to date, have lost all their games, while Derry meet a Wexford side still very much in the hunt following their impressive 3-13 to 3-7 win over Kilkenny this weekend.

For Wexford it is a must-win game, while Kildare will be battling to stay out of a relegation play-off in their clash with Cork in Páirc Uí Rinn.

Derry made all the early running in their clash with Cork and went into an early lead, but a Rachel O'Shea goal had Cork within a point of them but Derry upped the pace again and at the half-time whistle it was the home side who led 0-12 to 1-3.

### Gap

Cork rallied in the second half and inside five minutes they had narrowed the gap with points from Kaitlin Hickey and Joanne Casey keeping the pressure on Derry before Casey dispatched a penalty to the net to cut the Derry lead to a point, 2-6 to 0-13.

Derry responded with a goal and two points before Joanne Casey send a free to the Derry net, but it was not enough as the home side hung on to win by two points.

While the result does not put Cork out at this stage, it may now finish up that Cork may not win the group and will be the one of the sides to go to a quarter-final tie, but it will come down to the last round of games next weekend.

Were Cork to lose and Wexford to win, it would leave three teams level on points and then it will come down to scoring averages.

So it is still all to play for, but no doubt there was huge disappointment for Cork losing out for the first time in the round-robin series of games, but it was a huge win for the home side who will now fancy their chances against Wexford next weekend.

# There is another gear or two in us, says Twomey

Senior and intermediate double header in Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday

BY GER MCCARTHY

IT is a massive weekend for Cork camogie with the county's seniors, intermediates and U16 panels involved in crucial All-Ireland championship matches.

A double-header of Glen Dimplex All-Ireland camogie championship matches involving the Cork seniors and intermediates should attract a large attendance to Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday.

Matthew Twomey's Cork seniors are already through to the All-Ireland semi-finals but face a Tipperary side still chasing a place in the knockout stages. That games throws-in at 4pm and will be preceded by the Cork intermediate's concluding group match against Kildare (2pm).

There is plenty of West Cork interest in this year's Cork senior camogie set-up with St Colum's Libby Coppinger, St Finbarr's Méabh Cahalane, Courcey Rovers' Saoirse McCarthy and Fiona Keating, Newcestown's Ciara O'Sullivan, Kilbrittain/Timoleague's Kate Wall and Enniskeane's Orla Cronin each playing important roles in helping Cork reach the penultimate round of the senior championship.

It is over a month to Cork's All-Ireland semi-final so manager Matthew Twomey will field a strong line-up against Tipp to keep his players sharp ahead of the business end of the season. 'Our preparations have gone well and the break in between our (group) matches has probably done us the world of good,' Twomey said.

'We had players with a lot of niggling injuries but they have come around now. Player availability-wise, we will probably be short one or two for the Tipperary game. 'We will still be putting out a very strong team and give it a real rattle. This is our last competitive game before we play an All-Ireland semi-final. It would do an injustice to all the other teams involved (in trying to reach the semi-finals) if we just threw our hat at it.'

One of Twomey's main goals at the start of the campaign was



Cork's Fiona Keating in action against Clare's Niamh O'Dea in this year's All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship.

**'We want to finish the group unbeaten' – Matthew Twomey, Cork senior camogie manager**

to build a panel with enough game-changers to come off the bench and alter games. The Cork boss is pleased with how his squad has progressed so far.

'We have tried out a lot of players during the year,' he said. 'I suppose that was a conscious decision we made right at the start of the year. We wanted to give as many players a run as we possibly could. That has been done.'

'Saturday will be a great test for us because Tipperary has everything to lose. If they are beaten by us then they are out of the All-Ireland championship. It is a huge game for them.'

'It is not a do-or-die game for Cork so I want to see the players' mental strength on Saturday. It will be 60 minutes of playing for pride. We want to finish the group unbeaten more than anything else on our way to the semi-final.'

'I don't think we have completed a full game or 60-minute performance this year. There has been stuff we weren't happy with and we have gone to sleep in some games. We are hoping to peak around the time of the semi-finals and, hopefully, the final. I believe there is another gear or two in us. The players are in a great frame of mind and know what it is like to lose an All-Ireland final like last year.'

Trevor Coleman's Cork intermediates suffered a disappointing 1-16 to 3-7 defeat away to Derry in Owenbeg last weekend. That result represented Cork's first defeat of this year's Glen Dimplex All-Intermediate championship and elevated Derry into joint-first place in Group 2 alongside the Rebels.

Cork will be going all out for victory in their final (group) match at home to Kildare on Saturday. A win could secure Cork an automatic semi-final berth depending on the outcome of Derry's encounter away to Wexford and third-placed Kilkenny's clash with Meath. The top team in both intermediate groups goes

straight into the All-Ireland semi-final, while the second and third-placed teams head into the quarter-finals. Cork currently lead Derry on scoring difference (+7) so the Rebels have the advantage; but if both of the top two win it will come down to scoring difference.

Last weekend proved a disappointing one for 2022 Munster U16 camogie champions, Cork. Donie Daly's side suffered a 6-3 to 1-7 group loss at home to Gal-

way in Castle Road. That result has raised the pressure ahead of this weekend's final group outing against the side Cork defeated in last year's Tesco All-Ireland U16 final, Kilkenny. Victory would seal a quarter-final spot but defeat would mean a premature end for the Rebels in defence of their All-Ireland title. West Cork's Alice Buckley (Newcestown) and Amy McCarthy (Clonakilty) will be hoping for an improved performance and result on their previous outing against Galway.

## SENIOR GROUP 1

|           | P | W | D | L  | F  | A  | SD  | PTS |
|-----------|---|---|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Cork (Q)  | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0  | 75 | 39 | +36 | 12  |
| Waterford | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2  | 68 | 52 | +16 | 6   |
| Dublin    | 4 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 5  | 40 | -5  | 5   |
| Tipperary | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1  | 48 | 53 | -5  | 5   |
| Wexford   | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3  | 44 | 73 | -29 | 3   |
| Clare     | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2  | 44 | 57 | -13 | 2   |

## INTERMEDIATE GROUP 2

|          | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | SD  | PTS |
|----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| Cork     | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 68 | 45 | +23 | 9   |
| Derry    | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 67 | 51 | +16 | 9   |
| Kilkenny | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 62 | 57 | +5  | 6   |
| Wexford  | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 55 | 69 | -14 | 6   |
| Meath    | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 61 | 66 | -5  | 3   |
| Kildare  | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 50 | 65 | -25 | 3   |

### TODAY

Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship. Group 1.

Cork v Tipperary, Páirc Uí Rinn 4pm (J. Heffernan).

Cork are semi-finals bound but they won't want to take the foot off when they will be without a game for three weeks after today. Tipperary have improved but it might come too late to make the knock-out stages.

Verdict: Cork.

Clare v Waterford, Cusack Park 4pm (G. Donegan).

Clare need a win to try and avoid a relegation final. Their Munster form suggested they wouldn't find themselves in this predicament while Waterford will be all out for a victory to finish second.

Verdict: Waterford.

Wexford v Dublin, Bellefield, Ennischorthy 4pm (J. Dermody).

Wexford have had close battles in their last two outings and this will be another as Dublin chase a quarter-final berth.

Verdict: Dublin.

### Group 2

Galway v Kilkenny, Kenny Park 4pm (A. Larkin).

Both teams are through to the knock-out stages but Galway need only a draw to finish top and go straight through to the top four. Kilkenny may have more to prove at this stage though and can squeak a win.

Verdict: Kilkenny.

Down v Offaly, Liatroim Fontenoys 4pm (E. Cassidy).

A clash to avoid the relegation final and Down have a valuable point to their name whereas Offaly have yet to pick up one. Home advantage to give the Mourne County the edge.

Verdict: Down.

Antrim v Limerick, Corrigan Park 4pm (P. McDonald).

There is still plenty for these two to fight for here. Limerick have won their last outings and put a difficult start behind them and can take third place in the group.

Verdict: Limerick.



Cork's Izzy O'Regan and Waterford's Aoife Landers in a battle for possession during the first half at Walsh Park. Picture: Noel Browne

## No real surprises in the standings as the group games come to an end

THERE were no surprises last weekend in Group two of the senior camogie championship. Galway had a strong win over Antrim, Limerick beat Down and Kilkenny had a 3-17 to 2-7 victory over Offaly. It stands as I suggested it would. It's all down to the final day. Six games are down for decision: Cork v Tipp, Clare v Waterford, Wexford v Dublin in group 1 with Galway v Kilkenny, Down v Offaly, and Antrim v Limerick in group 2.

Galway and Kilkenny are streets ahead of the rest and third place will be determined by the Limerick and Antrim clash. A draw will do Limerick. Antrim need a win. Limerick will have a hard battle up north.

The Cork intermediates lost their fourth-round game to Derry last weekend and now, level on points, they hold a seven-point scoring advantage over second-placed Derry. They need a win over Kildare, a curtain-raiser to the senior game in the Páirc today, and to beat them by greater than the seven points that Derry beat Wexford by (if they win).

So, both teams need a win first and foremost and then a high-scoring average. This won't be the time to give your extended panel a run. Throw-in time is 2pm in both games so twitter will be the place to keep an eye on proceedings throughout the hour for scoring updates.

Kilkenny led by 12 points at the interval on the way to their victory over Offaly. The Cats racked up the scores with relative ease in the first half and after Mairéad Teehan equalised Denise Gaule's opener, Julianne Malone began a run of 12 successive scores for Brian Dowling's side that included six more points for Gaule. Miriam Walsh, Aoife Prendergast, and Michaela Kennelly also clipped over nice scores and though Sarah Harding provided a brief respite for Offaly with a goal, Kilkenny's reply was ruthlessly swift, Katie Nolan rattling the Faithful's net from the next attack to make it 1-13 to 1-1 at the break.

Nolan grabbed her second goal six minutes after the resumption and when Malone raised another green flag in the 29th minute, the margin was 18. Offaly must now defeat Down today to avoid a relegation play-off. A draw will be enough for Down to maintain their elite status. Down fell to Limerick by 12-11 to 0-12 but would have been harbouring quarter-final

### CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

hopes approaching half-time as they led by nine points. Limerick had the wind in the second half but more significant was the presence of Costelloe, who finished with a tally of 2-10 as she dragged the Shannonsiders back into the game and then hauled them clear of the visitors. Galway opened up daylight early on against Antrim and dominated throughout.

The camogie association issued instructions to the relevant counties during the week that only four members of management are to be listed on programmes. I appreciate that backroom teams are massive now but to list just four? Many counties have five selectors. Speaking with Matthew Twomey during the week, he isn't buying into it and doesn't want any member listed if they all can't be, well certainly more than four anyway.

However, if managements refuse to give four then the onus is on their county board to name the manager and three others which will appear on the programme. There are people volunteering with inter-county teams that are giving endless hours a week to it. They don't get paid; they don't even get expenses in the majority of cases.

### Recognition

The only little bit of recognition they get, and joy that their families and children get, is seeing their name on a programme.

It seems to be less and less about the volunteer, doesn't it? Did they really have to do this? What difference does it make? I for one like to scroll through the management team and see who the coach, physical trainer, physio, etc is.

It's important and interesting. If a team is in great shape, you'd glance at the programme to see who the driver behind that was. These won't be named if the selectors are. There are some that volunteer to get their name 'out there.'

It's good for their sporting profile and in some cases their business profile. I know it was extremely difficult to get a strong backroom team in place this year and that's the same across every code.

It will be even more difficult going forward if people aren't even slightly recognised for their efforts.



Ashling Thompson is expected to drop into back to the absent Laura Treacy's slot for tomorrow game with Tipp. Picture: INPHO

## Treacy out for Cork but will be back for semi

### CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

**TOMORROW: Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship: Cork v Tipperary, Páirc Uí Rinn, 5pm**

IT'S Cork and Tipp in Páirc Uí Rinn in their final group game of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Championship.

Laura Treacy remains out but will be back in time for the semi-final. Hannah Looney is set to start, most likely at midfield, partnering Katie O'Mahony with Ashling Thompson again dropping back to Treacy's vacant slot. Orla Cronin hasn't trained for the past few weeks and won't start. At this stage, with just three weeks to go to an All-Ireland semi-final, unless she has consistent training sessions it looks like Cork will have to plan without her. She would be a huge loss; her general play and positioning a focal point in Cork's movement.

Good news however is that Sorcha McCartan will probably get her first start since March. Match fitness and acceleration off the mark could be a real problem here and Cork are going to have to play intelligent and appropriate ball into the full-forward.

Another option might be Orla Cahalane. The young St Finbarr's player was drafted into the squad six or seven weeks ago and by all accounts is flying in training.

It hasn't been the best of championships for Tipp. They have failed to build on the momentum of the past couple of years, primarily due to the absence of Orla O'Dwyer and injury to Karen Kennedy.

Tipp will have to beat Cork to advance. They lie level on points and scoring difference with Dublin who play Wexford.

Either Dublin or Wexford will put Tipp out of the running unless they can get a win. With it all to play for they'll travel to Cork to lay it all on the line and possibly hopeful of the fact that Cork, having already qualified, might try their extended panel members.

Not so, says Cork manager Matthew Twomey. He is determined to win every game. They've four wins from four and the last thing he wants is for Cork to lose in their last outing, just weeks before the semi-final. Confidence and a winning culture is important. "This is like an All-Ireland final for Tipp," said Twomey.

"I kind of like it like that because even though we've nothing to play for, we've everything to play for. I don't want to lose a game because they want to win it more than us."

"We don't want a team coming to Cork and beating us. We can't go into any game not being wholehearted."

Cork have a three-week run in from tomorrow to the semi-final and you can imagine the first 10 days of that will be extremely intense.



Cork's Cliona O'Callaghan played at full-forward role against Kilkenny in their All-Ireland Intermediate clash. Picture: Larry Cummins

## Cork keen to claim top spot and direct route to semi-final

**TOMORROW: Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Intermediate Championship: Cork v Kildare, 2pm, Páirc Uí Rinn**

IT'S down to the last group game in the Intermediate Championship and an important round for Cork as they bid to retain top spot and go straight to the semi-finals.

Derry are hot on their heels, level on points at the top of the table following last weekend's victory over Cork, but they will need a win over a Wexford side also chasing a qualification place. In addition, Kilkenny are still in the hunt for a top two place when they clash with Meath tomorrow.

Were Cork and Derry to lose and Kilkenny to win, it would leave Cork, Derry, Wexford, and Kilkenny on level points and then it would go to scoring difference; Cork are ahead on that front, but results would be crucial if this scenario were to unfold.

Cork will be confident of finishing on a winning note against Kildare in what is part of a double header with the seniors playing Tipperary.

Kildare have not enjoyed the best of championship campaigns, losing three games, but they did record a victory over Wexford and they will be hoping to get another win under their belts to finish their campaign on a high.

When the sides met in the league earlier in the year, Cork were 4-16 to 2-6 winners and given how well their championship campaign has been to date, one would expect Cork to have too much strength for a Kildare side that will be battling to avoid a relegation play-off.

Cork were disappointed to lose to Derry and are hoping to get back to winning ways tomorrow. With no injury worries to report,

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

manager Trevor Coleman knows it is in their own hands and they will be going in determined to top the group.

The bonus for winning the group is a direct route to a semi-final on July 16, while the second-placed team will contest a quarter final on July 9 and with the seniors already through to the semi-final, the intermediates would be hoping to do likewise.

**SUNDAY: All-Ireland U16 Championship, Cork v Kilkenny, 2pm, John Locke Park, Callan**

Round two of the Tesco U16 championship and a must win game for champions Cork as they head to Kilkenny for a meeting with the home side.

Having lost their opening game last weekend to a very focused Galway side, Cork are now under pressure to get the right result this weekend; anything else and they exit the championship. It's Kilkenny's first game and they will be looking for a good start, knowing a win would see them in a good place before they take on Galway the following week.

Last Sunday Cork had no answers when Galway applied the pressure; in the first half Cork matched them in all sectors, but a purple patch in the last quarter saw Galway grab three fast goals which Cork were unable to respond to.

While they will need to be much tighter at the back they also shot 11 wides and this is something Donie Daly and his backroom team will have worked on to get it right.



Kate Fennessy, Cork, gets her hand pass away, under pressure from Galway's Giara McGrath and Laoise McGrath during their U16 All-Ireland Camogie Championship clash. Picture: Jim Coughlan

**GLEN DIMPLEX ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP**

Cork 186 Tipperary 117

Wexford 210 Dublin 444

Clare 142 Waterford 242

Galway 117 Kilkenny 214

Down 118 Limerick 314

Donegal 10 Offaly 015





Cork's Izzy O'Regan and Waterford's Aoife Landers in a battle for possession during the first half at Walsh Park. Picture: Noel Browne

## No real surprises in the standings as the group games come to an end

THERE were no surprises last weekend in Group two of the senior camogie championship. Galway had a strong win over Antrim, Limerick beat Down and Kilkenny had a 3-17 to 2-7 victory over Offaly.

It stands as I suggested it would. It's all down to the final day. Six games are down for decision: Cork v Tipp, Clare v Waterford, Wexford v Dublin in group 1 with Galway v Kilkenny, Down v Offaly, and Antrim v Limerick in group 2.

Galway and Kilkenny are streets ahead of the rest and third place will be determined by the Limerick and Antrim clash.

A draw will do Limerick. Antrim need a win. Limerick will have a hard battle up north.

The Cork intermediates lost their fourth-round game to Derry last weekend and now, level on points, they hold a seven-point scoring advantage over second-placed Derry.

They need a win over Kildare, a curtain-raiser to the senior game in the Páirc today, and to beat them by greater than the seven points that Derry beat Wexford by (if they win).

So, both teams need a win first and foremost and then a high-scoring average.

This won't be the time to give your extended panel a run.

Throw-in time is 2pm in both games so twitter will be the place to keep an eye on proceedings throughout the hour for scoring updates.

Kilkenny led by 12 points at the interval on the way to their victory over Offaly.

The Cats racked up the scores with relative ease in the first half and after Mairéad Teehan equalised Denise Gaule's opener, Julieanne Malone began a run of 12 successive scores for Brian Dowling's side that included six more points for Gaule.

Miriam Walsh, Aoife Prendergast, and Michaela Kennelly also clipped over nice scores and though Sarah Harding provided a brief respite for Offaly with a goal, Kilkenny's reply was ruthlessly swift, Katie Nolan rattling the Faithful's net from the next attack to make it 1-13 to 1-1 at the break.

Nolan grabbed her second goal six minutes after the resumption and when Malone raised another green flag in the 29th minute, the margin was 10.

Offaly must now defeat Down today to avoid a relegation play-off. A draw will be enough for Down to maintain their elite status. Down fell to Limerick by 2-11 to 0-12 but would have been harbouring quarter-final

### CAMOGIE Linda Mellerick

hopes approaching half-time as they led by nine points.

Limerick had the wind in the second half but more significant was the presence of Costelloe, who finished with a tally of 2-10 as she dragged the Shannonsiders back into the game and then hauled them clear of the visitors. Galway opened up daylight early on against Antrim and dominated throughout.

The camogie association issued instructions to the relevant counties during the week that only four members of management are to be listed on programmes.

I appreciate that backroom teams are massive now but to list just four? Many counties have five selectors.

Speaking with Matthew Twomey during the week, he isn't buying into it and doesn't want any member listed if they all can't be, well certainly more than four anyway.

However, if managements refuse to give four then the onus is on their county board to name the manager and three others which will appear on the programme.

There are people volunteering with inter-county teams that are giving endless hours a week to it. They don't get paid; they don't even get expenses in the majority of cases.

### Recognition

The only little bit of recognition they get, and joy that their families and children get, is seeing their name on a programme.

It seems to be less and less about the volunteer, doesn't it? Did they really have to do this? What difference does it make? I for one like to scroll through the management team and see who the coach, physical trainer, physio, etc is.

It's important and interesting. If a team is in great shape, you'd glance at the programme to see who the driver behind that was. These won't be named if the selectors are. There are some that volunteer to get their name 'out there.'

It's good for their sporting profile and in some cases their business profile. I know it was extremely difficult to get a strong backroom team in place this year and that's the same across every code.

It will be even more difficult going forward if people aren't even slightly recognised for their efforts.



Ashling Thompson is expected to drop into back to the absent Laura Treacy's slot for tomorrow game with Tipp. Picture: INPHO

## Treacy out for Cork but will be back for semi

### CAMOGIE Linda Mellerick

**TOMORROW: Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship: Cork v Tipperary, Páirc Uí Rinn, 5pm**

IT'S Cork and Tipp in Páirc Uí Rinn in their final group game of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Championship.

Laura Treacy remains out but will be back in time for the semi-final. Hannah Looney is set to start, most likely at midfield, partnering Katie O'Mahony with Ashling Thompson again dropping back to Treacy's vacant slot. Orla Cronin hasn't trained for the past few weeks and won't start. At this stage, with just three weeks to go to an All-Ireland semi-final, unless she has consistent training sessions it looks like Cork will have to plan without her. She would be a huge loss; her general play and positioning a focal point in Cork's movement.

Good news however is that Sorcha McCartan will probably get her first start since March. Match fitness and acceleration off the mark could be a real problem here and Cork are going to have to play intelligent and appropriate ball into the full-forward.

Another option might be Orla Cahalane. The young St Finbarr's player was drafted into the squad six or seven weeks ago and by all accounts is flying in training.

It hasn't been the best of championships for Tipp. They have failed to build on the momentum of the past couple of years, primarily due to the absence of Orla O'Dwyer and injury to Karen Kennedy.

Tipp will have to beat Cork to advance. They lie level on points and scoring difference with Dublin who play Wexford.

Either Dublin or Wexford will put Tipp out of the running unless they can get a win. With it all to play for they'll travel to Cork to lay it all on the line and possibly hopeful of the fact that Cork, having already qualified, might try their extended panel members.

Not so, says Cork manager Matthew Twomey. He is determined to win every game. They've four wins from four and the last thing he wants is for Cork to lose in their last outing, just weeks before the semi-final. Confidence and a winning culture is important. "This is like an All-Ireland final for Tipp," said Twomey.

"I kind of like it like that because even though we've nothing to play for, we've everything to play for. I don't want to lose a game because they want to win it more than us."

"We don't want a team coming to Cork and beating us. We can't go into any game not being wholehearted."

Cork have a three-week run in from tomorrow to the semi-final and you can imagine the first 10 days of that will be extremely intense.



Cork's Cliona O'Callaghan played at full-forward role against Kilkenny in their All-Ireland Intermediate clash. Picture: Larry Cummins

## Cork keen to claim top spot and direct route to semi-final

### TOMORROW: Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Intermediate Championship: Cork v Kildare, 2pm, Páirc Uí Rinn

IT'S down to the last group game in the Intermediate Championship and an important round for Cork as they bid to retain top spot and go straight to the semi-finals.

Derry are hot on their heels, level on points at the top of the table following last weekend's victory over Cork, but they will need a win over a Wexford side also chasing a qualification place.

In addition, Kilkenny are still in the hunt for a top two place when they clash with Meath tomorrow. Were Cork and Derry to lose and Kilkenny to win, it would leave Cork, Derry, Wexford, and Kilkenny on level points and then it would go to scoring difference; Cork are ahead on that front, but results would be crucial if this scenario were to unfold.

Cork will be confident of finishing on a winning note against Kildare in what is part of a double header with the seniors playing Tipperary.

Kildare have not enjoyed the best of championship campaigns, losing three games, but they did record a victory over Wexford and they will be hoping to get another win under their belts to finish their campaign on a high.

When the sides met in the league earlier in the year, Cork were 4-16 to 2-6 winners and given how well their championship campaign has been to date, one would expect Cork to have too much strength for a Kildare side that will be battling to avoid a relegation play-off.

Cork were disappointed to lose to Derry and are hoping to get back to winning ways tomorrow. With no injury worries to report,

manager Trevor Coleman knows it is in their own hands and they will be going in determined to top the group.

The bonus for winning the group is a direct route to a semi-final on July 9 and with the seniors already through to the semi-final, the intermediates would be hoping to do likewise.

**SUNDAY: All-Ireland U16 Championship, Cork v Kilkenny, 2pm, John Locke Park, Callan**

Round two of the Tesco U16 championship and a must win game for champions Cork as they head to Kilkenny for a meeting with the home side. Having lost their opening game last weekend to a very focused Galway side, Cork are now under pressure to get the right result this weekend; anything else and they exit the championship. It's Kilkenny's first game and they will be looking for a good start, knowing a win would see them in a good place before they take on Galway the following week.

Last Sunday Cork had no answers when Galway applied the pressure; in the first half Cork matched them in all sectors, but a purple patch in the last quarter saw Galway grab three fast goals which Cork were unable to respond to.

While they will need to be much tighter at the back they also shot 11 wides and this is something Donie Daly and his backroom team will have worked on to get it right.

**Kate Fennessy, Cork, gets her hand pass away, under pressure from Galway's Clara McGrath and Laoise McGrath during their U16 All-Ireland Camogie Championship clash.**

Picture: Jim Coughlan

**GLEN DIMPLEX ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Cork 1-16 Tipperary 1-17  
Wexford 2-10 Dublin 4-14  
Clare 1-12 Waterford 2-12  
Galway 1-17 Kilkenny 2-14  
Antrim 1-11 Limerick 1-14  
Down 1-11 Offaly 0-11

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

**G**ALWAY and Cork will play in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior camogie semi-finals at Croke Park in three weeks, where they will await the winners of the quarter-finals in a fortnight's time.

As a result of a Super Saturday of six fixtures in two groups, Kilkenny will play Dublin and Waterford will take on Limerick in those last-eight ties at Semple Stadium.

Tipperary are the unluckiest outfit, missing out on the knockout stages on score difference, despite pulling off a 1-17 to 1-16 triumph over Cork at Páirc Uí Rinn and only losing one out of five games.

Dublin produced a stirring second-half performance to post a 4-14 to 2-11 victory against Wexford in Bellefield and, having started on the same score difference as Tipperary, that saw them through, as Waterford chiselled out a 2-12 to 1-12 win over Clare in Cusack Park to cement second position in Group 1 and banish the Bannerwomen to a relegation play-off.

Group 2 was a little more straightforward, Galway just holding off Kilkenny to record a share of the spoils, 1-17 to 2-14, at Kenny Park to give them top spot on score difference.

It was winner-takes-all between Limerick and Antrim at Corrigan Park, the visitors going through the gears in the second half to record a 1-14 to 1-11 success that gave them third spot.

As a result of Down's injury-time 1-11 to 0-13 victory over Offaly at Liatroim Fontenoys, the Faithful women will now play Clare in a relegation play-off, while Down secured their elite status.

Kilkenny trailed by four points at half-time against Galway, but Miriam Walsh's second goal and a point moved them ahead, only for Catherine Finnerty's equaliser to snatch the semi-final position at the death.

Three early points from Denise Gaule and Walsh's first major gave Kilkenny an ideal start, but a Sabina Rabbittie goal prompted complete dominance from Galway. Carrie Dolan, Niamh Kilkenny and Dervla Higgins, with a monstrous score, pulled them clear before the Cats came on strongly late on.

Also in Group 2, Caoimhe Costelloe and Rebecca Delee shot some fantastic scores as Limerick reeled in Antrim in the second half.

The home team had a goal after the second minute from Niamh Laverty, and points from Róisín McCormick and Caltrín Dobbin gave them the whip hand. Veteran Lorraine McCarthy gave Limerick hope with a goal and they found another gear in the second half.

An Aimee McAleenan goal after good work by Niamh Mallon gave Down hope after Offaly had begun well but the visitors were reduced to 14 and, though they battled hard, they were undone by a



**CLOSE ATTENTION:** Laura Murphy of Kilkenny gets a hold of Galway's Aine Keane

# Galway secure top spot after thrilling draw with Cats

fabulous long-distance free by Paula O'Hagan. Group 1 was the humdinger and Waterford were the one team of the four in contention for the two quarter-final spots with their fate in their hands.

Clare kept snapping at their heels, even when Beth Carton goaled early on from the penalty spot after Niamh Rockett was fouled, and

they got it back to the minimum with nine minutes remaining.

Lorna McNamara and Carton exchanged some good scores, and Máiréad O'Brien and Orlaith Duggan swapped goals to set up a grandstand finish, but it was Waterford who stayed on best to prevail.

Dublin scored four goals in the second half to stun Wexford in

Bellefield. The hosts had started fantastically well, finding the Dublin net after 33 seconds when Jackie Quigley pounced on a loose ball to drill a goal. Joanne Dillon continued her magnificent goalscoring run through the campaign with another brilliant major.

Aisling Maher's free landed into the Wexford net early after the

resumption to provide the Dubs with the perfect fillip, and Emma Flanagan followed up.

Izzy Davis contributed a brace and Adrian O'Sullivan's charges were into the last six.

That meant that Tipperary's win over Cork was insufficient. It was ironic that the Premiers, who have made such strides in the past four years, have been yearning for a big scalp and, when they got one, it was of no value in the end.

The game started with a bang, Cáit Devane rocketing to the net in 16 seconds. Cork, who welcomed Hannah Looney and former Down player Sorcha McCartan back into the side, were level before the minute was out with a fortunate goal from Laura Hayes. Points from Eimear McGrath, Grace O'Brien and a stupendous point by Devane gave them the upper hand.

McGrath converted a two-point sideline in the second rule and O'Brien and Eirena Fryday extended Tipp's lead, but Cork hit five in a row, including from Chloe Sigerson and Ashling Thompson, which brought them level.

Devane then came up with the winner that counted for nothing in the final calculations.

## Premier miss out on last eight despite win over the Rebels

Camogie roundup

Daragh Ó Conchúir

The tightness of the final series of games of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship on Super Saturday was encapsulated by the final minutes of the clash between Waterford and Clare at Cusack Park.

Clare, battling to avoid being involved in a relegation play-off, were battering at the Waterford defence. Having gotten within a point, the Bannerwomen fell three down but were well in the hunt.

The visitors, who began the day in second position of Group 1, were heading for a win that would cement that spot. But if one of the country's most consistent goalkeepers, Brianna O'Regan had not been able to save from Mulreann Scanlon, or Iona Heffernan had not blocked Chloe Morey's goal-bound shot, the eventual group runners-up would have missed out on a place in the quarter-finals, due to the victories of Dublin and Tipperary.

The unluckiest team were Tipperary, who only lost one

game and finished their campaign with the 1-17 to 1-16 defeat of Cork at Páirc Uí Rinn. Cáit Devane, who had given the Premiers a dream start with a goal after 16 seconds and shot some stupendous points, clipped over the winner but it wasn't enough.

This was due to Dublin's four second-half goals from Aisling Maher, Emma Flanagan and Izzy Davis, who helped herself to a brace, which turned around their tie with Wexford and earned them a 4-12 to 2-11 triumph in Bellefield. As a result, they edged out Tipperary on score

difference.

Galway and Kilkenny played out a high quality 1-17 to 2-14 draw resulting in the All-Ireland champions just claiming the semi-final spot on score difference and a Lorraine McCarthy goal helped Limerick overcome Antrim 1-14 to 1-11 to secure third spot.

It all means that Waterford will play Limerick and Kilkenny will take on Dublin in the quarter-finals at Semple Stadium on July 16. Cork join Galway in the semi-finals at Croke Park seven days later.

Beth Carton scored a goal and six points for Waterford,

with the goal coming from an early penalty after Niamh Rockett was fouled.

Sabina Rabbittie earned player-of-the-match honours after the Galway-Kilkenny clash, scoring a lovely goal that had the home team in pole position for a lot of the game at Kenny Park, but when Miriam Walsh dispatched her second goal, Kilkenny set sail for home.

In the end, they were denied the win and top spot by a Aine Keane leveller but had shown enough to illustrate their credentials despite being more than a third of last year's team

due retirements, travelling and injuries, at least three of them being generational talents in Davina Tobin, Collette Dormer and Meighan Farrell.

Galway have suffered some significant losses too though, with Rebecca Hennelly, just like Kilkenny's Kellyann Doyle, suffering a third cruciate knee ligament injury.

As a result of Down's injury-time 1-11 to 0-13 victory over Offaly at Liatroim Fontenoys, the Faithful women will now play Clare in a relegation play-off on July 16, while Down secured their elite status



Goalscorer Cliona O'Callaghan blasts in the opener against Kildare at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Larry Cummins

## Rebels overpower a weak Kildare side to go straight to semi-final

**Cork** 5-21  
**Kildare** 2-5

**CAMOGIE**

■ **Mary Newman**

THE result was never in doubt in this Glen Dimplex Intermediate Championship clash in Páirc Uí Rinn. Cork overpowered Kildare, who have yet to win in the group series.

Cork picked off scores at will. They played with one eye on the Derry-Wexford clash and, thanks to a better scoring difference, Cork go straight to the semi-final on July 23, with Derry and Meath to contest the quarter-finals. Meath, thanks to their 3-13 to 0-11 victory over Kilkenny, knocked out the Cats having scored a point more.

Four goals from Cliona O'Callaghan and 13 Joanne Casey points propelled Cork to the last four.

They led 1-13 to 0-1 at the break, via an O'Callaghan goal in the 11th minute. She cleverly dispossessed Maria Doyle and fired to the net, settling Cork, who were leading 0-3 to 0-1 after Rachel Harty and Joanne Casey points; Leah Sutton had got what turned out to be Kildare's only score of the opening half.

Holding the upper hand in all areas, Cork were totally dominant and content to pick off points, always mindful that it could come down to scoring difference. Casey fired over some excellent scores, and Hayley Ryan and Michelle Murphy were also on target, as Cork set a solid foundation for victory and led by 15 points at the break.

Casey and Lauren Homan continued the scoring trend on the resumption with

points, before Roisin Costello denied O'Callaghan with a superb save, only for the in-rushing Murphy to finish.

Cork were now in full flight and they piled on the pressure, five points in a row stretching their lead, before Kildare enjoyed a brief spell of dominance, Sutton converting a free before two goals from Rosin Forde momentarily rocked Cork.

They rallied, as only we would expect them to do, two Casey points and two goals from the excellent O'Callaghan ensuring the top spot was secured long before Clara Egana and Niamh Hegarty had Kildare scores.

Casey fired over three further points, before, fittingly, it was O'Callaghan who had the final say with her fourth goal, as Cork marched on to the last four.

**Scorers for Cork:** C O'Callaghan 4-0, J Casey 0-13 (0-8 f), M Murphy 1-3, L Homan 0-3, R Harty, H Ryan 0-1 each.

**Kildare:** R Forde 2-0, L Sutton 0-3 (0-2 f), C Egan, N Hegarty 0-1 each.

**CORK:** S Ahern, A Moloney, N O'Leary, G Hannon, J O'Leary, K Kilcummins, L O'Sullivan, L Callanan, R Harty, J Casey, M Murphy, S Hutchinson, L Homan, H Ryan, C O'Callaghan.

**Subs:** Doyle for J O'Leary (45), A O'Callaghan for K Kilcummins (51), R O'Shea for H Ryan (51), K Falvey.

**KILDARE:** R Roche, E Barry, M Doyle, G Noone, C Corcoran, N Malcomson, E Morgan, D Byrne, S Mulligan, A Synes, R Forde, N Hegarty, E Kilty, L Sutton, C Egan.

**Subs:** A Costello for R Roche (Inj 37), G Keegan C Corcoran (40), N Jenkins for S Mulligan (40), S O'Brien for D Byrne (43).

**Referee:** Conor Quinlan (Galway).



Cork's Saoirse McCarthy tussles with Tipperary's Aoife McGrath during the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

# Concern over Cork red card



**CAMOGIE**

Linda Mellerick

**Cork** 1-16  
**Tipperary** 1-17

A HOME defeat for Cork in Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday but, already semi-final qualified, the result wasn't the key factor.

What Matthew Twomey wanted was a strong performance heading into the semi-final in three weeks. The talking point after the game, and it's a big problem, is that Ashling Thompson got a straight red after the final whistle for words with the referee.

She more than likely will now miss the semi-final. Galway and Kilkenny drew meaning Galway topped the group on scoring difference.

Maybe it's no harm that issues were highlighted here, Cork were exposed in a number of areas. Sarsfields' Molly Lynch started in place of Amy Lee in goal. Lynch needed game time and got it in front of a fine crowd; Cork's home games have been well supported this year.

It was a strange start with two goals inside the opening minute. A quickly taken free after 15 seconds was caught by full-forward Cait Devane. She caught the high delivery on the edge of the square and needed just one glance to rattle the net.

From the puck-out, a deft pass from Sigerson to the in-flight Hayes whose long strike looked to be going over. Challenged by goalkeeper Aine Slattery it reflected into the net.

Despite being named 18 on the programme, Orla Cronin withdrew from the Cork panel late this week. She hasn't had it easy of late and a number of niggling injuries ensured she couldn't get a run.

She decided to take a step back and unquestionably she is a huge loss. Cronin has been one of Cork's most-consistent forwards over the past four years, her intelligent movement, distribution, and



Cork's Amy O'Connor wins possession from Tipperary's Eirena Fryday. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

scoring ability made her invaluable.

It was a strong opening quarter for Tipp. Cork looked disjointed, the visitors looking strong and confident. They picked off some lovely points from distance and by the end of the third quarter had five scorers on the board and led 1-6 to 1-1.

Cork settled and three points on the bounce from Hannah Looney, Cliona Healy, and Katrina Mackey left two between the sides.

Libby Coppinger was having a strong test and battle with Cait Devane, both having good moments, and those challenges at this stage of the championship are worth their weight in gold to Cork's full-back. Devane struck a free before Healy and Sorcha McCartan hit two.

McCartan would have been happy at half time with her performance after her long absence. She was lively, gave some nimble passes and hit two points.

A lovely point by Clodagh McIntyre was matched with an equally impressive Chloe Sigerson one and Tipp led 1-8 to 1-7 at the break with Cork coming back out with wind advantage.

Cork needed a better second-half performance. Their first wasn't the standard of what will be required in the semi-final. It didn't happen. It was point for point

before a two-pointer sideline cut by Eimear McGrath gave Tipp a four-point advantage entering the last quarter.

The gap was five entering the final ten minutes. A brilliant Cork crowd got behind their team. Five points on the trot for Cork and the sides were level. Devane pointed a Tipp free.

Cork had a chance with a distance free but with Sigerson now on the bench, it fell to Amy O'Connor.

It narrowly went wide. A win for Tipp, but not enough for them to advance, Dublin pipping them on scoring difference. For Cork, a lot to do.

**Scorers for Cork:** C Healy 0-4, L Hayes 1-0, A O'Connor 0-2 (0-1 f), K Mackey 0-3, S McCartan, C Sigerson, H Looney 0-2 each, A Thompson 0-1.

**Tipperary:** C Devane 1-7 (0-5 f), E McGrath 0-3 (0-2 sf), G O'Brien 0-2, C McIntyre 0-2, C Hennessy, E Fryday, M Eviston, 0-1 each.

**CORK:** M Lynch, M Murphy, L Coppinger, M Cahalane, L Hayes, A Thompson, S McCarthy, K O'Mahony, H Looney, K Mackey, F Keating, C Healy, A O'Connor, C Sigerson, S McCartan.

**Subs:** E Murphy for F Keating (51), O Cahalane for C Sigerson (53).

**TIPPERARY:** A Slattery, J Bourke, M Ryan, E Loughman, C Quirke, A McGrath, M Eviston, C Maher, C Maher, C Hennessy, G O'Brien, E Fryday, E McGrath C Devane, C McIntyre.

**Subs:** N Treacy for M Eviston (7-6).  
**Referee:** Justin Heffernan.



Lauren Homan in action for Cork against Kildare. Picture: Larry Cummins



Cork's Ashling Thompson breaks from Tipperary's Clodagh McIntyre during the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Camogie Championship at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## Cork boss Twomey sweats on Thompson's red card ahead of semi

CORK are sweating on the availability of star player Ashling Thompson for the All-Ireland camogie semi-final after a straight red card after the final whistle of Saturday's one-point loss to Tipperary.

The Rebels are through to the last four along with Galway, who topped the other group, where they'll meet a quarter-final winner from Kilkenny-Dublin and Waterford-Limerick.

Giving his take on the incident, manager Matthew Twomey explained: "I was called in by the referee. He wanted to speak to Ashling, but she was after walking away. I called Ashling back and when she came back, she got a straight red."

"I asked him but he just walked away from me. We'll leave things settle down for a couple of days and we'll find out what was going on."

Obviously, there will be an appeal but for now Ashling is out of the semi-final and she would be a big loss for the game in Croke Park.

"Ah, it's a huge loss. The nucleus of us going forward there was Ashling drove everything on. She was brilliant in the second half, and she'd be a massive loss, but we'll just have to wait and see what happens with it."

He was "very disappointed" with the 1-17 to 1-16 reversal.

I suppose more with the performance than the result. We knew Tipp were going to come at us from the start and we let them. They got a goal from

### CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

their first puck inside. It's very disappointing, we clawed it back with five minutes to go. We had a chance to kick on, we didn't.

"Fair play to Tipperary they got the point in the end to win it but it's disappointing to go into a semi-final after losing like that but at the same time we just had a very honest conversation inside there and we have to look at ourselves and turn this around in the next three weeks".

Did the fact that Cork were already qualified affect the team's approach to the game?

"We did everything that we normally do but it must be a mental thing that this could be an easy one. I don't know what it is, it's disappointing as it's not acceptable to us as a Cork team going out like that."

Cork's comeback to score five points in a row to level showed good character.

"Absolutely, the signs are there, their spirit, their fitness, the way we came back, but it was cut and throat for Tipp and they got the point in the end. We had a chance at the end, but we couldn't take it".

Cork and Galway are now through to the semi-finals so all eyes will be on the quarter-finals to see who Cork will be playing.

"We'll go up there in two weeks and watch that and see what happens."



Cork's Sorcha McCartan pops over a point from Tipperary's Clodagh Quirke. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Joy for Éire Óg in the John West Division 1 Féile final.

# Éire Óg emerge victorious in camogie féile

### CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

THERE were huge celebrations for Éire Óg as they were crowned John West Division 1 Camogie Féile champions defeating Boherlahan-Dualla of Tipperary in the final played in Abbotstown.

The festival of hurling and camogie saw 80 clubs and close to 2,000 players battle for the titles, with Douglas U15s winning the hurling plate against Athenry.

In the group series of the camogie, Éire Óg defeated Glynn Barntown 0-5 to 0-1. Clara Murphy with four points and one from Julie White ensured the Ovens girls had the best possible start to a busy day.

In Round 2, they had to battle it out to the finish to hold off the challenge of Tipperary representatives Boherlahan-Dualla, two points separated the sides at the full-time whistle: 1-4 to 1-2. A Laura Healy goal and points from Erin Healy, Rionagh O'Leary, Clodagh Fitzgerald, and Clara Murphy helped get them over the line.

Éire Óg had to give way to Dublin representatives Kilmacud Crokes in Round 3 where the Dublin side were 1-2 to 0-1 winners, Clara Murphy on target here for Éire Óg.

They still topped their group and then defeated Windgap of Kilkenny 1-6 to 2-0 in the semi-final.

They were 0-4 to 1-0 up at the interval, and in the second half, a goal from Erin Healy proved vital. Murphy hit 0-3 from frees and 0-2 from play, while Emma Casey also pointed.

The final was a rematch with Boherlahan-Dualla. Éire Óg settled early and led at the break by four, thanks to Clodagh Fitzgerald's goal. Clara Murphy and Alannah Whelton were also on the score sheet while at the back Éire Óg held firm, denying their opponents a score.

It's a huge achievement for Éire Óg and a testament to the hard work going in Ovens. They took the Division 1 Féile title



Hilda Breslin and Diarmuid Cahill presenting Éire Óg captain Maria Barry Murphy with the cup. Picture: Fintan Clarke

for the first time in 2019 when they defeated Cork rivals Sarsfields when the national event was held in Cork.

Well done to mentors Conor Healy, Trevor Casey, Adrian Malone, Martin O'Donovan, Liam O'Reilly, Evelyn O'Shea and Breda Twohig who left no stone unturned in their quest for glory.

The trophy was presented to Éire Óg captain Maria Barry Murphy by Camogie President Hilda Breslin to the delight of the huge Éire Óg contingent.

Meanwhile, the dates for the SE Systems Junior championship were announced recently and it will be a busy few weeks with six grades of junior championships to be played.

The grades are junior A, B, C, as well as junior second teams championship for teams from senior and intermediate clubs who wish to play in a championship for

second teams, there is also a second teams championship for teams from Junior clubs and a thirteen a sides junior championship for clubs who might not be in a position to field an adult team at fifteen a side.

All games will be played on a round-robin basis and with games each week it will certainly put clubs under pressure to keep the games moving along.

### JUNIOR A

There are only 10 clubs graded Junior A and they are divided into two groups of five with the top two in each group going on to contest the semi-finals.

In Group 1, games get underway on Monday August 15 when Castlelyons meet Mallow and league champions Tracton take on Sliabh Rua in Round 2. On Friday August 26 it's Tracton against Castlelyons and on Saturday August 27 Mallow meet Sarsfields 2. Round 3; is on Friday September 2 with Sliabh Rua meeting Castlelyons and Sarsfields 2 playing Tracton. Round 4; Wednesday September 14 Castlelyons v Sarsfields 2 and Sliabh Rua play Mallow. On the last round on Friday September 24, Sarsfields 2 play Sliabh Rua and Mallow take on Tracton.

In Group 2; Round 1 Monday August 15, St Vincent's play Cobh and Ballinhassig meet Ballinora. Round 2; is on Friday August 26 Ballinora versus St Vincent's and Ballinhassig versus Ballinascarthy. Round 3; Friday September 2 Ballinascarthy will play Ballinora and Cobh meet Ballinhassig. Round 4; Wednesday September 14 it's Ballinora v Cobh, Ballinascarthy meet St Vincent's and in Round 5 on Friday September 24, Cobh and Ballinascarthy meet with St Vincent's playing Ballinhassig.

ÉIRE ÓG PANEL: Kate O'Riordan, Leah Sheehan, Phoebe Wharton, Julie White, Maria Barry Murphy, Laoise Ahern, Gemma Young, Clara Murphy, Clodagh Fitzgerald, Jessica Power, Laura Healy, Fiach Malone, Ali Hayes, Rionagh O'Leary, Erin Healy, Abbie Hyde, Emma Casey, Alannah Whelton, Clodagh O'Sullivan, Clara Healy, Claire O'Regan.



**Response:** Ursula Jacob has rejected an apology from a website which published an article about her. PHOTO: SPORTSFILE

## Cork U16 title hopes are back on track

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

|          |      |
|----------|------|
| Cork     | 3-15 |
| Kilkenny | 2-6  |

**HOLDERS** Cork got their Tesco All-Ireland U16 camogie campaign back on track with an important victory over Kilkenny in Callan on Sunday afternoon.

Having lost out last weekend to Galway, Cork needed to win to keep their hopes alive, and they did so in splendid fashion.

Cork set the foundations for victory with a solid opening thirty minutes, and crucially two goals helped them open up an interval lead of five points.

Katie Brennan gave Kilkenny an early lead with a point but Orlaith Cremin had Cork back on level before Louise O'Neill grabbed Corks first goal seven minutes in.

Cork stretch their lead with back-to-back points before Julie Lennon had Kilkenny's second point, but a Lucy O'Connell goal and eighteen minutes steadied Cork, and with the sides swapping points Cork continued to hold the upper hand.

Tara Roche had two without reply as Kilkenny narrowed the gap but the Cork response was superb as they hit two points in a row.

Kilkenny danger woman Tara Roche goaled with three minutes to the break but an Ava Fitzgerald point ensured Cork maintained their five point advantage, 2-7 to 1-5 at the interval.

Cork dominated the second half and such was their dominance, that it was seven minutes from the full time whistle before Kilkenny recorded their first score of the second half.

Cork with a Louise O'Neill goal and points from Kate Fennessy, Sarah Murphy, Ava Fitzgerald, Lucy O'Connell, Amy Sheppard, and Amy McCarthy, were well on their way to victory before Kilkenny had late scores from Ciara O'Shea with a pointed free and a Julie Lennon goal.

**Scores for Cork:** L O'Neill 2-0, A Sheppard 0-5 (0-3Fs, 0-1 45), L O'Connell 1-1, A Fitzgerald 0-3, K Fennessy, O Cremin 0-2 each, A Mc McCarthy, S Murphy 0-1 each.

**Kilkenny:** T Roche 1-2 (0-1 45), J Lennon 1-1, K Brennan, A Brown, C O'Shea 0-1 each.

**CORK:** E O'Sullivan; C Rice, S Hurley, R Roche; A O'Riordan, A Daly, L Dunlea; A Fitzgerald, A Cottrell; S Murphy, O Cremin, A Sheppard; L O'Connell, L O'Neill, G Finn.

**Subs:** K Fennessy for R Roche (h1), A McCarthy for S Murphy (43), A McAuliffe for L O'Neill (48), A O'Neill for L O'Connell (50).

**KILKENNY:** J Saunders; C Hickey, U Duggan, J Cuddy; A Carroll, A Kavanagh, E Smith; A Doherty, O Kirwin; J Lennon, K Brennan, M Gannon; A Browne, C Dunne, T Roche.

**Subs:** C O'Shea for A Doherty (40), C Walsh for S Carroll (40), R Phelan for O Kirwin (44).

**Referee:** Justin Heffernan (Wexford).

## Jacob: Online abusers should be 'pitied' but face repercussions

Paul Keane

Wexford camogie legend Ursula Jacob says those who abuse her online should be "pitied" and believes they wouldn't dare confront her in person.

The four-time All-Ireland winner issued a strong statement on Monday hitting back at "faceless cowards" who had ridiculed her online.

Jacob worked as an analyst for RTE TV during their live coverage of Saturday's All-Ireland hurling semi-final between Kilkenny and Clare.

She said that she noticed critical comments about her voice and accent, as well as her gender, while online the following morning.

Speaking on South East Radio, pregnant Jacob revealed that it bothered and upset her so much that she started to draw up her statement while at a hospital in Wexford for an antenatal appointment on Monday morning.

Jacob said the "toxic" abuse of public figures has gotten so "out of control" that it needs to be reined in by authorities.

"Would that person come up to me on the street and say, 'I can't stand you'," blasted Jacob, who admitted that dealing with the flak is affecting her enjoyment of the role.

"I'm speaking alongside some of my heroes, like Anthony Daly, Jackie Tyrrell, and they're all so appreciative and supportive of me but why should me or any of the other pundits have to suffer any longer?"

"I am not saying this is going to change the world but hopefully it makes one or two people at least think before they type stuff up on social media and go to a personal, low level with this whole hiding behind keyboards. It's gone out of control, it's toxic."

"Funnily enough, I have to laugh, very rarely do they actually comment about my knowledge of the game or my analysis, or my contribution because they know that's up to the standard that's required."

"I'm not there for tokenism, I'm not there to make up numbers, I've got a voice and I want to give my opinion and I'm happy to do that and to work alongside the lads."

"I don't view myself any different than the lads when I'm talking about a hurling game. Why can I not speak about a hurling game as much as any male can speak about a camogie game?"

"These people (who criticise) have probably achieved very little in their own life, probably have too much time on their hands, and when the only thing they can comment on is my Wexford accent, or my voice, or the fact that I'm a woman working on a hurling match, they're very, very sad."

"They have to be pitied in some ways but there should be some kind of repercussions."

"I don't think anyone at this stage should be allowed to set up a Facebook page, or Twitter profile, without having photo ID and a proper email address. There has to be accountability."

## Cork wait for ref's report before Thompson call

Therese O'Callaghan

Cork are waiting to see the referee's report from Saturday's All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship round-robin game against Tipperary before making any decision on a straight red card shown to Ashling Thompson by Wexford ref Justin Heffernan.

The Rebels lost to Tipperary by a point, however they had already qualified for the semi-final, which will be played in Croke Park on July 23. As it stands, Thompson would miss the last-four tie.

Cork manager Matthew Twomey said: "We are waiting on the report from the referee and we will decide then what is the best way to go. Ashling got a yellow card during the game, but when the game was over, the referee called Ashling and gave her a straight red card."

Thompson would be a monumental loss to the Rebels, as she gives options to management. Usually a midfielder, her versatility allows her to fill any role. She lined out at centre-back against the Premier County, deputising for regular number six Laura Treacy, who was injured.

Twomey also confirmed that another stalwart, Orla Cronin, has stepped away from the panel. Incidentally, Cronin successfully appealed a red card that allowed her to line out in last year's All-Ireland final.

"Orla started back training with us last November, but stepped away," said Twomey. "She came back to us again just before the league final, and the Munster final against Clare was her first game back playing."

"Orla is one of those players who glides around the field and has unbelievable skill and as a link between defence, midfield, and the forward line. Many of the younger players look up to her."

Reflecting on the team's recent defeat to Tipperary, Twomey insisted that they will learn from it.

"I think we are after learning an awful lot about ourselves in defeat," he said.

"I know that is a cliché. We had a frank discussion after the game and we had a very honest conversation again yesterday to see where we are at and what we have to do."

"The performance dipped and if we do that against any of the teams in the semi-final, we are not going to go through."

Both quarter-finals will take place in Semple Stadium on July 16 when Limerick play Waterford (3.15pm) while Dublin face Kilkenny (5.30pm).



Rebels left reeling after Thompson's red card and Cronin's withdrawal

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| TIPPERARY | 1-17 |
| CORK      | 1-16 |

GER MCCARTHY REPORTS

JUST when it all seemed to be coming together for Cork, they were hit with two big blows.

Forget last weekend's loss to Tipperary in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship because the Rebels, after four wins on the bounce, were already assured of top spot in Group 1 and a semi-final spot before the game.

The more immediate concerns are the red card the talismanic Ashling Thompson received after the final whistle while Cork boss Matthew Twomey also confirmed that Enniskeane star Orla Cronin will play no further part for the Rebels in this campaign.

An All-Star in 2020, Cronin's 2022 campaign has been blighted by injuries and she hasn't been able to enjoy a consistent run of games. She withdrew from the panel late last week and her loss will be felt as the West Cork woman is one of the best in the business.

To further disrupt Cork's All-Ireland semi-final preparations, Ashling Thompson received a red card for dissent shortly after the final whistle at Páirc Uí Rinn last Saturday and looks set to miss the Rebels' next outing in Croke Park, unless there's an appeal.

The game itself was a forgettable one for the home side, who lost by one point to a Tipperary team that, despite the result, missed out on an All-Ireland quarter-final berth.

Cork boss Matthew Twomey made no excuses for his side's poor performance even though they had already qualified for the last four of the championship prior to throw-in.

'There was definitely an element of minds already being on the semi-final but it still doesn't excuse our level of performance, especially in the first half,' Twomey said.

'We were very disappointed with that. We knew Tipperary's season depended on winning but our response was very, very poor in the first half.'

'I thought we had addressed

**Injury-troubled Orla Cronin has opted out of the Cork panel.**

Cork star Ashling Thompson received a red card after the final whistle against Tipp last weekend.



# Thompson's red card leaves Cork sweating

**'It is not the way we wanted to go into a semi-final' - Matthew Twomey, Cork manager**

things during half-time and we did come back into the game, could have squeezed out a



draw, but didn't in the end.'

This final group game exploded into life with Cáit Devane arrowing home a goal from the visitor's first attack. Laura Hayes instantly replied when her attempt at a point from wide on the left was deflected into the goal by Tipp net-minder Aine Slattery.

Tipp were the better team for much of the opening half with Devane, Grace O'Brien, Mairead Eviston, Eimear McGrath and Clodagh McIntyre helping build a 1-6 to 1-1 lead.

Cork rallied with Aine Slattery brilliantly denying Katrina Mackey and Amy O'Connor goals. Creditably, the hosts reduced the deficit to a point during a stop-start second quarter. Mackey, Sorchá McCartan, Hannah Looney and Cliona Healy scores made it 1-8 to 1-7 in Tipp's favour at the break.

The second period proved a much more entertaining and open game. Cork and Tipp exchanged scores during the early stages, as Cliona Healy and Amy O'Connor (two) points made it 1-10 apiece after Devane added another brace.

The Tipperary full-forward converted a free and Clodagh McIntyre was on target as Cork strugg-

led to withstand their opponent's incessant attacks. Then, a moment of magic, as Eimear McGrath converted a side-line cut worth two points to push Tipperary 1-14 to 1-10 ahead.

Ashling Thompson, a colossus all afternoon at centre-back for Cork, along with Saoirse McCarthy, Hannah Looney, Katrina Mackey and substitute Emma Murphy tore into their opponents.

It was 1-16 to 1-12 with eight minutes to go after Eireena Fryday and Grace O'Brien scored for Tipp and Katrina Mackey and Chole Sigerson answered for Cork.

Disjointed throughout the afternoon, Matthew Twomey's side produced their best spell heading towards full time. Cliona Healy (two), Ashling Thompson and Hannah Looney clipped over four unanswered scores to bring the Páirc Uí Rinn crowd to their feet.

Tipperary weren't going down without a fight, however, and got their first score in 12 minutes when Cáit Devane's free, brought forward for dissent, flew over the bar deep into injury-time.

Cork had one last chance to snatch a draw but Amy O'Connor's difficult free from the right touchline sailed the wrong side of the post. An engrossing game finished 1-17 to

1-16 in Tipp's favour but the drama wasn't finished.

Having already sent one Cork mentor to the stands earlier in the afternoon, referee Justin Howard brandished Ashling Thompson with a red card as the teams headed for the dressing rooms just minutes after the final whistle.

Thompson, unless cleared, will be a big loss to a Cork team already without Orla Cronin for their All-Ireland semi-final.

'It is just very disappointing, today's performance,' Twomey added.

'It is not the way we wanted to go into a semi-final. Regardless of us just being there (semi-final) already. We weren't happy with today at all.'

'Maybe it will bring us back down to earth and go away for the next three weeks and get stuck into things again. Something has to be done.'

### Scorers

**Tipperary:** C Devane 1-7 (5f); E McGrath 0-3 (2 sl); G O'Brien, C McIntyre 0-2 each; C Hennessy, M Eviston, E Fryday 0-1 each.  
**Cork:** C Healy 0-4; L Hayes 1-0; K Mackey 0-3; A O'Connor 0-2 (1f); S McCartan, C Sigerson and H Looney (0-2 each), A Thompson (0-1).

**TIPPERARY:** A Slattery; J Bourke, M Ryan, E Loughman; C Quirke, A McGrath, M Eviston; Ciarda Maher, Caoimhe Maher; C Hennessy, G O'Brien, E Fryday; E McGrath, C Devane, C McIntyre.

**Sub:** N Treacy for M Eviston (ht).  
**CORK:** M Lynch; M Murphy, L Coppinger, M Cahalane; L Hayes, A Thompson, S McCarthy; H Looney, K O'Mahony; K Mackey; F Keating, C Healy; A O'Connor, C Sigerson, S McCartan.

**Subs:** E Murphy for F Keating (50), O Cahalane for C Sigerson (53).  
**Referee:** J Heffernan (Wexford).

## ★ THE HIGHLIGHTS

- Our Star:** Ashling Thompson gets the nod for her terrific display at centre-back. Her red card, though, is huge concern.
- Star moment:** Eimear McGrath converted a magnificent side-line cut worth two points to push Tipperary 1-14 to 1-10 ahead early in the second period.
- Talking point:** Ashling Thompson's sending off after the final whistle means she could miss the All-Ireland semi-final.
- What's next?** Cork await the outcome of the quarter-finals (Kilkenny v Dublin, Waterford v Limerick) to find out their semi-final opponents.



Erin's Own and Midleton players at an Imokilly camogie underage blitz.

## Better structures sees Imokilly camogie build some real momentum

THE Imokilly Camogie Board continues to make progress on and off the field.

With solid structures now in place, and with a committed group of officers and mentors putting in a huge effort, results are there for all to see.

There is a production line of hugely talented young players coming through underage ranks, and the Imokilly team is all set to contest a place in the county's senior championship as they battle with the other divisions.

It's a far cry from a few years ago, when it proved difficult to get a group of players together, and in some cases difficult to put scores on the board. Now the landscape has changed. Already this year, the divisional team has played three challenge matches and won all three.

Team training, which has been taking place since early spring, has been well attended and there is a real belief that the division is going places. The buy-in from all the junior clubs has also been good.

Central to all that happens on and off at the field is Imokilly board PRO Linda Cashman from Cobh, who is also part of the team set-up.

"We started up the senior team three years ago and it was all very new to us all," she said. "This was a huge step for all the players as we were assembling a panel from totally junior clubs. I do feel we have grown and are much stronger now. The standard overall is much nearer the senior level."

"It is great to win our challenge games this season against Lismore, Ring, and Killeagh — when you consider that just a few years ago, we were really counting ourselves lucky to get on the scoreboard."

Imokilly begin their championship campaign with a game against Carrighoun in the round robin series that will see the winners emerge to face some big hitters from the senior clubs in the county. Dungourney is the current club base for training with players from the hosts joined by their colleagues from Bride Rovers, Youghal, Cobh, Castlelyons, Midleton, Watergrasshill, Castlemartyr, and more.

Looking ahead, Linda knows it is going to be a testing championship schedule.

"After the Carrighoun game, we have Seandún, Avonduh and conclude against Carbery," she said.

in politics but it is even longer in camogie, I can tell you!" Daly told *The Southern Star*.

"The girls had an awful lot to prove against Kilkenny following a really disappointing 11-point defeat to a good Galway team. We didn't do ourselves justice last week. The girls knew that."

"I knew that the entire 30-player panel had the character to bounce back from the Galway defeat.

### CAMOGIE

John Cashman

"We have a lot of work done since early season. Hopefully, that will be reflected in our championship displays. Based on what we have seen in the aforementioned challenge matches, I would be positive as we face into the divisional schedule."

Imokilly chairman and team manager Ger McCarthy from Castlelyons is joined by Pat Millerick from Fr O'Neill's, John Boylan of Dungourney, Mossy O'Sullivan from Bride Rovers, and Mark O'Flynn from Castlelyons on the selection committee.

"The contributions of Anthony O'Regan, Aoife Murphy, Margaret Doran, Darina Foley along with [secretary] Marguerite Cunningham, [treasurer] Vincent Cashman, and [child welfare officer] Ann O'Neill have been very much to the fore as Imokilly camogie strides forward," said Linda.

The board, though small in number, has worked very well together as they bid to further heighten the profile of the Imokilly Division.

"We are always looking for sponsorship to cover our costs, and of course further down the line it would be great if we could somehow acquire our own pitch," said Linda.

"At present we are dependent on the goodwill of the clubs to make their facilities available to us. The reality is that once the club match scene intensifies, it will be even more difficult to get venues."

Linda is hugely heartened by the quality of the under age game in the division and the skill level of many of the young players.

"Our leagues, beginning with the Go Games system from U8 to U11 have all proved to be a big success," she said. "Then we have U13s and U15s and are in the process of trying to initiate U17 and U20 competitions to help bridge the gap. We also run U13 and U15 divisional training hubs."

"Players come to us in October for a six-week period, before we streamline to a panel of 30 who go forward to represent Imokilly in divisional blitzes, some of these players then go onto Cork panels. Overall, the juvenile game in East Cork is incredibly strong."



Siobhan Hutchinson in action for Cork against Kildare in the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Larry Cummins

## Playing Cork's semis in different venues on the same day is infuriating

WHILE Cork had already qualified for the All-Ireland senior championship semi-final, other teams were fighting tooth and nail to make the quarter-finals.

Cork's intermediate team had to produce a high-scoring average against Kildare to ensure they pushed Derry into second spot. They did it with an impressive 5-21 to 2-4 victory, Newtownshandrum's Cliona O'Callaghan the headliner with four goals.

I have to say that her first on 11 minutes was a beauty. Kildare were poor on the day and Cork were in form in front of a great crowd.

By the time the senior game started the stand was full. The home support that the girls have received this year in Páirc Uí Rinn has been excellent. I'm wondering why the sudden uplift.

Is it that supporters feel the team are more exciting to watch this year? Certainly they are playing a more fluid and direct game. The closing minutes, when Cork struck five points on the trot to draw level, had the crowd in vocal form. Shane Murphy racing up and down the stand getting the Rebel roar going. Tipp's converted free won the day for them, but it wasn't enough to see them through, losing out on a scoring difference of eight points to Dublin who had a nine-point win over Wexford thanks to four second-half goals.

Tipp manager Bill Mullaney stepped down after five years in charge. He did a great job with them and only for unfortunate events and losing players such as Ashling Moloney, Orla O'Dwyer, Karen Kennedy, Roisin Howard, and Nicole Walsh, I genuinely feel that if Tipp had their full compliment there was an All-Ireland in them.

As it is now, they've regressed and it's disappointing.

So, group one finished with Cork, Waterford, Dublin, with Clare in a relegation final.

Group two sees Galway, Kilkenny, and Limerick advance with Offaly facing Clare.

Cork's seniors gave a poor performance last Saturday. They'll be disappointed, but it's good that this happened when they were already secure, maybe that's why it happened.

Sorcha McCartan played the full game and Orlaith Cahalane made her senior debut in the 53rd minute

meaning Cork have played a total of 27 players throughout the championship.

The sending-off of Ashling Thompson is a concern, the consequence of which was unclear at the time of writing.

The loss of Orla Cronin is a big blow

### CAMOGIE



Linda Mellerick

to Cork. She would have figured heavily in their plans at the beginning of the season.

But managements and panels have to deal with absentees such as this, year in and year out, and you just have to get on with it.

That's what your panel is for. Waterford got through a tough hour to advance. Clare, battling to avoid a relegation play-off, were battering Waterford defence.

Having got to within a point, they fell three behind but were well in the hunt.

Waterford, who began the day second in Group 1, were heading for a win that would cement that spot. But if Brianna O'Regan had not saved from Muireann Scarlón, or Iona Heffernan had not blocked Chloe Morey's goal-bound shot, the eventual group runners-up would have missed out on a place in the quarter-finals because of the victories of Dublin and Tipperary.

With Galway and Kilkenny playing out a high quality 1-17 to 2-14 draw, resulting in the All-Ireland champions just claiming the semi-final spot from the Cats on score difference, and a Lorraine McCarthy goal helping Limerick overcome Antrim 1-14 to 1-11 to secure third, it all means that Waterford will play Limerick and Kilkenny will take on Dublin in the quarter-finals at Semple Stadium on July 16.

Cork join Galway in the semi-finals at Croke Park seven days later.

What is extremely frustrating is that both the senior and intermediate semi-finals are on the same day.

The seniors will be in Croke Park and the intermediates will be in Nowlan Park.

How infuriating is that if you're from Cork or Galway?

Both Galway teams train together. The senior sub keeper is the intermediate side's number one.

With Cork, Galway, and Kilkenny all having strong first and second teams there is a high chance of this happening annually yet the association refuse to place the games on separate days.

There are many supporters who would have liked to go to both games.

It's hard enough competing with other sports without competing among ourselves.

## O'Callaghan hits four goals to fire Cork into semis

BY GER MCCARTHY

THE Cork intermediate and U16 camogie teams picked up important All-Ireland championship victories last weekend.

Páirc Uí Rinn was the venue for last Saturday's must-win Cork versus Kildare group clash in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland intermediate championship.

Nothing but a win would suffice for Trevor Coleman's side following Cork's previous loss away to Derry. Kildare, under the tutelage of famous Limerick hurler Joe Quaid, put up a decent effort but were eventually outclassed by a hungry Cork side that ran out deserving 5-21 to 2-5 winners.

Cliona O'Callaghan and Joanne Casey were in superb form, Casey netting four of her side's five goals and Casey weighing in with 0-13 (0-8 frees). Michelle Murphy added 1-3 and Cork manager Trevor Coleman was delighted to book an All-Ireland semi-final berth on July 23rd by finishing top of a competitive group.

"We were keeping an eye on the other scores in our group but results went our way and we got the win we needed to go straight through to an All-Ireland semi-final," Coleman said.

"Now we get to watch this weekend's quarter-finals (Derry v Dublin, Kerry v Meath) which is great because we will see what we are up against."

To be fair to Cliona (O'Callaghan) she has been threatening to do that all year. We know

she is a big goal threat. Cliona was under a small bit of pressure for her position today but she answered in buckets and spades. You cannot dispute four goals from an inside forward.

"I thought we were excellent in the first half but it is hard to keep that level of performance going for a full 60 minutes. We died a little in the second half but again, when we needed to after Kildare's two goals, we upped it again. We got the result we needed, which is great."

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Meanwhile, Donie Daly took his Cork U16s to Callan for a crucial Tesco All-Ireland U16 camogie championship encounter with Kilkenny last Sunday.

Cork were defeated by Galway in their group opener the week before and needed a victory to have a chance of progressing in the championship.

Daly wanted a reaction from his players and got it as Cork ran out convincing 3-15 to 2-6 winners. That result should be enough to send the Rebels into the knockout stages (on scoring difference) irrespective of the outcome of Galway and Kilkenny's final group match-up this weekend.

West Cork's Alice Buckley (Newcestown) and Amy McCarthy (Clonakilty) were part of the Cork U16 panel that defeated the Cats with McCarthy contributing a second-half point.

"They say a week is a long time

### INTERMEDIATE GROUP 2

|          | P | W | D | L | F   | A   | SD  | Pts |
|----------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Cork     | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 104 | 56  | +48 | 12  |
| Derry    | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 91  | 70  | +21 | 12  |
| Meath    | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 73  | 67  | +6  | 6   |
| Kilkenny | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 73  | 79  | -6  | 6   |
| Wexford  | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 74  | 93  | -19 | 6   |
| Kildare  | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 61  | 111 | -50 | 3   |

because they know that any decisions we make are for the betterment of the team.

"Now we are into an All-Ire-

land quarter-finals and everyone is knuckling down and preparing for that over the coming two weeks."

# Confidence is high that Cork could reach All-Ireland decider

**CAMOGIE**  
**Linda Mellerick**

IT'S Cork, Galway, Derry, and Meath in the last four of the All-Ireland Intermediate championship after the latter two defeated Dublin and Kerry last weekend.

Both winning scores were impressive, a 1-23 to 1-10 defeat of Dublin and a 2-17 to 1-7 trouncing of Kerry. With Cork and Galway having topped their groups they'll be kept apart for the semi-final.

Cork have already defeated Meath in their group qualifier, 1-12 to 0-11 and suffered a three-point defeat to Derry in Owenbeg where, by all accounts, they were disappointed with their performance.

So, confidence is high that Cork could reach an All-Ireland final, but all four teams need to bring their A game to the semis as all four will believe they can get to Croke Park.

The availability of Ashling Thompson hung in the balance on Wednesday after being called to a hearing with no decision advised on the night. Cork's management will attend this weekend's quarter finals in Semple Stadium with an open interest as an open draw will determine the semi-finalists and so Cork could get Kilkenny, Waterford, Dublin, or Limerick depending on who advances.

Both games are live on RTE. Waterford and Limerick face off at 3.15pm with Dublin and Kilkenny at 5.30pm.

The last time Dublin and Kilkenny met was May, in the Leinster final at MW Hire O'Moore Park. Kilkenny won well. They got a fast start and Dublin were chasing the game from there. But they never stopped trying.

Perhaps it was that attitude wrote Niall Scully during the week that brought them to the quarter final. Dublin were out the following week after that Leinster final defeat in the opening round of the All-Ireland series to Waterford.

They defeated the Munster side who now face Limerick by two points, and it certainly boosted morale.

"We felt we underperformed against Kilkenny that day," said manager Adrian O'Sullivan. "We didn't do ourselves justice. We'll see how much we have improved since."

Kilkenny will go in as hot favourites having just been pipped by Galway for the first-place group spot.

The Dubs concluded their

group with a great second half performance against Wexford which saw them push Tipperary out on scoring difference. Kilkenny should advance here though despite Dublin's best efforts.

Waterford will be expected to overcome Limerick. Waterford are into a fifth All-Ireland championship quarter-final in a row and need to advance to be viewed as a top county.

There's every chance Cork will meet Waterford in the semi leaving Kilkenny and Galway to do trojan battle again after only drawing two weeks ago in their final group meeting. But we'll know all of that this evening, assuming the draw is made after the final whistle.

It's a big boost for Limerick's young side that they've reached the quarters. After two horrendous results in their opening two games where they lost by a combined total of 31 points, they turned it around. It was always going to be that way though, wasn't it? Galway and Kilkenny would win all their games and the battle for third spot was going to be between the remaining four teams.

To be fair to Limerick they won their next three and easily qualified ahead of Antrim, Down and Offaly.

It's a big weekend for new sponsors Glen Dimplex. Rowena Rodrigues, group head of external relations, and engagement at Glen Dimplex attended the quarter final launch earlier this week.

"As proud sponsors of the camogie association All-Ireland championships, Glen Dimplex is delighted to show our support for the quarter finals, in what is set to be an exciting double header in Semple Stadium. We are delighted to be involved with the championships and would like to congratulate all the players and teams who competed over the last six weeks."

It's a bit surreal to realise that we are just three weeks away from the All-Ireland camogie finals. We'll keep our fingers crossed that we'll have two teams there on the day.

August 7 will be an extra special day as the winning Cork teams of 1995 and 1997 are invited to a lunch in Croke Park to celebrate their jubilee anniversary.

# 'You have to have a different mindset to the outfield players'

**Camogie**

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**

It wouldn't surprise Brianna O'Regan if she were the topic of conversation among match officials on lifts home after games, with umpires regaling their colleagues of her constant chatter.

Whether it's asking them what time is left, offering her defenders constant and vociferous encouragement, or issuing instructions to herself, it doesn't really stop.

"I think I've a bit of a mad streak in me," says a chuckling O'Regan.

"It's you and the two posts at times. I'd be talking to myself and probably the umpires are saying, 'This wan's a mad wan,' but you have to have a different mindset to the outfield players... Poor (full-back) Iona Heffernan, I'd say her head is fried!"

Extrovert by nature, a wise-crack is never far from O'Regan's lips. It would be a mistake to think the 23-year-old saunters through life with a devil-may-care attitude, however.

She is deadly serious about her work as a special needs assistant at St Stephen's De La Salle — "I love it" — and about honing her craft as a net-minder.

She has been as consistent as any in the land over the past three years, despite not picking up an All-Star gong, with her accurate and lengthy puckouts a key weapon in the Waterford armoury. The spectacular shot-stopping places her on an elite level, however, and the penchant for saving penalties is particularly notable.

But life is for living and she is all about doing that. Just like her camogie and profession, reaching this point in her personal life has taken plenty of work, including counselling.

O'Regan admitted on WLRFM after Waterford's Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship victory over Tipperary last June that the following day would be "very hard for me", as it marked the anniversary of the tragic death of her parents Bryan and Johanna and 21-month sister Niamh in a house fire at their home in Ballybeg in 2006.

Brianna and her brothers Cian and Aaron were lucky to escape. She was seven years old.

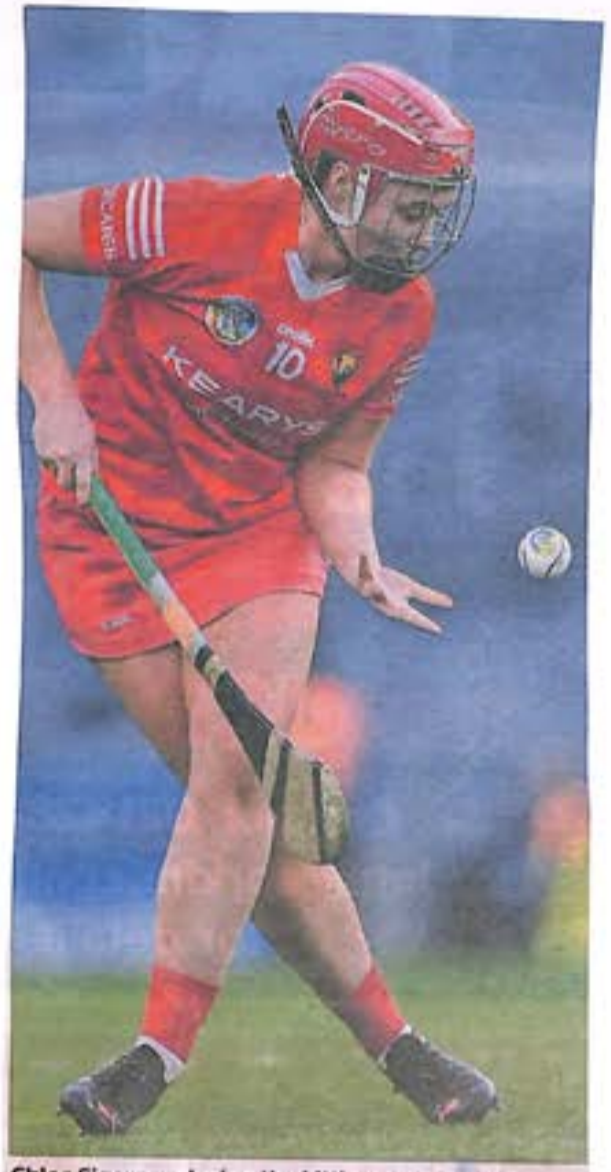
The support network in terms of family, community, and the Gaelic games family was critical but so too was professional help. She emphasises the importance of talking, to anyone, rather than bottling up anxiety or fear, whatever the cause.

"The younger generation now, they don't want to talk, they find it embarrassing but I really don't think it is. If you need help, even if you've a friend to talk to, you have to. Otherwise you're going to be down in the dumps and you're going to be taking your anger out on people that you don't mean to be taking it out on."

"I had great help, especially up in the club with (Carton father and daughter) Joey and Beth. They've been there through it all with me. To be honest, I don't think I'd be up in De La Salle if it wasn't for the two of them. I owe them a lot as well."

"You wake up and it kinda hits you then but you have to deal with it and take every day as it comes because unfortunately, life doesn't stop for ya and you just have to get on with it. Thankfully I've had both my grandparents with me the last 16 years. I'm very thankful for that."

Today, O'Regan and Waterford are participating in their fifth consecutive Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie quarter-final, playing Limerick as part of a televised double-header at FBD Semple Stadium (3.15pm throw-in, with Dublin v Kilkenny at 5.30pm - RTE 2).



Chloe Sigerson during the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 Final at Croke Park. PHOTO: PIARAS Ó MIDHEACH/SPORTSFILE



Brianna O'Regan: Puckouts a key weapon for Waterford.

# Sheppard helps to guide Cork into the semi-finals

**Cork 1-21**  
**Limerick 1-8**

**U16A CAMOGIE**  
**Mary Newman**

A SOLID performance ensured holder's Cork advanced to the last four of the All-Ireland U16A championship as they overcame the challenge posed by Limerick in Charleville on Saturday.

Earlier in the season cork easily accounted for the same opposition in the provincial campaign but despite what the score line suggests it was no walk in the park this time out as a determined Limerick made cork fight all the way for their place in the semi-final, at the break just four points separated the sides but Cork turned on the style in the second half to ensure their place was secured.

After a day of intense heat it came as a surprise to both camps that the opening stages of the contest were played in rain but it ensured a cool evening and a welcome respite as both sides went at it from the throw in. Cork opened up a six point lead inside five minutes of

the throw with Orlaith Cremin and Amy Sheppard pointing before Sheppard hit the game's opening goal.

Donna Kenny who did huge work for Limerick opened their account with a point and with Ava Fitzgerald and Grainne Finn responding Cork continued to hold the upper hand.

Limerick settled with Poppy Giltinane and Kate Foley on target and a Donna Kenny goal on twenty four minutes had just two points between then sides.

Cork had the gap back to four points with Amy Sheppard and Lucy O'Connell on target as Limerick wasted two chances to again narrow the gap and as the sides exchanged points it gave Cork a 1-10 to 1-6 interval lead.

On the restart, Kate Foley cut the Cork lead back to three points but it was to be Limerick's only score until the closing minutes as Cork took over completely reeling off

ten points without reply.

Lucy O'Connell, Amy Sheppard, Grainne Finn, Kate Fennessy and Amy McCarthy were all on target as the champions began to show their class. Limerick battled on with Kate Foley pointing a late free before the full time whistle but no doubting at this stage who was advancing to the last four.

**Scorers for Cork:** A Sheppard 1-7 (0-4 Fs), K Fennessy 0-4, O Cremin 0-3, A Fitzgerald 0-2 (0-1 45), G Finn, L O'Connell 0-2 each, A McCarthy 0-1.

**Limerick:** K Foley 0-5 (0-4 Fs), D Kenny 1-2, P Giltinane 0-1. **CORK:** E O'Sullivan, C Rice, S Hurley, R Roche, A O'Riordan, A Daly, L Dunlea, A Fitzgerald, A Cottrell, S Murphy, O Cremin, A Sheppard; L O'Connell, L O'Neill, G Finn.

**Subs:** A O'Neill for A Cottrell (h/t), A McCarthy for S Murphy (38), K Fennessy for A Daly (46), A Buckley for L Dunlea (53), N Treacy for L O'Neill (53).

**LIMERICK:** F Coffey, C Cunningham, A Fitzgerald, B Collins; S O'Keefe, R O'Connor, S Bourke, R O'Brien, K Foley; P Giltinane, D Kenny, E Madden; B Storin C Buckley, R Quilty.

**Subs:** E Hogan for S O'Keefe (h/t), K O'Connor for B Storin (36), S Casey for E Madden (49), C Fitzgerald for R Quilty (58). **Referee:** Mike Ryan (Tipperary).



# DEISE INTO LAST FOUR

**Waterford's first-half display is too much for battling Limerick**

**Waterford 3-16**  
**Limerick 1-12**

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

**WATERFORD** ended their quarter-final hoodoo thanks to an authoritative first-half performance against Limerick during which eight different players scored.

In the process they secured a historic first appearance in the last four of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior championship at the fifth consecutive attempt.

The Déise's forward division relished the sweltering conditions and hard sod at FBD Semple Stadium, and the space offered by an overrun Limerick defence as they galloped away to a ten-point triumph.

They did become very sloppy in the second half however - during which Limerick were down to just 14 players after the sending off of Sophie O'Callaghan just before the interval - and scored only 1-1 in that latter period.

Credit must go to Limerick for continuing to box on, Rebecca Delee leading the resistance in the first half and Caoimhe Costelloe scoring some stupendous points on her way to finishing with nine.

Limerick finished with 13 players, as Muireann Creamer received a second yellow card for charging late on but they will have plenty to build on next year.

The damage was done in the first half, when Waterford exploded from the stalls with pace, precision and destructive movement.

Though there were a number of outstanding performers in white and blue - Iona Heffernan, Lor-



**TOUGH TUSSELE:** Ailbhe Larkin of Limerick is tackled by Lorraine Bray & Clara Griffin

raine Bray, Abby Flynn and Niamh Rockett among them.

Beth Carton was phenomenal in the first half before drifting out of things like most of her colleagues in the second half - Bray among the exceptions.

Scoring a goal and seven was notable in itself but it was the De La Salle markswoman's all-round contribution that stood out.

Included were a number of quality assists, with one pass for a Rockett point bordering on the ethereal, while Carton also found her long-time ally up front with a tremendous diagonal ball for the first of the St Anne star's two goals after three and a half minutes.

Having struggled at times with her free-taking this year, Carton was unerring, converting - as Costelloe did - from every angle and distance.

With little more than ten minutes played, Waterford had a goal and eight points on the board - with five

different scorers - to lead by eight.

Costelloe drove over from a 66m free before Delee gave her side hope with a brilliant goal, a howitzer back into the far corner of the net while running in the other direction that left Brianna O'Regan rooted to the spot.

The response was notable though, Waterford hitting the next goal and four

**CROKE PARK BOUND:** Déise stars Niamh Rockett and Roisin Kirwan



points. Carton provided the green flag score, having earlier rifled just over from a similar position, running onto a through ball from

Bray after the Déise had won another puckout, and then surviving a heavy challenge to drill low beyond Claire Keating.

It was 2-15 to 1-6 at half-time, with O'Callaghan sent off for injudicious use of the hurley just before the half-time whistle.

Waterford never reached the same pitch after the restart, dropping the sliotar and losing their accuracy when attempting to link up.

To be fair, the result was never

in doubt, Rockett living up to her name when blasting her second goal in the 42nd minute having been found by Bray.

Costelloe provided the next four points, and Keating was unlucky to see her sally forward from between her posts to take a 50th minute penalty go unrewarded, her powerful shot ricocheting off the inside of the post to safety.

Bray concluded the scoring with a delightful shot when skipping back onto her left and Waterford were through to the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior semi-final for the first time.

**WATERFORD:** S O'Regan; K Corbett Barry, I Heffernan, M Power, O Hickey (2-1), C Carroll, A Lardner, C Griffin, L Bray (2-3), R Walsh (2-1), A Flynn (2-2), M O'Brien (2-1); R Kirwan (2-1), B Carton (1-4, 5), N Rockett (2-1). **Subs:** T Power for Flynn (48), S Lacey for Lardner (51), C O'Sullivan for Kirwan (57), A Hartley for M Power, A O'Sullivan for O'Brien (60+1).  
**LIMERICK:** C Keating; S Woulfe, M Creamer, M Quaid, M Ryan, S O'Callaghan, N Curtin, A Larkin, N Ryan, M Curtin, R Delee (1-2), C Costelloe (2-9, 8), C Lyons, L McCarthy, S O'Brien (2-1). **Subs:** O Keane for Larkin and L Boylan for McCarthy (both 15), T Dore for Woulfe (47), E Harrington for M Curtin (59).  
**REFEREE:** John Dermody (Westmeath).

## Dublin are overwhelmed by firepower of Cats



**VITAL GOAL:** Kilkenny's Denise Gaule

**KILKENNY'S** top-flight pedigree shone through as they responded to Dublin's excellent start in ruthless fashion, going in at half-time leading by nine points having trailed by four and streaking clear for a convincing Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior quarter-final victory.

The Cats have lost a lot of elite players this year but their workrate has not dipped, and they forced Dublin into more and more errors as the game wore on. They will face current champions Galway in the last four.

Kilkenny's Denise Gaule

**Kilkenny 2-24**  
**Dublin 1-11**

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

converted two early frees, but Aisling Maher replied with two of her own.

Miriam Walsh and Aisling O'Neill swapped points from play before Niamh Gannon lashed home an outstanding goal in the 13th minute. Dublin were four points clear and belief was

growing, but Kilkenny extinguished that hope without fuss, scoring a goal and ten points without reply.

Gaule chipped in with five of those, while Julieanne Malone, Walsh and Mary O'Connell slotted through the posts as well.

The goal arrived from a 24th-minute penalty, Gaule repeating her heroics from the All-Ireland final two years ago after Walsh was fouled.

It was 1-16 to 1-5 at the break but Walsh grabbed her goal in the 40th minute, before Gannon, Maher and O'Neill raised white

flags for Dublin.

However, Kilkenny had too much firepower and O'Connell, Katie Nolan, Gaule and Sophie Dwyer ensuring a saunter to the finish line.

**KILKENNY:** A Norris, M Teehan (N Deely 44), G Walsh, M Bambrick (A Phelan 47), T Fitzgerald, C Phelan, L Murphy, S Fitzgerald, K Power, J Malone (S Crowley 55), M O'Connell (A McHardy 55), M Kennedy, M Walsh, D Gaule, K Nolan.  
**SCORERS:** D Gaule 1-10 (1-0 pen, 5-10ts); M Walsh 1-3; K Nolan 0-3; M O'Connell 0-2; M Bambrick, L Murphy, K Power, S Dwyer, J Malone, M Kennedy 0-1 each.

**DUBLIN:** E Mooney, M Keane, C Buchanan, E O'Brien, R Baker, H Hegarty, E O'Brien, A Maher, G Cough, E Flanagan, E Butler (5), N Gannon, J Cough, E Jameson, Murphy, A O'Neill, A Twomey (K Finnegan 37).

**SCORERS:** A Maher 0-9 (8s); N Gannon 1-1; A O'Neill 0-1 (f).  
**REFEREE:** Justin Heffernan (Westford).

# Rockett dedicates history to departed



**HISTORY MAKERS:** Waterford's Niamh Rockett celebrates with Róisín Kirwan after the quarter-final win. Waterford reached their first semi-final since 1959. Picture: Laszlo Geczo/Inpho



All-Ireland senior camogie quarter-final  
**WATERFORD** ..... 3-16  
**LIMERICK** ..... 1-12

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**  
 FBD Semple Stadium

U16 winner Shauna McGrath from the Abbeyside club, who died in a road accident during the week on her way home from working on a night shift as a midwife in the University Hospital, at the age of 22. Rockett also had a family bereavement earlier this year that she wanted to honour.

The Déise led by a point when Rockett gathered a sweet delivery from the magnificent Beth Carton in the fourth minute and ignored all her coaches' advice by going high instead of low. The net shook.

She did the same in the 42nd minute, this time after a delivery from the beautifully balanced midfield dynamo and official player of the match, Lorraine Bray.

Rebecca Delee was heroic in her resistance for Limerick, finishing with 1-2 from play. The goal was stunning, when after good work by Michelle Curtin, she picked up a break around 20m out and running towards the 13 at an angle, sent a bullet to the far corner that Brianna O'Regan didn't even move for. That left four between them but Waterford found another gear and Carton, from another Bray pass, rounded the last defender and

drilled low in the 24th minute. It was 2-15 to 1-6 at half-time and Waterford had eight different scorers.

Limerick were reduced to 14 just before the break and Sophie O'Callaghan can have no arguments about the decision. But John Lillis's charges knuckled down after the resumption and with Waterford not operating at the same level of cohesion or intensity, and Caoimhe Costelloe putting on an exhibition of long-range striking on her way to tallying nine points, they had plenty to be proud about, though finishing with 13 as Muireann Creamer received a second yellow card late on.

"It was tough conditions with the heat and even trying to prepare for it but summer hurling, that's what you want, to be in the knockout stages so we're all just thrilled with the victory and thrilled to get to that semi-final stage, finally pushing over the line," said a beaming Rockett.

"The girls wanted to do it for each other but especially for Shauna McGrath and what happened during the week. It

puts things into perspective. My uncle (Andrew) passed away during the year as well, so for all my family... he would have loved to have been here today to see us. He was always at my matches. He's definitely looking down with a smile on his face.

"The same with Shauna. Lot of the girls knew her. It was very upsetting during the week but it just puts everything into perspective and that was a win for her, dedicated to her.

"We lost our shape a little bit in the second half. Maybe a little bit of nerves when it's in the palm of your hand and you don't want to leave it slip away from you. But everyone gave it their all and we're so proud of each other, all the team and everyone involved.

"I want to retire when we win the senior — that'll be the junior, intermediate, and senior and that's it, that's me done! I've never played senior level in Croke Park so we're after making history in the Waterford jersey. We're leaving it in a better place for whoever's coming through.

You see all the young girls here, it's great, and the county board have done so much pushing the sport forward so it's great to see and hopefully it'll inspire the next group to drive it on and it'll become a regular thing for Waterford.

"We'll be going into the semi-final as underdogs, that's the way it is. You're playing against a top three team but we'll just throw the shackles off and give it everything."

**Scorers For Waterford:** B Carton 1-6(0-5); N Rockett 2-1; L Bray 0-3; A Flynn 0-2; M O'Brien, R Walsh, R Kirwan, O Hickey 0-1 each

**Scorers For Limerick:** C Costelloe 0-9(8ts); R Delee 1-2; S O'Brien 0-1

**WATERFORD:** B O'Regan, K Corbett Barry, I Heffernan, M Power, O Hickey, C Carroll, A Landers, C Griffin, L Bray, R Walsh, A Flynn, M O'Brien, R Kirwan, B Carton, N Rockett. Subs: T Power for Flynn (48); S Lacey for Landers (51); C O'Sullivan for Kirwan (57); A Hartley for M Power; A O'Sullivan for O'Brien (both 60+1).

**LIMERICK:** C Keating, S Woulfe, M Creamer, M Quaid, M Ryan, S O'Callaghan, N Curtin, A Larkin, N Ryan, M Curtin, R Delee, C Costelloe, C Lyons, L McCarthy, S O'Brien. Subs: O Kelleher for Larkin, L Boylan for McCarthy (both ht); T Dore for Woulfe (47), E Harrington for M Curtin (59).

**REFEREE:** John Dermody (Westmeath)

# Blow for Cork as Thompson two-match ban upheld

**Therese O'Callaghan**

The red card shown to Ashling Thompson in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship round-robin game against Tipperary has been upheld by the Camogie Association's Transfer Hearing and Disciplinary Committee.

Following a hearing last Wednesday night, the decision of a two-match ban for the inter-county star was confirmed on Saturday.

This rules her out of the All-Ireland semi-final next Saturday in Croke Park, when

Cork will play Waterford, and if Cork were to be successful, it would also rule her out of the final on August 7 at the same venue.

Thompson was shown a yellow card during their one-point loss to the Premier County but referee Justin Heffernan issued her with a straight red card after the match for abusive language.

Cork manager Matthew Twomey said they are now considering their options.



**Ashling Thompson:** Would miss final.

# Malone hungry for more with rejuvenated Kilkenny



All-Ireland senior camogie quarter-final  
**KILKENNY** ..... 2-24  
**DUBLIN** ..... 1-11

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**  
 FBD Semple Stadium

Collette Dormer, and the unavailability of Meghan Farrell, Aoife Doyle, and Kellyann Doyle due to travels and long-term injury.

Kilkenny and Galway drew in the final group game of the championship, meaning the Cats just missed out on a direct route to the last four on score difference.

They are there now and this time, the clash must produce a winner.

Brian Dowling will go into the game with a huge degree of optimism and if the external view was that he could not afford to ship the losses he did, performances this summer have made people think twice.

The same applied in this display, as the Cats recovered from a slow start that saw them fall four points behind thanks to a fantastic 13th minute goal from Niamh Gannon, to score the next goal and 10 points.

Malone was among the point scorers, as was Denise Gaule, who provided a resounding finish from a 24th-minute penalty after a foul on official player of the

match Miriam Walsh.

Gaule registered 1-10 despite being a bit wayward in the second half, while Walsh would grab a goal and three points, taking a neat pass from Gaule to finish from close range 10 minutes after the restart.

"We're delighted to win a quarter-final," said Malone afterwards. "It's great to get back to Croke Park now to play a semi. We're looking forward to it.

"You're kind of closed off to what everyone is saying outside. That's what happens. Girls retire. We've a complete new team coming on. There's new girls going to shine this year that weren't on the team last year. All those girls that came on today, every one of them are well able to hurl.

"You just block that out, you don't listen to what people are saying. We've a new team, we're building on that every training and it proved it when we win a quarter-final and head onto Croker.

"It's good to be back and to get a chance to get back and play in Croker. I was in



**ON THE CHASE:** Dublin's Aisling Maher looks to get away from Kilkenny's Claire Phelan and Grace Walsh. Picture: Laszlo Geczo/Inpho

Sydney for a little over two-and-a-half years. It was good to get the break. It just makes you that bit hungry to come back and try and get on the team."

Dublin manager Adrian O'Sullivan was in philosophical mood, aware of the bigger picture of the progress his charges have made and the hope that operating at this

stage of the championship will bring about more for 2023.

"I thought we fought really hard in the second half. We made it very competitive. And the group have given us that all year. You can guarantee they'll go to the end. We finished with five of last year's minor team on the field at the end so it's very much a work in progress.

"We've developed an awful lot. This time last year we were up in Newry after escaping a relegation game by the skin of our teeth.

"I think we've progressed a long way as a group and we'll just have to lick the wounds over the winter and try to find that extra 10% or 15% to try close the gap a little more."

**Scorers for Kilkenny:** D Gaule (1-10, 1-0 pen, 0-10 frees); M Walsh (1-3); K Nolan (0-3); M O'Connell (0-2); M Bambrick, L Murphy, K Power, S Dwyer, J Malone, M Kenneally (0-1 each)

**Scorers for Dublin:** A Maher (0-9, 8 frees); N Gannon (1-1); A O'Neill (0-1 free)

**KILKENNY:** A Norris, M Teehan, G Walsh, M Bambrick, T Fitzgerald, C Phelan, L Murphy, S Fitzgerald, K Power, J Malone, M O'Connell, M Kenneally, M Walsh, D Gaule, K Nolan.

**Subs:** N Deely for Teehan (44); A Prendergast for Bambrick (47); S Crowley for Malone, A McHardy for O'Connell, S Dwyer for Kenneally (all 55)

**DUBLIN:** E Mooney, M Kelleher, C Buchanan, E O'Brien, R Baker, H Hegarty, E O'Brien, A Maher, G Couch, E Flanagan, N Gannon, J Couch, E Jamieson Murphy, A O'Neill, A Twomey.

**Subs:** K Finnegan for Twomey (37), L Butler for Flanagan (42), E Young for Maher (46), C Gannon for J Couch (56)

**Referee:** Justin Heffernan (Westford)



Cork star Ashling Thompson (right) was red-carded after the final whistle of their last group stage match. INSET: Manager Matthew Twomey.



# Cork favourites despite key absentees

## Manager Matthew Twomey is hopeful of leading Cork to an All-Ireland final during his first season in charge

BY GER MCCARTHY

CORK'S preparations for Saturday's Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Camogie senior championship semi-final with Waterford at 3.15 in Croke Park have been overshadowed by Ashling Thompson's two-match ban.

Match official Justin Heffernan gave Thompson a red card shortly after the final whistle in Cork's concluding group stage defeat to Tipperary at Páirc Uí Rinn.

A decision to uphold a two-match ban on the versatile senior player for abusive language means Thompson is set to miss Cork's semi-final with Waterford and, should they get there, the All-Ireland decider as well.

Cork may yet issue one final appeal but the loss of such an important player would represent a body blow to Matthew Twomey and his management team's preparations.

'At present, Ashling remains suspended for two matches even though there is another avenue open to us to appeal,' Twomey told *The Southern Star*.

'Obviously, we will do that. Everything is up in the air a bit as we speak so I don't know

**'At present, Ashling remains suspended for two matches even though there is another avenue open to us to appeal' - Cork manager Matthew Twomey**

what will happen. We will just have to see how that process goes and hopefully, have her available for the Waterford game if possible at all.

'Ashling has been outstanding. Her attitude has been spot on. We are also missing Orla Cronin and from last year, Pamela Mackey too. Missing Ashling on top of that will be a huge loss.

'We are going to do what we can but as it stands right now it doesn't look good.'

Thompson's absence will be huge unless her suspension is eventually overturned. For now, Matthew Twomey and his selectors must focus on the players that are available ahead of a crunch showdown with Waterford.

Interestingly, the Cork manager believes his side's recent loss to the Premier County has acted as a spur to refocus minds and up the intensity in training.

'It is all hindsight now but we think that defeat to Tipperary

might have done us the world of good,' Twomey commented.

'It got us refocused. We know that if we don't bring our top game that it won't be good enough, no matter who we are playing in an All-Ireland semi-final.

'Training has gone very, very well. We had a tough session last Thursday night including a practice game where the squad players really put it up to the first fifteen.

'It has been a case of a lot of talking and refocusing the minds. We have put in an awful amount of work, like other teams, but we are concentrating on ourselves.'

Waterford, who they have twice faced and beaten this season, are Cork's opponents in Croke Park on Saturday.

The Déise overcame Limerick 3-16 to 1-12 in last weekend's quarter-finals to reach the senior championship penultimate round for the very first time.

Although entering Croke Park

as favourites, the Cork senior manager is not underestimating the challenge of an improving opponent.

'Waterford put up 2-15 in the first half (against Limerick) and it was game over,' Matthew Twomey added.

'Waterford were always in control of that game and finished with eight different scorers. They had huge support at Semple Stadium and I can only imagine that will multiply when they are going up to Croke Park. They will be gung-ho and go straight at us.

'Great credit is due to (manager) Derek Lyons as Waterford have gelled together and looked really confident against Limerick. Waterford were very comfortable on the ball and used it very well too.'

Despite it being Waterford's first appearance in a senior semi-final, Matthew Twomey understands the underdogs tag will suit Derek Lyons' side. Cork's players are only too aware a full 60-minute performance is needed to have any chance of advancing.

'We have a mammoth game ahead of us,' the Cork manager said.

'That's not said to try and

water us down or to bring them up. It is a genuine assessment. Similar to the Tipperary game, if we are not ready then we are going to face defeat.

'There is no qualms about that. We have to get things going right from the start. That's why I believe the Tipperary game might have been a good thing for us. We will start as favourites, even though we don't want to be.

'There is no such thing as a soft draw in an All-Ireland semi-final. We know that. Waterford will be travelling up for one of the biggest Camogie matches in their history.

'We scraped past them in this year's Munster semi-finals and only beat them by six points in the group stages (of the All-Ireland championship). I wouldn't say our last game was a comfortable victory at all.

'Waterford will have no fear of Cork. I heard their supporters up in Semple Stadium saying

they were hoping to draw Cork in the semi-finals. We will have to be ready.'

Describing the Cork senior Camogie panel's season as something of a rollercoaster is not an understatement.

Orla Cronin's absence will be hardest felt over the next few weeks. The same is true of Ashling Thompson who will be sorely missed against the Déise and final, should Cork reach their target.

Off-field issues aside, there is more than enough talent within the Cork senior ranks

to get the job done against Waterford.

The prospect of contesting an All-Ireland final should inspire Matthew Twomey's players to victory on Saturday but it will be close.



# Bumper weekend camogie and



**Finbarr McCarthy**

**What a weekend ahead with two All-Ireland Camogie semi-finals and the opening games in the round-robin phase of the county football championships.**

**Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Camogie semi-finals**

**Senior Cork v Waterford on Saturday at Croke Park at 3.15pm**

"Very disappointed that she got a 2 match ban, and could possibly miss out on 2 big games, a bit harsh but look we will appeal and see where it takes us, but as of now we are planning for Saturday without her."

Cork manager Matthew Twomey speaking about the suspension handed down to Ashling Thompson for her red card received after the final whistle in the loss to Tipperary in the last group game.

Matthew was of the view that the defeat could turn out to be a blessing. "In a way it just might as after the game we had a really good chat amongst ourselves and we all agreed that (what we saw against Tipperary) was not acceptable and as a consequence we have really worked hard since that game."

As for the opposition, Matthew gives Waterford due credit: "It's some achievement from a team that could not get out of Division 2 in the league to reach this stage of the championship, I was really impressed with how they controlled their win over Limerick last Saturday it was effectively over by half-time."

"It was excellent and the manner in which they used the big pitch and

played good quality ball was a credit to their coaching team, especially Derek Lyons. It was very good to be fair and a warning that if we are not ready for them they will punish us."

A couple of players stood out, "especially Niamh Rockett and Beth Carton - they were brilliant but they got great support from the likes of Lorraine Bray, Brianna O'Regan, Mairead Power and Abby Flynn - very hard working all over the field."

The fact that is over a month since their last game is not a concern. "We have had some great A v B games in the last few weeks, some of the best I have seen, very intense and we learned a lot from them."

It will also be the third meeting between the sides this year, Cork winning the previous two but Matthew said they were tough encounters. It was "really very hard in the Munster semi-final, Waterford led for most of the game even though we finished with 14 but ground out a win, while in the group it was also very tight in Walsh Park but we won by 6 points in the end."

All that would suggest Cork will be favourites. "We probably are but that gives Waterford a free hit with no real pressure on them, but look we have to deal with that and hopefully we can and will."

Cork will have Laura Treacy back and with Thompson and Orla Cronin out that's a boost. "It is because Laura is a key player for us and has huge experience at this level and that is important even more so in Croke Park on big days."

The unfortunate loss by the Ladies Footballers has also ensured that dual players Libby Coppinger and Meabh Cahalane have been able to focus fully on this game, big players in the defence, fronting goal-

keeper and captain Amy Lee.

Half-backs Laura Hayes and Saoirse McCarthy as well as been excellent defenders have the ability to drive forward and clip over some nice points, that's an added bonus.

Thompson's absence from midfield could be offset by the inclusion of the hard working Hannah Looney who with a few more weeks training under her belt should be sharper while Katie O'Mahoney is a hard working player in this important area.

Cork have real quality in attack: Chloe Sigerson, Amy O'Connor, Katrina Mackey and Fiona Keating can trouble any defence.

It's expected that Cork will win, but if they allow Waterford any degree of momentum they could be troubled, but there's enough experience all over the field to guard against any complacency and with lots more big match experience of semi-finals in HQ, Cork have the capacity to win.

Galway and Kilkenny meet in the other semi-final where champions, Galway should advance.

**Intermediate semi-final**

Cork v Derry on Sunday in Nowlan Park at 4pm

Like the senior semi-final, this is also the third meeting between these sides this year with 1 win each.

Cork won the league encounter on a dreadful day in March, while Derry were winners in the final group of the championship on home soil, by then though Cork were already into the semi-final and were also without top scorer Joanne Casey who is fit for this game and that's a big plus for Cork.

Derry are a very skilful side with Niamh McQuilgan, Megan Kerr, Grainne McNicholl, Shannon Doherty and Aoife Shaw all impressing in the win over

Cork and were equally impressive in the comfortable victory over Dublin in their quarter-final.

It's been a good season to date for this Cork team; they narrowly lost the league semi-final now they are on the cusp of a final appearance and it is within their capability to achieve that.

There is a nice balance to the team; Stefanie Beausang is an excellent goalkeeper with Niamh O'Leary, Leanne O'Sullivan and Grainne Hannon anchor a solid defence, Lauren Callanan is a ball of energy in midfield alongside Rachel Harty, while in attack Cliona O'Callaghan, Michelle Murphy, Hayley Ryan and the return from injury of Casey will look to breach the strong Derry defensive unit.

Derry will probably, given that it's their first team, will start as favourites, but it's well within Cork's capabilities to upset the odds.

It's Galway v Meath in the other semi-final, what odds a Cork v Galway double header on All-Ireland final day in a couple of weeks time?

One other game on Sunday: it's Cork v Wexford in Clara GAA Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Under 16 semi-final at 2pm.



**Cork's Joanne Casey (Inniscarra) fires over a point from a free against Kilkenny in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship at Páirc Uí Rinn.**  
Picture: Larry Cummins

## Two All-Ireland semi finals for the county as Rebels make progress

**CAMOGIE**

**Linda Mellerick**

WE HAVE a senior camogie semi-final double header in Croke Park today and an intermediate semi-final double header tomorrow in Kilkenny.

It's a busy weekend but it's great to be here. It would be fantastic to reach both All-Ireland finals.

Cork will be favourites against Waterford in the senior game.

The intermediates face a tough challenge against Derry who beat them just a few short weeks ago.

But Joanne Casey didn't start, having just recovered from Covid, and came on at half time where she made a difference, even though she couldn't have been feeling in top form.

Casey is Cork's most lethal forward this year so fingers crossed she's the difference this time around.

Cork will be looking to get out of the blocks fast in the senior game and dazzle Waterford's first trip to Croke Park.

Having said that a number of the team would have played there with Gailltír over recent years so they may not be as overawed as we hope.

The big game is the Galway v Kilkenny clash. That's going to be a tight one, the sides drawing three weeks ago.

Kilkenny have lost big players from last year - Meighan Farrell, Collette Dormer, Davina Tobin and the two Doyles, Kelly Anne and Aoife.

Big names with years of experience. Brian Dowling has done well with his replacements, players such as Tara Fitzgerald, Laura Murphy, and Miriam Bambrick now regular starters.

Galway may not have had retirements, but they have had a nightmare run of injuries, most notably to Orlaith McGrath and Rebecca Hennelly, both out with cruciate injuries.

They've a few niggles to others and were grateful that they didn't have a quarter final to play, giving them that extra bit of time to get over those.

McGrath is such a massive player; she has dug wins out for Galway when all seemed lost and is a colossus lost.

When one considers Kilkenny's retirements, they did well to draw with Galway in their group series, but then things are a little balanced out with the injuries.

Dowling is four years with Kilkenny now, three as manager, and guided them to the 2020 title. He's a good tactician.

As is Cathal Murray for Galway. So this game will be hugely exciting. I'd imagine Kilkenny will look to get the ball in fast to a forward line high in confidence after

a 2-24 to 1-11 win over Dublin last weekend where all forwards were on the scoresheet.

That came on the back of that draw against the All-Ireland champions in their final group game where some of their newer players stood up.

I have to say that Dublin showed real improvement in the opening fifteen minutes last weekend. Sustaining it was the problem.

They've made progress though under Adrian O'Sullivan. Their work rate was impressive, their confidence evident with some exciting performances from 18-year-old Ashling O'Neill and Niamh Gannon.

When Gannon goaled on 13 minutes they couldn't have asked for a better start, leading by four.

But that was where their fairytale ended. The game opened up and Kilkenny found more space. Dublin's puckouts starting going astray and they became a little scattered. They failed to score from the 13th minute goal until the twenty-eight and that came from a free.

Whereas Kilkenny scored 1-11 during that time.

When Kilkenny scored their penalty on twenty-four minutes, well struck by Denise Gaule, it was a case of how much they would win by.

There were too many frees in that opening half, some sloppy frees given away, helping increase Kilkenny's lead.

All six Kilkenny forwards and two defenders scored in the opening half as they led 1-16 to 1-5.

Too many frees in the second half as well. Some of which the ref should have let play out but there was also a significant amount of indiscipline in Dublin and they didn't need to do it on many occasions as they held numerical advantage.

It was a good runout for Kilkenny. They didn't seem to pick up any knocks, but Galway will be fresher.

I previewed the Cork v Waterford game yesterday. We can expect a very defensive Waterford with two players inside Corks' 45 metre line.

Laura Treacy will float as a sweeper and if Waterford don't stop her as Cork's launch pad they won't win.

It will be a packed middle third, but Croke Park should alleviate too much bunching. All very well defending but you must score too.

# O'Connor: Davy treats us the same as he would the

**Daragh O Conchúir**



ray — brought a 10-season tenure to an end.

Matthew Twomey was a welcome, familiar face but the WhatsApp group exploded when word broke that Fitzgerald would be coming on board having won provincial hurling titles with three counties and brought Clare to All-Ireland glory in 2013.

"Matthew was there from my first year. I was a child really and he was the person to put his arm around the shoulder, look after me and make sure everything was all right and I've been very grateful to him for that. He tried to involve me in everything. He's as nice a fella as you could meet," says O'Connor ahead

of today's Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior semi-final against Waterford at Croke Park (3.15pm — live on RTE 2).

"But then when the news broke about Davy, to be honest I actually thought it was a joke! I said: 'Who's starting that one now?' People were saying it to me and I was saying: 'It's not true at all!' We genuinely had no idea. But it's great, it's brilliant. When you see someone like Davy Fitz, one of the most well-known faces in the GAA coming across to coach a camogie team, it means a lot.

"What I love about it he treats us the same as he would the men. There's no sugar coating anything. And with

the coaching, it's just coaching, not coaching a female team. It's been very different, but very positive."

After spending five and a half years including getting a masters' degree in pharmacy, O'Connor is now working in a completely different sphere as project manager for Workvivo, a technology company focusing on internal communications.

Company CEO, John Goulding is a St Vincent's clubmate so she found it impossible to refuse his offer and is delighted with her decision. Her trust in Goulding is total and it was the same with Murray.

"I had a brilliant relationship with Paudie. He gave me

my opportunity first day and he was always very good to me. I couldn't say a bad word about Paudie Murray. What he gave to Cork camogie and what he gave to camogie overall is unbelievable. Ten years he was there so it was a big change coming back at the start of the year to a whole new set-up.

"Everyone has a fear of the unknown. You see it in the hurling or the Premier League. A new manager could come in and clear the shop. You're not going to be everyone's cup of tea. And that fear will always be there with change."

As well as leading camogie's tactical evolution, among the

improvements Murray drove with Cork was the measurement and analytics of training data from a science base.

It is the norm now and most high performance athletes are monitoring their own fitness and wellbeing, to enable them to train and play at optimum level. For her part, O'Connor is an ambassador for Whoop, a personal digital fitness and health coach and her enthusiasm for the device is total.

One example of how it works is that it twice provided her with the information that prompted her to get tested for Covid-19 even though she was showing no symptoms. She was positive each time, the first just before the league

## men. There's no sugar coating anything

final. "Three days before I tested positive, my respiratory rate spiked. It was 17.4, which'd be quite high. My resting heart rate was 62, which would be high as well.

"The second time, I was just pottering along, didn't feel sick but you get a daily reading, what your resting heart rate has been overnight, heart rate variability, respiratory rate, skin temperature and blood oxygen. And everything was grand except my skin temperature. Then it tells you the reasons why your skin temperature might be high and one of them is that your body could be fighting an infection."

That early detection was

critical in terms of not spreading the virus through the rest of the group but of course there is so much more to the data than detecting illness.

"It has genuinely been game changing for me... Before you'd

**Amy O'Connor:** 'When you're ahead you have to keep your foot on the gas.'



be just training and training and training and you'd be thinking: 'Oh she's done 10 runs, I'm going to do 12,' where you have to be doing more than everybody else."

Now it's about training smart and while she won't be going to Fitzgerald and crying off training because her numbers aren't good, she will know by the information she has been fed to do what's needed to be in prime condition, be it an extra mobility session, a sauna, or the 26-year-old's

favourite, a power nap.

Another benefit is the affirmation it provides in times of self-doubt, as a catalogue of everything she has done.

"I remember before the 2017 All-Ireland final, I hadn't slept a wink. I remember going down to breakfast and I said it to Julia White: 'I'm wrecked, I couldn't sleep,' and she was like: 'But sure you've slept for the last 364 days, so what's wrong with you?' That always stuck with me."

Cork have undergone a lot of change in recent years and the last of the county's 28 All-Irelands arrived in 2018.

They pushed Galway all the way in last year's decider and did the same in the league

final. Both times they got their noses in front though and then watched Galway gallop away up the stretch.

"We need to learn from those mistakes that we made, probably twice, and make sure it doesn't happen again. When you're ahead of a team you just have to keep your foot on the gas."

"But I do think we learned from that."

We've a very new group and the league was quite short. We'd only four games, including the final, so we were still trying to develop.

We tried a few things in the final that will work and a few more things that won't work."



# Final flourish

**Kilkenny defeat champions Galway to book their place in camogie decider**

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Katie Power celebrates Kilkenny's victory over Galway in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final yesterday. Picture by Piaras Ó Midheach



Cork manager Trevor Coleman, on the sideline against Kildare in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday, July 2. Picture: Larry Cummins

## Cork meet Derry for third time this season in winner-takes-all match

**SUNDAY JULY 23**  
Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Intermediate Championship Semi Final; Cork v Derry; UPMC Nowlan Park, Kilkenny; 4pm.

CORK and Derry meet for the third time in four months having already clashed in the National league and in the group series of championship. The results stands at one win a piece but this time its winner takes all with a place in Croke Park up for grabs.

In the league outing between the sides Cork were two point winners and despite losing out by two points 1-16 to 3-7 in the group series championship meeting between the sides on June 26. Cork topped the group and were able to sit back and watch as Derry faced Dublin in a quarter final meeting where they certainly didn't have it all their own way in a game where Dublin took an early lead that they held to the half-time whistle.

Manager Martin Coulter rallied his charges at the break and with Aine McAllister, Mairead Mc Nicholl, Aoife Shaw and Shannon Doherty leading the fight back they ran out 1-23 to 1-10 winners. Aine McAllister finished with eight points, five from play and she also set up Aoife Shaw for the goal which sealed the result in her sides favour and she is one cork will need to keep a close eye on.

Coulter knows know they will need to up their performance since their quarter final clash with Dublin. Aoife Ni Chaiside was missing for that game but is expected to be fit for Sunday. Captain Shannon O'Doherty, Grainne Mac Nicholl, Therese Mallon and Aoife Shaw will lead the way as they battle for a place in the final.

It's been 10 years since Derry have been in an All-Ireland final when they overcame Galway to be crowned champions, in that time they have enjoyed a spell at senior grade with little success before dropping back to Intermediate and with Sloughneil and Eoghan Rua having brought All Ireland club honours to the county in recent years the standard has consistently improved dramatically.

Cork, having only lost one game in the group series to Derry, will be confident of reversing that result, they clawed back a five point deficit to be within two points at the full time whistle and having only introduced scorer in chief Joanne Casey for the second half in that game they will be confident that they can go all the way and reach the final. Cork enjoyed a good league

**CAMOGIE**

■ **Mary Newman**

campaign but lost out to Antrim at semi-final stage and they will be determined to go one better and make it to Croke Park. Joanne Casey continues to be their scorer in chief whilst four goals from Cliona O' Callaghan in their last game against Kildare helped ensure Cork topped the group and made it to the last four.

It will be tight but expect Cork to have enough to make it through for a final meeting against Galway or Meath who meet in the second semi-final at the same venue at 2pm.

**SUNDAY JULY 23**  
All-Ireland U16A Championship semi final; Cork v Wexford; Clara, Kilkenny.

Champions Cork continue their bid for back to back All Ireland U16 A titles when they take on Wexford. This seasons campaign didn't get off to the best of starts as they lost out to a strong Galway side in their opening game but they hit the ground running for game two as they over powered a Kilkenny side who then defeated Galway.

Cork got the upper hand on limerick in their quarter final clash whilst Wexford as group winners have come straight to the semi final; in the group series they overcame Clare and Limerick to book their semi-final place.



Siobhan Hutchinson in action for Cork against Kildare in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Larry Cummins



Cork's Amy O'Connor takes on Waterford's Mairead Power.

Picture: Noel Brown

# Déise test awaits Rebels

**SATURDAY**  
Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior championship semi-final; Cork v Waterford, Croke Park, 3.15pm

CORK, being drawn from the bowl last Saturday to contest the All-Ireland semi-final tomorrow against Waterford was met I'd imagine with a sigh of relief.

It was them or Kilkenny. Only hours before, Cork's management were notified of a two-match ban placed on star midfielder Ashling Thompson for words she expressed towards the referee in their qualifying game with Tipperary. Honestly, a two match ban I believe is excessive.

A one match ban adequately reflects the crime.

Cork will undoubtedly appeal in the hope that they'll get over Waterford and get Ashling back for the final.

There is an expectation that Cork will beat Waterford even without Thompson.

Watching their quarter final win over Limerick that expectation is justified.

I thought Limerick were very poor. Their long puckouts were constantly won by Waterford who repeatedly capitalised on the scoreboard and Limerick never switched.

Poorly struck side-line cuts dribbling along the grass straight to free Waterford players, it was of a standard far below what we should expect to see at senior level.

Waterford did enough to win comfortably, 3-16 to 1-12 but they won't be gifted such possession against Cork.

What will be a worry for manager John Lyons is that they went the first twelve minutes of the second half without a score.

A goal followed, by Rockett, who had oceans of space one on one.

Waterford's performance against Cork in their fourth-round group tie a month ago gave a better reflection of what we can expect tomorrow.

An extremely defensive affair as they attempted to minimise Cork's return and, on the counter having Niamh Rockett and Beth Carton roaming out around the half forward line trying to point from distance.

For long periods Waterford operated that day with no player inside Cork's 45



**CAMOGIE**

**Linda Mellerick**

metre line. Roisin Kirwan and Niamh Rockett drifted in and out but with Ashling Thompson as the free player Waterford weren't making much headway. Thompson was on too much ball and Cork worked it out with ease.

While Thompson won't be on the pitch tomorrow, Laura Treacy will. Treacy missed the sides' clash due to a shoulder injury, so Thompson fell back. Treacy will recoup the centre back position and expect Hannah Looney to pick up the vacant slot at midfield.

Looney came in as a second half sub that day having just returned from New York.

With a month's team training behind her we can expect a more influential performance.

With Waterford so defensive and Cork thereby having a large defensive numerical advantage they told their number two Meabh Murphy to follow her forward.

This placed Murphy in a corner forward position where she helped herself to a point.

Cork didn't get to hit the net, but they hit sixteen points to win by six.

If Waterford's distance striking was on target, they would have led Cork at half time.

Seven wides to Cork's three had them trailing by two.

They may have got their gander up and dug their heels in had they taken every advantage. It wasn't a runaway win for Cork.

For that reason, we can probably expect Waterford to play similar tactics tomorrow.

I was impressed with captain Lorraine Bray last weekend. She will take watching at midfield and Katie O'Mahoney could be tasked to do that job. Similar in stature and style, that could be a key battle.



Cork Manager Matthew Twomey. Picture: INPHO/Jim Coughlan

Abby Flynn was another who fed great ball inside as well as picking off some lovely scores however she has been struggling with a hamstring issue that doesn't seem to have cleared up.

Going into the Cork game she was a doubt and was removed on 24 minutes.

She was withdrawn limping again last Saturday at the start of the second half.

Waterford's two key markswomen are Carton and Rockett. Stopping the supply inside to their two player forward line is key to a Cork victory.

Cork report no injuries. Sorcha McCartan will start her second championship game.

Cork are obviously without ex-panel member Orla Cronin and Ashling Thompson, but they've put those disappointments behind them.

They've a strong team and their recent defeat to Tipperary has given them a timely reminder of what can happen if you're not 100% focused.

By Sunday evening Cork could be in two All-Ireland senior finals.

The Intermediate side take on Derry at 4pm in Nowlan Park on Sunday.

We wish both teams and management the very best of luck.



Cork's Lauren Homan, Rachel O'Shea, and Kate Kilcommins celebrate  
Picture: INPHO/Evan Treacy

## Coleman thrilled his Rebels have reached the intermediate final

CORK intermediate camogie manager Trevor Coleman was just about able to catch his breath after his side just about edged it over Derry to book their place in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Intermediate final against Galway in two weeks time.

Two late pointed frees from Joanne Casey saw Cork over the line, with the winning score coming deep into injury time to break Derry hearts.

"We are thrilled to be in the All-Ireland final and as we said all this week, semi-finals are there to be won, and it doesn't matter how you do it," Coleman said.

"If you just about fall over the line it is probably better and really I suppose that is what we did today and to be honest, going into a final with things to work on is probably better for us and we know after today we have lots to work on ahead of the final."

Coleman had huge praise for his charges and they manner in which they fought back.

"Derry really came at us from the start of the second half and they really put the pressure on us.

"When they got the goal they could have pushed on, but all credit to the girls, we pushed forward and hit two points in a row to cancel their lead out and it was than all about keeping in touch and not letting them get away from us."

Playing against the wind in the first half Cork had to work hard and on the restart Derry put them under a lot of press-

### INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

ure and Coleman acknowledged that Cork were inclined to fall back a bit too far in their defending.

"We did fall back a bit alright and we made it hard for ourselves, but we regained our shape and pushed on after they got the goal.

"We are delighted to be in the final and with the senior and U16s also in All-Ireland finals and the minors having won already theirs, it's great for Cork and for camogie."

Player of the Match Joanne Casey, who hit seven points from frees was happy to be heading to Croke Park for another final.

"It's great to be joining the senior side in Croke Park and I suppose we're lucky to be there, but all credit to the girls, they never let their heads drop and we kept at it even after they grabbed a goal we didn't let it upset our plans and ambition."

Playing down her own contribution and the vital frees she pointed to win the game Joanne said she picked her spot on the crossbar and just went for it.

"The wind was strong but it was at an angle so I just picked out the white spot on the crossbar and said here goes and thank God it went over."

"We still had to hold out for another minute and all credit to the girls they won possession and drove forward again and we were attacking at the full time whistle."



Emma Murphy of Cork celebrates after her side's victory over Waterford in the Glen Dimplex Senior Camogie All-Ireland semi-final at Croke Park.  
Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

# Cork advance to the big final

IT'S a Cork v Kilkenny All-Ireland final after the Cats dethroned holders Galway in a closely fought second semi-final in Croke Park on Saturday.

August 7 is All-Ireland final day as Cork manager Matthew Twomey acknowledged that Cork were in the game of their lives after 25 minutes against Waterford in the first semi-final at Croke Park on Saturday, where the introduction of Ashling Thompson made all the difference in a 0-15 to 0-10 win.

Thompson was handed a two-game suspension after the last group game with Tipp, but was cleared to play four hours before the Déise game.

"I suppose the whole thing with Ashling Thompson didn't help us. We didn't come out of the blocks and Waterford came at us. We had no answer to them and that was very disappointing," Twomey said.

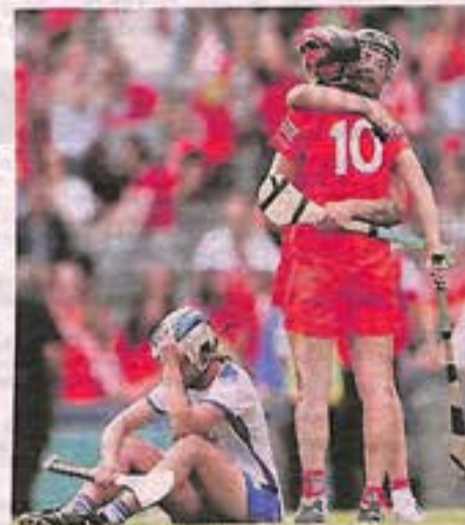
"It took us the second half before we settled down. At half time we told them that all our targets were down. It wasn't good enough. But I think it's a fierce testament to the team, the character they have that we were five points down and to then win by five, the amount of points unanswered at the end of the game, it's a testament of their character."

Ashling Thompson made a huge difference when introduced.

Was the situation that much of a distraction?

"Well, when you get a call at 11.30pm on Friday night that we had to get Ashling to Croke Park for 10.30am this morning; we had to get all of that organised."

"It wasn't really affecting the other



Cork's Ashling Thompson and Katrina Mackey celebrate.  
Picture: INPHO/James Crombie

### SENIOR CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

players; they didn't know until they were on the train once the appeal was successful. But she was a massive starting loss."

The Rebels were already down some key players from the side that lost last season's All-Ireland final to Galway under previous manager Paudie Murray.

"When you take Linda Collins, Pamela Mackey, Orla Cronin, and then Ashling

out — that's a big dent in any team and I just think when she game in she gave everyone a boost."

"Her first possession led to Katrina getting our first score. The way Waterford were running at us. When you look up and see Thompson there, she's intimidating that way."

"But I also thought Libby Coppinger was outstanding and Meabh Cahalane did brilliantly on Niamh Rockett. Waterford's stars didn't star for them, other players stood up, they had fierce character."

What was said at half time by Twomey and his coach Davy Fitzgerald?

"Actually, for the first time I let Davy off," laughed Matthew. "We said to them that there are people out there that would die to play for Cork in Croke Park and that they weren't doing the jersey justice. We are in a privileged position and we wanted to show that."

Glen Rovers' Emma Murphy made a difference when introduced too.

"Emma's speed is ridiculous. We started her in a lot of games but the impact she makes with her speed when backs are firing is a huge asset. She's had two shots on goal. I told her, she's after missing a couple of goals now, please God maybe on the big day she might get it."

Cork's last eight points on the trot was excellent.

"Yeah, we have to address though why we were so slow to start. We'll be underdogs against Kilkenny, but we'll be up here in two weeks' time and hopefully will have great support on the day."

■ See P39 for match reports.



Cork's Joanne Casey receives the Player-of-the-Match award.  
Picture: INPHO/Evan Treacy



Cork's Kate Kilcommins breaks ahead of Mairead McNicholl of Derry. Picture: INPHO/Evan Treacy

## Casey shows nerves of steel to fire Cork into the intermediate final

**Cork** 0-14  
**Derry** 1-10

A POINTED free, five minutes into added time, propelled Cork into the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Intermediate camogie final where they will join their senior counterparts in Croke Park after they edged it over Derry in an exciting semi-final in UPMC Nowlan Park on Sunday afternoon.

Cork led at the interval 0-6 to 0-4 and they would have been happy to do so given that Derry having played with the aid of the very strong wind in the opening half were guilty of shooting nine wide's as they failed to capitalise on the possession they won.

Cork worked hard with Lauren Callanan at midfield doing huge work as she broke up a lot of ball and drove forward, up front with Lauren Homan and Hayley Ryan on top they had pace over the Derry defence.

Joanne Casey pointed to open Cork's account on two minutes and Derry wining a lot of early possession hit three wides in a row before Teresa Mallon had them on level five minutes in.

Cork looked nervous as Derry came at them and were it not for wayward shooting by Derry Cork would have trailed.

Twice they sides swapped points and it was level pegging at the end of the opening quarter, Lauren Homan and Cliona O'Callaghan edged Cork two clear before Aine McAllister converted a Derry free.

Cork were let off the hook when Derval O'Kane's effort hit the post and bounced narrowly wide before Lauren Homan restored Cork's lead to two point before the break Derry made the better start to

the second half as Cork totally lost their shape and three unanswered point saw they take the lead for the first time in the contest.

Aine McAllister converted two frees as in between Shannon O'Doherty hit one for Derry.

McAllister and Kaitlin Hickey swapped points but Derry grabbed the lead with Shannon O'Doherty crashing the ball to the net.

Twice the sides swapped point as Cork hung onto the Derry coat tails and three Cork points without reply had it all square with one minute of added time played.

Sinead McGill hit what looked as if it might be a Derry winner, but credit Cork who dug deep and winning a free, Casey converted it to level matters before the same player showed nerves of steel to slot over the winner.

It was hard and tough but credit Cork, who held their composure to earn the narrowest of victories to ensure they meet Galway in Croke Park on August 7.

**Scorers for Cork:** J Casey 0-7 (fs), L Homan 0-3, K Hickey 0-2, C O'Callaghan, R O'Shea 0-1 each.

**Derry:** A McAllister 0-5 (0-4fs), S O'Doherty 1-1, A McGill, S Mallon, T Mallon M McNicholl 0-1 each.

**CORK:** S Beausang, A Moloney, N O'Leary, G Hannon, J O'Leary, K Kilcummins, L O'Sullivan, L Callanan, R Harty, J Casey, M Murphy, S Hutchinson, L Homan, H Ryan, C O'Callaghan.

**Subs:** K Hickey for M Murphy (44), A O'Callaghan for J O'Leary (48), R O'Shea for C O'Callaghan (55).

**DERRY:** N McQuillan, R Kirkpatrick, M Mooney, M Kerr, R Bradley, G McNicholl, C Glass, A McAllister, M McNicholl, A Ni Chaiside, D O'Kane, M McNicholl, S Mellon, A Shaw, S O'Doherty, T Mellon.

**Subs:** R Downey for C Glass (27), S McGill for A Ni Chaiside (inj 29), R Cassidy for M Mooney (49), M Rafferty for T Mellon (58).

**Referee:** Mike Ryan (Tipperary).



Derry's Shannon O'Doherty and Rachel Harty of Cork stand with referee Gavin Donegan for the coin toss. Picture: INPHO/Evan Treacy

# Thompson steers Rebels into the final



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

**Cork** 0-15  
**Waterford** 0-10

AFTER getting the fright of their lives, Cork returned to the All-Ireland final after beating an admirable Waterford side in Croke Park.

Waterford won't want our admiration; they'll be sickened that they were so close and feel that Cork were there for the taking. But experience won out.

The contrast in composure in the closing 10 minutes was apparent. Cork had not only the experience of playing in Croke Park but the poise of realising you are minutes from an All-Ireland final. Eight points in a row reflect that.

Waterford brought their A-game to the pitch and didn't let Cork dictate the tempo.

You couldn't say that Waterford went defensive for this one. Cork pulled out their forwards, leaving just Amy O'Connor and Katrina Mackey inside, hoping to capitalise on speed. They were brilliantly marked by Keely Corbett-Barry and Mairead Power with Clodagh Carroll floating but equally their teammates weren't feeding them the right ball either. I counted once in the first half that Cork delivered a ball into space advantage for them.

Cork were struggling all over the pitch, their distribution really letting them down. Both sides in fact were guilty of hitting the ball into open space where the opposition held the advantage.

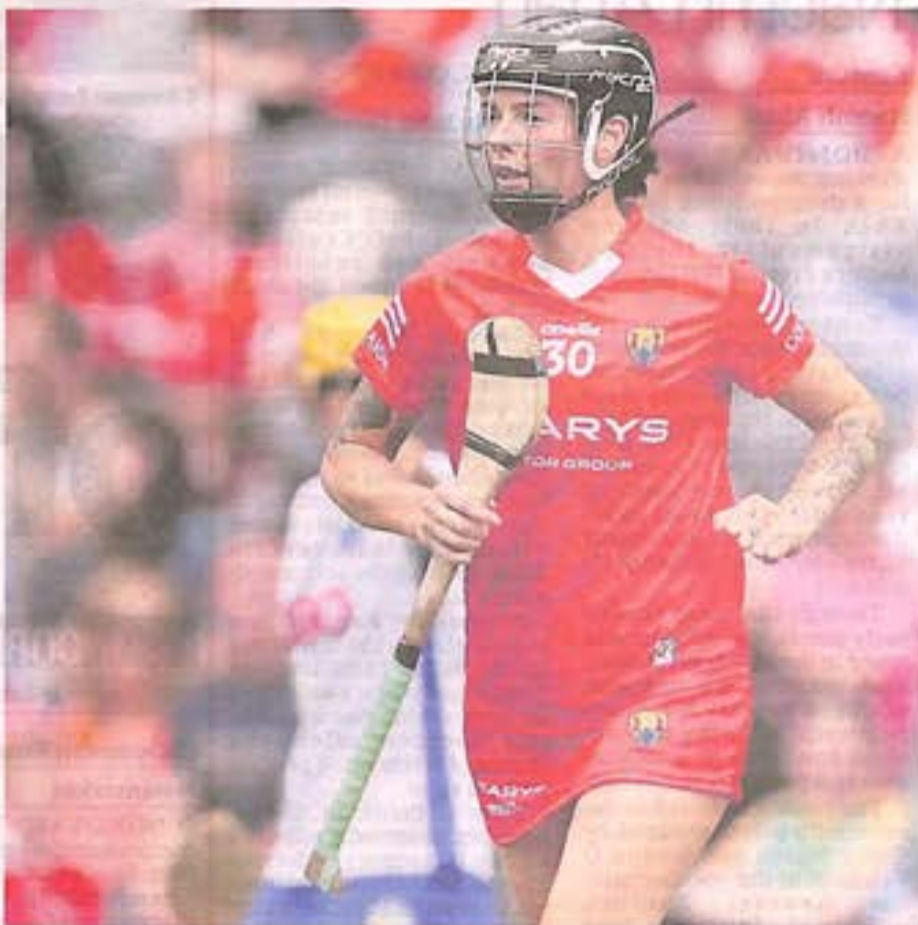
Wind couldn't be blamed as a factor for wayward shooting from both sides, Waterford having six wides to Cork's five by the half time whistle.

Losing midfield, Ashling Thompson, who was cleared to play only four hours earlier from a two-game suspension, was sprung from the bench on 22 minutes for Katie O'Mahoney where Hannah Looney was also struggling to make an impact, looking to offload where she would have taken a shot 12 months ago. Reaching match perfection after missing the first six months of the year is a hard ask.

And oh, did Cork need Thompson.

We're not used to seeing Cork go 25 minutes without a point. They were trailing by five by the time Katrina Mackey got their first and it could have been seven had Roisin Kirwan struck off her right with the goal at her mercy. But she turned inside, and the advancing Amy Lee and Libby Coppinger forced her to strike over.

You still felt at half time that Cork would win the game. That was more to do with the belief that Cork are the better side rather than anything we were witnessing there and then on the pitch. But you felt that Waterford needed to push up a bit more if they wanted to put Cork away and that every opportunity needed to be taken.



Cork's Ashling Thompson takes to the field against Waterford. Picture: INPHO/James Crombie



Cork's Sorcha McCartan celebrates a late point. Picture: INPHO/James Crombie

Small things started to go Cork's way. A crucial interception by Thompson on 41 minutes led to Fiona Keating narrowing the gap to two. My Player of the Match Meabh Cahalane was doing brilliantly on Niamh Rockett, forcing another Waterford wide. Coppinger also stood up.

Equally, the Waterford defence were doing brilliantly. A lovely Waterford move, and Abby Flynn point gave Waterford a three-point advantage entering the last quarter. With so many Cork players off form it was Sigerson that was substituted on 47 minutes for Emma Murphy.

Murphy's first touch led to a 45. O'Connor converted. It was down to one.

Over-elaboration stopped Waterford from stretching their lead to two again. And jitters led to them losing possession and gifting Amy O'Connor the leveller.

From there it was all Cork.

**Scorers for Cork:** A O'Connor 0-5 (0-3 f, 0-1 45), S McCartan 0-3 (0-1 f), K Mackey, F Keating 0-2 each, C Sigerson, C Healy, E Murphy 0-1 each.

**Waterford:** B Carton 0-4 (0-2 f), A Flynn 0-3, N Rockett 0-2, R Kirwan 0-1.

**CORK:** A Lee, M Murphy, L Coppinger, M Cahalane, L Hayes, L Tracey, S McCarthy, K O'Mahoney, H Looney, K Mackey, F Keating, C Healy, A O'Connor, C Sigerson, S McCartan.

**Subs:** A Thompson for K O'Mahoney (22), E Murphy for C Sigerson (47), O Cahalane for C Healy (55), C O'Sullivan for M Murphy (64).

**WATERFORD:** B O'Riordan, K Corbett-Barry, I Heffernan, M Power, O Hickey, C Carroll, A Landers, L Bray, C Griffin, A Flynn, B Carton, M O'Brien, R Walsh, R Kirwan, N Rockett.

**Subs:** T Power for M O'Brien (46), S Lacey for R Kirwan (55).

**Referee:** Ray Kelly (Kildare).

Cork themselves needed to push up. They were sitting back and being bottled out.

Cork opened the second half with their seventh wide. Niamh Rockett scored from the resultant puck out. Chloe Sigerson pushed up into full-forward.





All-Ireland Camogie semi-final

CORK.....0-15  
WATERFORD.....0-10

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Croke Park



The mood was playful as coach Davy Fitzgerald dribbled some water down the back of Matthew Twomey's neck while the manager gave his media debrief in the immediate aftermath of Cork's triumph over Waterford in Saturday's Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final at Croke Park.

But everyone knew, not least the Rebels themselves, that they had extricated themselves from a very sticky situation, having played second fiddle to Waterford in the first half in particular when it took them 23 minutes to score and been blessed to trail just by four at the break, 0-7 to 0-3.

Abby Flynn was causing plenty of problems and she set up Róisín Kirwan for a glorious goal opportunity but the full-forward's shot, under pressure from the advancing Cork skipper Amy Lee, flew just over the bar.

Beth Carton was exerting influence all over the pitch and her designated marker, Katie O'Mahony was withdrawn in the 22nd minute. Pocket rocket, Lorraine Bray continued her brilliant form at midfield too, alongside Clara Griffin.

The Déise players, operating at this level for the first time, the county not having been in the last four since 1959, embraced the occasion and still led by three when Niamh Rockett pointed in the 46th minute.

They couldn't score again though, Carton shooting narrowly wide on a couple of occasions and Rockett being asked from a few more efforts. With the spaces opening up,

Cork shot eight points in a row, only hitting the front in the 56th minute through substitute Emma Murphy, who had already forced Brianna O'Regan into a stunning double save, and finishing with a very flattering margin of victory.

While Libby Coppinger, Méabh Cahalane and Saoirse McCarthy were big performers for Cork, it was Ashling Thompson who was the game's most significant figure.

After winning an appeal against a two-match suspension in the morning, she was left on the bench initially but her introduction for O'Mahony began to turn the tide the Rebels' way, as she moved seamlessly into the plus-one defender role, while Laura Treacy took up marking duties on Carton with a greater degree of success.

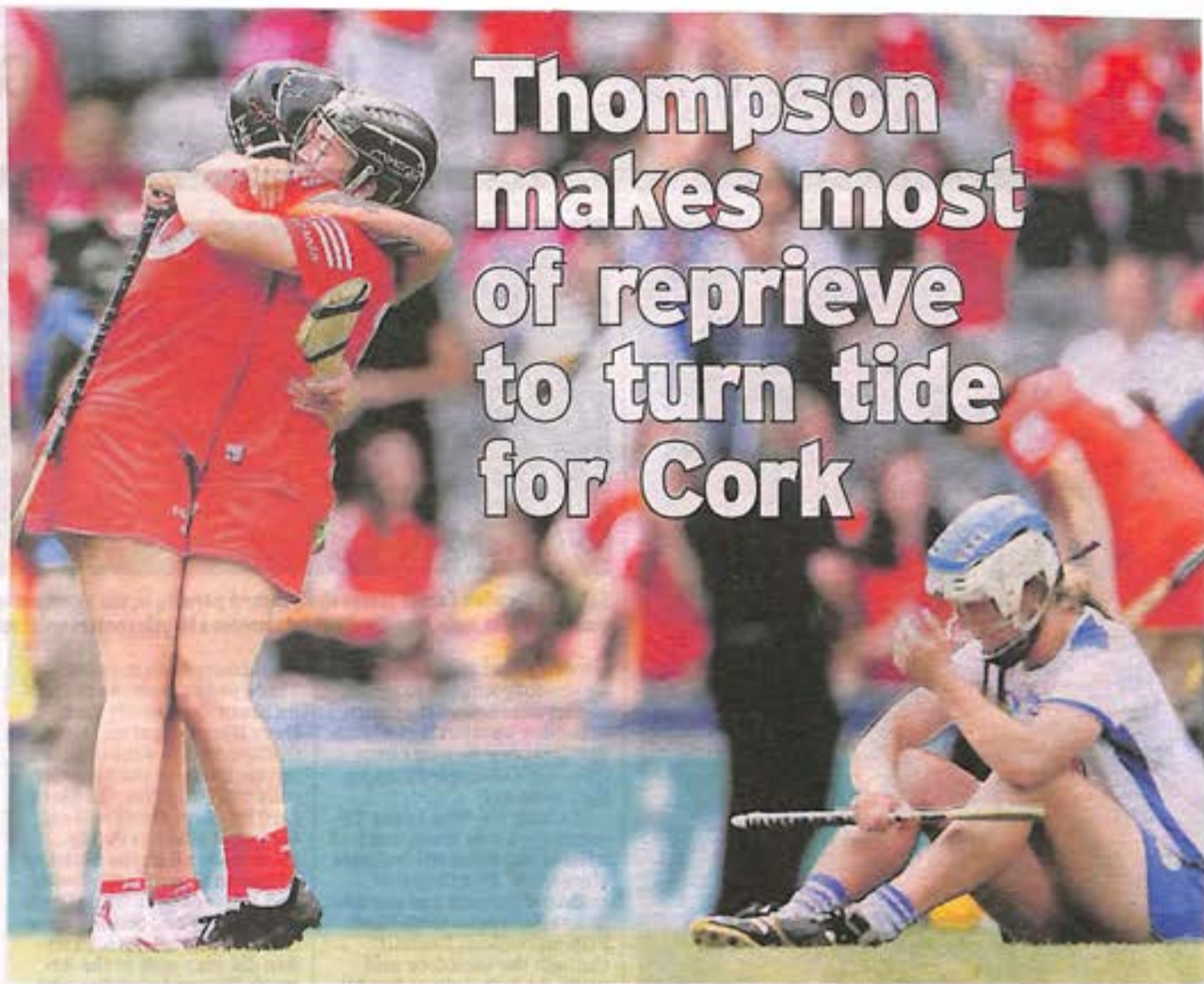
Thompson began delivering more forward-friendly ball than had hitherto been the case, finding space and a teammate so often.

And then, there was her physicality over the ball and in breaking out of tight contests. Twomey felt her contribution was worthy of considerable praise, though he did not forget Waterford in his summation.

"Massive relief," the Cork boss asserted in describing his primary emotion. "When you don't score for so long, it's hurling suicide. It was mad but you have to give massive credit to Waterford. We'd no answer for them. They brought a lot of energy but I suppose the overriding thing to come away from it is we're very happy with the character of the team and the way we finished the game.

"When Ashling Thompson came on, we did settle that good bit. Her first possession, she gave a ball down the wing for (Katrina) Mackey to get her first score. She's that kind of a player, she's immense and we missed her when she wasn't starting.

"When you're down Orla Cronin, Pamela Mackey, Linda Collins from last year, to lose Ashling then (was a blow).



# Thompson makes most of reprieve to turn tide for Cork

TURNAROUND: Cork's Ashling Thompson and Amy O'Connor celebrate semi-final victory. Thompson's introduction proved key in Cork's victory.

Picture: Inpho/James Crombie

"At lunchtime yesterday, we got notice that the (appeal) meeting was (Saturday) morning at half-past 10. Obviously, we'd a lot of work to do to get this thing over the line. She had to leave home at six o'clock in the morning to go into that meeting. Didn't know if she'd be toggling out or not, up in the stand or out in the field. She's different gravy altogether."

Waterford manager, Derek Lyons was justifiably proud of his charges but was equally anxious not to emphasise the disappointment of losing.

"We gave Cork energy in the last seven or eight minutes, partly because girls were out on their feet at that stage. We carried a few injuries but that's a testament to these girls, they were just immense and I'm so proud of them.

"They'll be disappointed for days and weeks and maybe months but I said to them, all they can do is their best when they go out on the field and that's what they did and the county should be so proud.

"But we didn't get it done. I keep talking about moral victories, and we're great in

Waterford to do that, men and women, so we need to move beyond that, and say, this is not about us making a spectacle for people to admire.

"Now that is important as well because it raises the profile of camogie in Waterford for young girls here and watching at home wanting to be the next Beth Carton, the next Lorraine Bray or the next Niamh Rockett and the girls carry that responsibility on their shoulders trying to win a game, which is immense."

Scorers for Cork: A O'Connor (0-5, 3 frees, 1 45); S McCartan (0-3, 1 free); K

Mackey, F Keating (0-2 each); C Healy, E Murphy, C Sigerson (free) (0-1 each)  
Scorers for Waterford: B Carton (0-4, 2 frees); N Rockett (0-3); A Flynn (0-2); R Kirwan (0-1)

CORK: A Lee, M Cahalane, L Coppinger, K O'Mahony, L Hayes, L Treacy, S McCarthy, M Murphy, H Looney, C Sigerson, F Keating, C Healy, S McCartan, K Mackey, A O'Connor

Subs: A Thompson for O'Mahony (22); E Murphy for Sigerson (48); O Cahalane for Healy (55); C O'Sullivan for Murphy (60+5)

WATERFORD: B O'Regan, K Corbett Barry, M Power, I Heffernan, O Hickey, C Carroll, A Landers, C Griffin, L Bray, R Walsh, A Flynn, M O'Brien, B Carton, R Kirwan, N Rockett

Subs: T Power for O'Brien (47)  
Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare)

# United Cats feeling the 'buzz' in win over Galway



All-Ireland Camogie semi-final

KILKENNY.....1-13  
GALWAY.....0-12

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Croke Park



In the build-up to Saturday's Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final, Kilkenny manager Brian Dowling spoke of how the players rallied around following the deaths in tragic circumstances of coach Tommy Shefflin's brother and his own uncle last March.

The tightest bonds can be

forged in adversity and to hear Katie Nolan in the aftermath of the Cats' 1-13 to 0-12 victory over champions Galway a tumultuous tie at Croke Park, you were left in no doubt about the spirit in the group.

Nolan is a clever player who always weighs in with a few scores but what has been a given since breaking through in the past three seasons is her voracious appetite for chasing opposing defenders down.

The St Martin's dynamo noted that there was a different feel to Kilkenny this year and the words began to tumble out with increasing speed, with a tinge of emotion detectable in her voice too as she talked about the shared sense of selflessness in the dressing room.

"We knew with Galway, it would be such a battle for the whole match and it was," said Nolan.

"It could have went either way but, I dunno, there's something about us this year. There's a bit of a buzz about us. We're looking forward to every match. We've two weeks to go again and then look forward to that. I'd say people are writing us off but I don't know why. We're still unbeaten this year."

Kilkenny started best but Galway gradually settled only to waste four good goal chances. Aoife Norris up to the task on each occasion, including from a first-half Sarah Healy penalty.

Mary O'Connell spurned a great goal opportunity too for Kilkenny in the first half, taking an extra touch that wasn't needed after being put through by Miriam Walsh and then somehow clearing the crossbar rather than rattling the net.

Norris's stop from Sabina

Rabbitte early in the second half was her best and it was crucial, as two minutes later, Laura Murphy was rifling a stunning shot low to the corner of the Galway net beyond a diving Healy to give the Stripecwomen the impetus.

Nolan took up free-taking duties after Denise Gaule failed to find the target with a number of opportunities, though the former player of the year had a major influence when moved to midfield for the second half.

"I take frees for the club but I haven't hit one in a good while so I'm gonna kill Gaule," joked a grinning Nolan. "It's something to go practice now for two weeks."

Galway battled and the tireless Aoife Donohue led the fight as they restored parity with 10 minutes left but Kilkenny hit the last four points,

with the wonderful Julianne Malone grabbing a fourth from play and sub Sophie Dwyer also splitting the posts, to book their place in the final in two weeks against Cork.

"This is what everybody dreams of. I can't describe it but at the same time, you have to be focused for the next two weeks. Head down and look forward to it, it's gonna be another unbelievable battle but we'll be ready."

Galway manager, Cathal Murray had no gripes about the result. "Kilkenny were the better team," Murray admitted. "They took their chances."

"We created chances in the first half and didn't take them. We were still happy with the position we were in at half-time. They started a whirlwind in the second half and got a sucker punch of a goal. "It took us a while to re-

cover and get back into the game. We did but again, we had point chances and didn't take them. When you are not clinical at this level you are going to be punished."

Scorers for Kilkenny: J Malone (0-4); L Murphy (1-1); K Nolan (0-3, 2 frees); M O'Connell, D Gaule (frees) (0-2 each); S Dwyer (0-1)

Scorers for Galway: C Dolan (0-8, 6 frees, 1 45); A Donohue (0-2); A O'Reilly, C Finnerty (0-1 each)

KILKENNY: A Norris, T Fitzgerald, M Teehan, Claire Phealan, N Deely, G Walsh, S Fitzgerald, L Murphy, K Power, J Malone, D Gaule, M Kenneally, M O'Connell, M Walsh, K Nolan

Subs: S Dwyer for Kenneally (49); M Bambrick for Murphy (59); A Prendergast for Power (60); Clara Phealan for T Fitzgerald (60+5)

GALWAY: Sarah Healy, R Hanniffy, S Dervan, H Cooney, E Helebert, Shauna Healy, R Black, A Donohue, Ni Kilkenny, N Hanniffy, A O'Reilly, C Dolan, C Finnerty, S McGrath, S Rabbitte

Subs: D Higgins for Rabbitte (37); A Keane for O'Reilly (54); S Gardiner for Helebert (58); S Spellman for McGrath (60). Referee: Andy Larkin (Cork)



Cork's Izzy O'Regan and Kate Wall celebrate victory over Waterford in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Semi-Final at Croke Park. They meet Kilkenny in the final. See Page 12 for

## A giant step towards All-Ireland glory



Cork's Meabh Cahalane, Aisling Egan and Amy O'Connor celebrate after their semi-final win against Waterford in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship at Croke Park on Saturday. The Rebels will play Kilkenny in the final next month, and Cork's Intermediate side yesterday also made the All-Ireland final. See Back Page. Picture: INPHO/James Crombie

# O'Leary fires Armagh into All-Ireland camogie final

### West Cork's greatest camogie star heading back to Croke Park

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

EIGHT years after her last All-Ireland camogie final appearance, Cork great Jennifer O'Leary is back on the big stage – but not in her familiar Rebel red.

West Cork's greatest-ever camogie player is now lining out for her adopted county, Armagh, and proving that class really is permanent.

Last Saturday the Barryroe woman racked up 1-3 to fire

Armagh past Cavan in the All-Ireland premier junior camogie semi-final at O'Connor Park in Tullamore.

The reward is an All-Ireland final against Antrim in Croke Park on August 7th, the same day that both the Cork senior (against Kilkenny) and intermediate (against Galway) teams will also be in action in All-Ireland deciders.

Eight-time All-Star and four-time senior All-Ireland winner O'Leary last played in Croke

Park in 2014, scoring a goal as Cork won the All-Ireland senior crown, and now she is back on the big stage again.

'I thought about coming on board with Armagh for a long time before I bit the bullet. I had been away a long time, my time with Cork feels like a different world, but I figured if I don't try, I might regret it, and I wanted the challenge,' the 38-year-old explains.

Now playing with Middletown GAA Club, she showed

last weekend that she is still a class act following her switch to full-forward.

Meanwhile, Cork senior boss Matthew Twomey hailed the influence of Ashling Thompson after the Rebels beat Waterford to book their place in the All-Ireland final. The Cork star only found out on the morning of the game that she was able to play, win-



Barryroe's Jennifer O'Leary scored a goal for Armagh in their All-Ireland semi-final against Cavan.

(Photo: Evan Treacy/INPHO)

ning an appeal against a two-match suspension. 'When Ashling Thompson came on, we did settle that good bit. Her first possession, she gave a ball down the

wing for (Katrina) Mackey to get her first score. She's that kind of a player, she's immense and we missed her when she wasn't starting,' Twomey said.

See pages 3 and 15 for more.

# Lynch grabs the Munster title

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

IT BEEN busy on all camogie fronts recently with the Cork and Munster long puck and Féile skills competitions, U14 and 15 development squads and U14 leagues all keeping players busy.

### LONG PUCK

Kate Corcoran, Enniskeane, was crowned Cork adult long puck winner with Sarsfields' Lucy Lynch taking the Under 16 title.

Both girls went onto the Munster long puck with Lucy taking the Munster title and Clare's Chloe Morey crowned winner of the adult section.

### FEILE NA NGALE SKILLS

Cork recently held a Féile skills competition where divisional representatives pitted their skills against each other. Organised by development officer Mairead Lynch, the event was held in glorious sunshine and after a great evening the winner was Maeve O'Brien, Enniskeane, representing the Carbery division.

In second place was Faye Sheehan, St Catherine's, representing Imokilly, with third place going to Muskerry representative Nikki Hosford from Rockban.

Maeve O'Brien went onto the Munster Féile skills where she took first place, with Kate Hayes representing Clare in second and Amy Foley, Limerick in third place.

### DEVELOPMENT

The Cork Under15 and under 14 development squads have been busy in recent weeks as they participate in various county blitzes. Last weekend the Cork under 14 Dubh team participated in a blitz in Lucan Sarsfields, Dublin, and played Derry, Armagh and Down where they lost out to Derry in the first game but won the next two against Armagh and Down.

The U14 Ban team played in Kilkenny against Galway, Kilkenny and Tipperary, where they got to the plate semi-final and defeated Clare to make it to the final against Kilkenny, where the sides couldn't be separated. So they shared the spoils on the day. The Dearg team were in Dublin where they played



Lucy Lynch (Cork), winner of the Munster U16 Long Puck, is presented with her trophy by Carmel Harkin, secretary, Munster Camogie.

against Kilkenny, Dublin and Westmeath. The next outing for these sides will be on August the 6-7 when they play in the national blitz on the 6th and parading at half time at the All-Ireland Camogie finals in Croke Park on August 7.

The U15 development squads travelled to Clare where the Dearg team played Clare, Limerick and Tipperary, while the U15s Ban side played Galway, Limerick and Clare and reached the final where they defeated Tipperary. They got to the plate semi-final where they played Clare and won out to play Kilkenny in the final, where the sides couldn't be separated so they shared the spoils on the day.

### U14 LEAGUES

It's now down to the finals of the U14 league and plate competition after a busy week of quarter and semi-finals.

### PREMIER U14

In the Premier U14 league cup semi-finals Sliabh Rua booked their place in the final with a semi-final win over Midleton and they will meet Aghabullogue, who advanced to the final having topped their group and being drawn as the side to get the bye to the final.

Douglas overcame Ballincollig in the U14 Premier plate semi-final and will play Sarsfields who were the sides to receive a bye to the final.

Clubs are currently working towards finds suitable dates for both the

Premier cup and plate finals which will be played in Castle Road.

### U14 A

In the U14 A league cup final, Newtownshandrum are through after they recorded a semi-final win over Bishopstown and they will meet Kilbrittan / Timoleague who were winners of their semi-final against Ballygarvan.

In the U14A plate semi-finals St Catherine's got the upper hand on Enniskeane and they will meet Carrigaline who defeated Cloughduv.

Again here the four teams that have made it through to the finals are working towards finds suitable dates for both the cup and plate finals which will be played in Castle Road.

### GOLF CLASSIC:

The sun shone recently for the Cork Camogie Golf Classic which took place in Douglas Golf Club.

The organisers could not have had a better day and with a full tee sheet and even a hole-in-one from former Kill-eagh and Cork star Betty Joyce who aced it on the 15th, it was a hugely successful day.

Well done to all prize winners and participating teams and the hard-working organising committee which included Linda Mellerick, Miriam Murphy, Eithne Duggan, Rose Desmond and Rose Keane.

Following a delicious meal, Paul O'Halloran, COO, and Jackie Dawson, Head of Communications, Kearys Motor Group, presented the super prizes to the category and overall winners and expressed huge delight to be involved with the event and with Cork Camogie.

**Scorers for Bishopstown:** Maeve Scannell 0-7, E O'Donoghue 1-3, O Ni Domhnaill 0-3, L O'Neill 0-2, J Ryall 0-1.  
**Youghal:** C O'Connell 1-0, J Doyle, C Crowley H O'Keefe J Swayne 0-1 each.  
**BISHOPSTOWN:** D Coffey, C Broderick, M O'Neill, S Murphy, A Corcoran (c), U Stevens, A Walsh, E O'Sullivan, J Ryall, J Scally, M Scannell, K Richardson, E O'Donoghue, O Ni Domhnaill, L O'Neill.

**Subs:** S O'Sullivan for J Scally, C Higgins for O Ni Domhnaill, G O'Driscoll for A Corcoran, M O'Shea for S Murphy, S Walsh for K Richardson.

**YOUGHAL:** K McCarthy, S O'Connell, L Dempsey, C Landers, R Kennedy, J Doyle, L Cashman, A Cashman, A Cashman, C O'Connell, H O'Keefe, A O'Connell, C Crowley, S Swayne, J Swayne.

**Subs:** R Landers for J Swayne, C Kennedy for C O'Connell, L Ryan for S Swayne.

### MINOR LEAGUE FINALS:

Sarsfields recently took the Premier Minor league title as they had the upper hand on Aghabullogue.

They were fast off the mark

## Bishopstown pull away from Youghal with Scannell scoring big

**Bishopstown 1-16**  
**Youghal 1-7**

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

BISHOPSTOWN took the Junior B league title as they overcame Youghal in a hard-fought final in Castle Road.

Bishopstown led at the interval 1-8 to 1-2 a goal and two points from Emily O'Sullivan three Maeve Scannell points and one a piece from Orla Ni Domhnaill and Laura O'Neill helped set the foundations for a solid opening half.

Youghal kept in touch with a Chloe O'Connell first-half goal and points from Amy O'Connell and Jess Swayne.

Bishopstown's ability to pick off points was crucial and they hit eight in the second half. Maeve Scannell added three to their tally, Ni Domhnaill with two and Emily O'Donoghue and Jennifer Ryall with one a piece ensured Bishopstown held their lead.

Youghal battled hard with Amy O'Connell, Jenny Doyle, Ciara Crowley Hannah O'Keefe and Amy O'Connell target but Bishopstown held the upper hand to the finish to run out winners

and led at the break 1-8 to 0-1 with Orlaith Mullins, Katlyn Sheehan and Cliona Lynch with first-half points as Ellis Hegarty chipping in with a superb goal.

Aghabullogue battled hard but an early second-half goal from Isabel Kelly followed soon after by a second Ellis Hegarty goal finished the game as a contest as Sarsfields ran out winners on a 4-13 to 0-4 score line.

**Blackrock 2-9**  
**Kilworth 1-6**

Blackrock overcame Kilworth to take the Minor C league title, a superb feat given that this is Blackrock's second minor team the full-time score line of 2-9 to 1-6 shows how close the contest was as two committed sides battled it out for the league title.

## Rebels 'don't really do panic', says Thompson

Paul Keane

Ashling Thompson has admitted that looking on from the line as Cork struggled early on in last weekend's Glen Dimplex All-Ireland camogie semi-final against Waterford was a new and frustrating experience.

The experienced midfielder was brought on 22 minutes into Saturday's all-Munster tie with her team yet to score and trailing by four points.

Having only been cleared of a proposed two-match ban shortly before the game, management opted to hold the Milford colossus in reserve though her impact proved decisive as Cork came from five points down at one stage to win by five.

Speaking at this afternoon's launch of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie finals, four-time All-Ireland winner Thompson said it was a tough watch for the opening third of the game.

"I was fit to run back down the tunnel after five or 10 minutes," she said. "Just in general even, it's very hard to watch it from the line. It's something that I haven't really experienced myself. It was frustrating, but I have a lot of faith in those girls."

Despite her unease, Thompson said she still had faith in Cork to turn things around.

"We don't really do panic," she continued. "I know for the audience looking on, there was probably a lot of panic in the stadium but I had no fear. I have their back the same way that they have mine. There was a lot of time left, there was 40 minutes to be played, and to me that was plenty."

Thompson was initially booked against Tipperary in Cork's final group game before being shown a straight red card after the final whistle for a separate incident which prompted the two-match ban.

Asked what it means to be preparing for another final now following the episode and drawn out appeals process, Thompson said it "means everything, really" to her.

"It's your goal at the end of the day, to get to the All-Ireland final and to build collectively as a team," she said. "I think we've done that from the outset, we've had a few setbacks along the way but we've really grown together as a unit. Obviously it was a difficult enough week before the semi-final but I had the backing of my management and my team-mates and thankfully we got over the line."



Cork keep cool, says Ashling Thompson.



Aimee Brown celebrates her birthday with her Blackrock U13 team, who took part in the Cork Garda Camogie Blitz at the Inniscarra GAA Club, Ballyanly, Cork. Picture: Dan Linehan



Rebel ace cleared to play on morning of semi-final – and turns tide for Cork

CORK 0-15  
WATERFORD 0-10

DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR REPORTS

THE mood was playful as coach Davy Fitzgerald dribbled some water down the back of Matthew Twomey's neck while the manager gave his media debrief in the immediate aftermath of Cork's triumph over Waterford in Saturday's Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final at Croke Park.

But everyone knew, not least the Rebels themselves, that they had extricated themselves from a very sticky situation before booking their All-Ireland final spot.

They played second fiddle to Waterford in the first half when it took Cork 23 minutes to score and were blessed to trail just by four at the break, 0-7 to 0-3. It had taken 2021 defeated All-Ireland finalists Cork 25 minutes to get on the scoreboard.

'Massive relief,' the Cork boss asserted in describing his primary emotion.

'When you don't score for so long, it's hurling suicide. It was mad but you have to give massive credit to Waterford. We'd no answer for them. They brought a lot of energy but I suppose the overriding thing to come away from it is we're very happy with the character of the team and the way we finished the game.'

While Libby Coppinger, Méabh Cahalane and

# Thompson is 'different gravy,' insists Cork boss

**'When Ashling Thompson came on, we did settle that good bit' – Matthew Twomey, Cork manager**

Saoirse McCarthy were big performers for Cork, it was Ashling Thompson who was the game's most significant figure.

After winning an appeal against a two-match suspension in the morning of the semi-final, she was left on the bench initially but her introduction for Katie O'Mahony in the 22nd minute began to turn the tide the Rebels' way. The Milford powerhouse moved seamlessly into the plus-one defender role, while Laura Treacy took up marking duties on the influential Beth Carton with a greater degree of success.

Thompson began delivering more forward-friendly ball than had hitherto been the case, finding space and a teammate so often.

And then, there was

her physicality over the ball and in breaking out of tight contests. Twomey felt

her contribution was worthy of considerable praise, and he was right.

'When Ashling Thompson came on, we did settle that good bit. Her first possession, she gave a ball down the wing for (Katrina) Mackey to get her first score. She's that kind of a player, she's immense and we missed her when she wasn't starting,' the Cork boss said.

'When you're down Orla Cronin, Pamela Mackey, Linda Collins from last year, to lose Ashling then (was a blow).

'At lunchtime (on Friday), we got notice that the (appeal) meeting was (Saturday) morning at half-past ten. Obviously, we'd a lot of work to do to get this thing over the line. She had to leave home at six o'clock in the morning to go into that meeting. Didn't know if she'd be toggling out or not, up in the stand or out in the field. She's different gravy altogether.'

With Libby Coppinger a resolute presence at full-back, Hannah Looney and former Down star Sorcha McCartan storming into it in the final quarter and Amy O'Connor slotting her placed ball opportunities, Cork just had a little too much for their gallant opponents up the finishing straight.

It was a tactically intriguing affair, with Cork's forwards lining up in a bunch on the 65 for the throw-in and then settling into three up the spine, usually with Iona Heffernan picking up McCartan (daughter of All-Ireland

football winner Greg), Keely Corbett-Barry tagging Katrina Mackey and Mairéad Power marking O'Connor. Both 6s, Clodagh Carroll for Waterford and Laura Treacy for Cork, were the plus ones in defence, sweeping and taking short puckouts.

One of the big match-ups saw Katie O'Mahony shadowing Beth Carton and it was a battle that the second leading scorer in the championship won from the throw-in until O'Mahony's withdrawal in the 22nd minute. By that juncture, Carton had three points on the board, two from play. Thompson came on for O'Mahony and quickly moved into the role as spare defender, with Treacy picking up Carton.

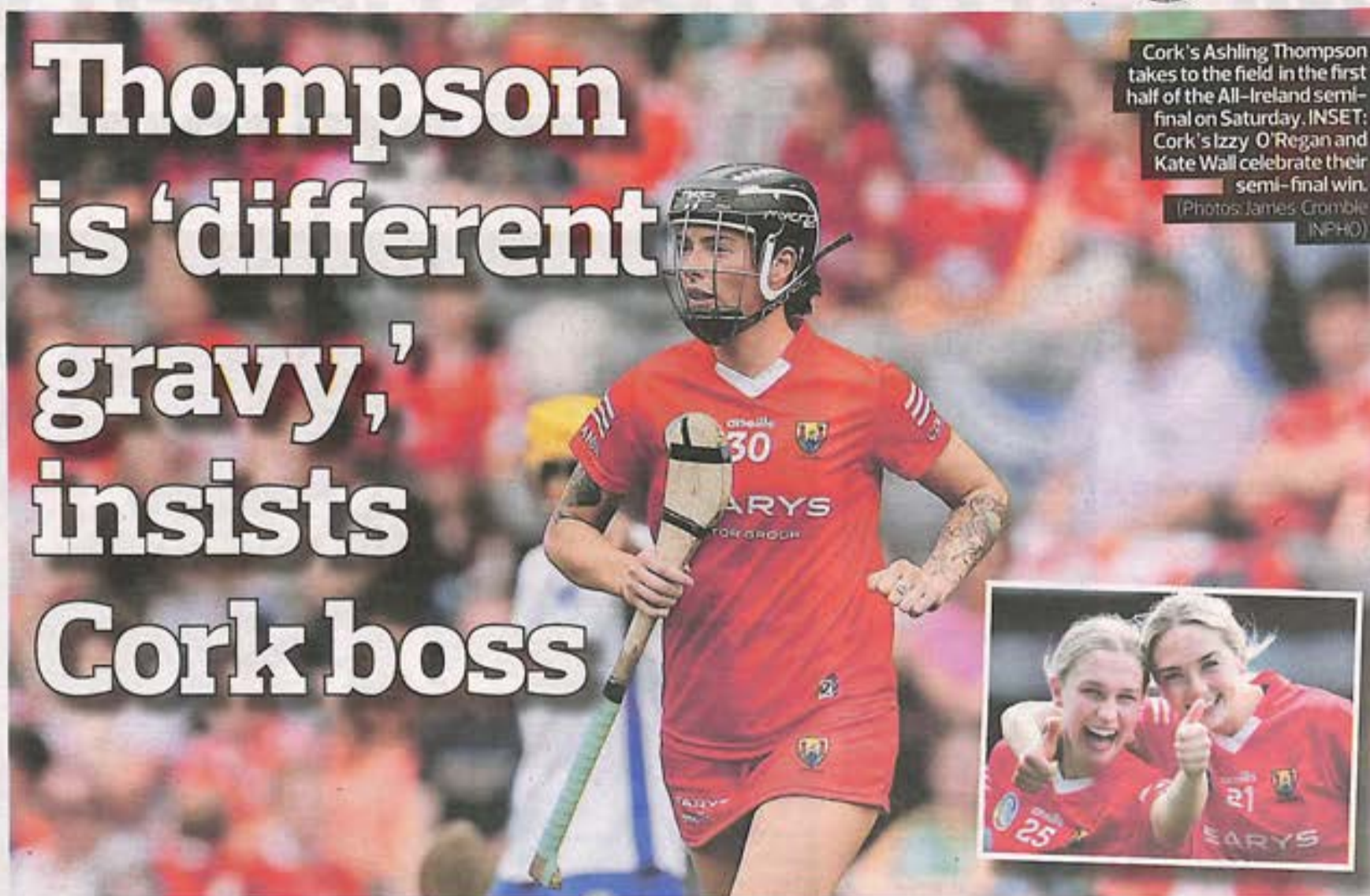
Cork, having shot five wides from largely low-percentage shots and failed to provide O'Connor and Mackey in particular with any quality of ball due to the pressure being exerted further out finally got off the mark through a lovely score from Mackey in the 25th minute, and McCartan split the posts three minutes later.

When Chloe Sigerson lofted over a free from the 65, tight to the right touchline, there were incredibly only two points between them. Earlier, Róisín Kirwan had shot inches over the crossbar when put through by Abby Flynn with the goal on, though Amy Lee's dash from the line deserves credit for rushing the shot.

Waterford's response was good though, Flynn and Niamh

Cork's Ashling Thompson takes to the field in the first half of the All-Ireland semi-final on Saturday. INSET: Cork's Izzy O'Regan and Kate Wall celebrate their semi-final win.

(Photos: James Cromble/INPHO)



## ★ THE HIGHLIGHTS

**Our Star:** While Courcy Rovers' Saoirse McCarthy got the RTE Player of the Match, Ashling Thompson showed exactly why Cork needed her to get to the final. Her introduction on 22 minutes was vital.

**Star moment:** Cork hitting eight unanswered points between the 47th and 65th minutes was key in a brilliant comeback.

**Talking point:** The return of Thompson. It was less than five hours before the game when her two-match suspension was overturned.

**What's next?** Cork go on to contest the All-Ireland camogie final on August 7th where they play Kilkenny, a repeat of the 2018 decider.

Rockett with a sensational score making it 0-7 to 0-3 at the break, the very least Waterford's dominance deserved.

Rockett clipped over another less than two minutes after the restart but Cork shot four of the next five points through Mackey, Cliona Healy, O'Connor and Fiona Keating, the latter after a brilliant turnover at the other end of the field by Thompson on Bray, when a point looked on for Waterford.

Waterford made it a three-point game in the 46th minute but with Carton's influence reduced greatly, Cork found another gear, with the spaces opening up and confidence growing.

O'Connor hit three on the trot to bring the sides level, the second of those came from a 45 after Brianna O'Regan made a brilliant double save from sub Emma Murphy. Murphy gave Cork the lead with a super score.

Cork were playing with more energy now as Waterford tired and winning more 50-50s as a result. They were also finding

more space in the Déise half and McCartan (two), O'Connor and Keating completed the scoring. Roll on the All-Ireland final, with Kilkenny waiting on Sunday week.

### Scorers

**Cork:** A O'Connor 0-5 (3f, 145); S McCartan 0-3 (1f); K Mackey, F Keating 0-2 each; C Healy, E Murphy, C Sigerson (f) 0-1 each.  
**Waterford:** B Carton 0-4 (2f); N Rockett 0-3; A Flynn 0-2; R Kirwan 0-1.

**Cork:** A Lee; M Cahalane, L Coppinger, K O'Mahony; L Hayes, L Treacy, S McCarthy; M Murphy, H Looney; C Sigerson, F Keating, C Healy; S McCartan, K Mackey, A O'Connor.

**Subs:** A Thompson for O'Mahony (22); E Murphy for Sigerson (48); O Cahalane for Healy (55); C O'Sullivan for Murphy (60+5).

**Waterford:** B O'Regan; K Corbett Barry, M Power, I Heffernan; O Hickey, C Carroll, A Landers; C Griffin, L Bray; R Walsh, A Flynn, M O'Brien; B Carton, R Kirwan, N Rockett.

**Sub:** T Power for O'Brien (47).  
**Referee:** Roy Kelly (Kildare).



Cork forward Fiona Keating impressed.

# Casey fires Rebels into All-Ireland decider

Cork intermediate and senior teams target dream double

DERRY 1-10  
CORK 0-14

## DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR REPORTS

INNISCARRA star Joanne Casey shot two injury-time points from frees as Cork hit the last four points to snatch victory from Derry's grasp in the dying embers of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland intermediate camogie semi-final at UPMC Nowlan Park.

It means that the Rebels are in their first All-Ireland intermediate camogie final since 2018.

They will play in Croke Park the same day as the Cork seniors, as the intermediate side takes on Galway on August 7th. An exciting day of camogie action from a Cork standpoint can't come soon enough, when you add in that former Cork star Jennifer O'Leary will line out with Armagh in the All-Ireland premier junior final on the same day.

A 49th minute goal from Aoife Shaw gave Derry a lead

that in the context of the game on Sunday, looked significant but with Katelyn Hickey having a considerable impact off the bench and the experienced Joanne Casey completely unruffled, it was the Leesiders who booked their place in the final against Galway.

Casey shot the first of her points from a third minute free, after a foul on Lauren Homan but after a few wides from Derry, Therese Mellon shot a brilliant leveller.

It was nip and tuck and extremely cagey and Cork's economy was pivotal, Homan's contribution particularly noteworthy, her elusiveness enabling her to find spaces and providing the necessary finishing touch when doing so.

Derry had more than enough chances, putting a lot of pressure on the Cork puckouts but they registered some bad wides, with nine in the first half, though Sinéad Mellon and Aine McAllister did manage to find the target.

Leanne O'Sullivan and Rachel Harty were prominent, and Homan slotted her third, jinking back on her left, having taken the opening pair with her right to make it 0-6 to 0-4 at half-time.

Derry were dealt a huge blow just before the break when one of the team's totems, Aoife Ni Chaiside, making her first start on her return to injury, went down with what looked a bad ankle issue, unfortunately



Cork's Ashling Moloney (Courcey Rovers) celebrates the All-Ireland semi-final win against Derry. INSET: Cork's Joanne Casey receives the player of the match award. (Photos: Evan Treacy / INPHO)



Cork defender Grainne Hannon (Courcey Rovers) keeps her eyes on the ball.

looking in a lot of pain as she hobbled slowly from the pitch.

Cork had the elements in the second half, but it was the Oak Leafers that produced more intent after the restart, hitting three points in eight points to hit the front.

McAllister converted two frees to book-end a lovely score from play by captain Shannon O'Doherty and McAllister

threatened to goal soon after. Within seconds, Homan hit the crossbar, though referee Gavin Donegan had blown the whistle, judging her to have over-carried when taking it around Niamh McQuillan.

Substitute Katelyn Hickey equalised at the three-quarter mark, after good work by Hayley Ryan, but when Aoife Shaw goaled in the 49th minute,

gathering Grainne McNicholl's raking delivery and kicking left footed to the net, it looked like Derry were on the way.

Remarkably, this goal heralded a marked increase in the scoring rate. Casey converted two frees but McAllister and Mairéad McNicholl shot points from play at the other end.

But Cork finished the strongest, with four consecutive points. The run was started by Hickey, before Casey's coolness from placed balls told, slotting a 45 first and then two frees, the equaliser only coming in the third minute of injury time, and the winner arriving two minutes later after a foul on Rachel O'Shea, making sure the intermediates would join their seniors at Croke Park on August 7th.

### Scorers

Cork: Joanne Casey 0-8 (7f, 145); Lauren Homan 0-3; Katelyn Hickey 0-2; Cliona O'Callaghan 0-1.  
Derry: Aine McAllister 0-4 (5f);

Aoife Shaw 1-0; Therese Mellon, Sinéad Mellon, Shannon O'Doherty, Mairéad McNicholl 0-1 each.

Cork: Stefanie Beausang; Ashling Moloney, Niamh O'Leary, Grainne Hannon; Jillian O'Leary, Kate Kilcommins, Leanne O'Sullivan; Lauren Callanan, Rachel Harty; Joanne Casey, Michelle Murphy, Siobhan Hutchinson; Lauren Homan, Hayley Ryan, Cliona O'Callaghan.

Subs: Katelyn Hickey for Murphy (44); Rachel O'Shea for O'Callaghan (57).

Derry: Niamh McQuillan; Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Maura Mooney, Megan Kerr; Rebecca Bradley, Grainne McNicholl, Caoimhe Glass; Aine McAllister, Aoife Ni Chaiside; Dervla O'Kane, Mairéad McNicholl, Sinéad Mellon; Aoife Shaw, Shannon O'Doherty (capt), Therese Mellon.

Subs: Rachel Downey for Glass (29); Sinéad McGill for Ni Chaiside inj (30+3); Róisín Cassidy for Mooney inj (50); Maria Rafferty for T Mellon (59).

Referee: Gavin Donegan (Dublin).



Sister Lucy and Molly Lynch from Cork, U16 Camogie Poc Fada and senior Camogie Poc Fada champions at the Cooley Mountains.

Picture: Ben Brady / INPHO



The Cork U16 camogie team before their All-Ireland final against Tipperary.

## Rebels look to make it back-to-back All-Ireland titles in Sunday's final

**SUNDAY: All-Ireland U16 A final: Cork v Tipperary, Mallow, 1.30pm.**

IT'S down to the last two in the hunt for the Tesco All-Ireland U16 A title and it's an all-Munster meeting as old rivals Cork and Tipperary will battle it out for the crown.

Cork are bidding for back-to-back successes and with no championship played in 2020 due to Covid, Cork could very well be now going for four in a row having taken the title in 2019 when they breached a 16-year gap.

It has been a productive few years for Cork at U16 level and the huge work going in at club and county level is paying huge dividends.

This will not be the first meeting of the sides this season.

Nine points separated them in the Munster final when an impressive performance saw Cork, with first-half goals from Louise O'Neill and Grainne Finn, retain their provincial crown on a 2-18 to 3-6 scoreline.

Tipperary have been out of the honours list at U16 level since 2014 and this year under the guidance of Mike Ryan they have gone about reaching this final with impressive displays.

In the group series, they overcame Dublin and Waterford to top the group and book a semi-final place where they overcame a fancied Galway side to make it to the final.

Tipperary dug deep to record a four-point victory on Sunday last in a game where a goal from Ali O'Kelly helped get them over the line in a contest where they trailed at the interval by a point.

Ryan had huge praise for



Grainne Finn, Cork, is tracked by Therese Marie Murray, Galway, in the Tesco U16 All Ireland Camogie Championship. Picture: Jim Coughlan

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

his charges after the contest and he praised the manner in which they responded after the interval: "We told them we have a right chance here but we needed to up our game and they battled to the very end to get through, we delighted to be in the final and we will be going in to give it our very best."

Cork easily accounted for Wexford in their semi-final clash with impressive displays from Grainne Finn, Amy Sheppard, Ava Fitzgerald and Kate Fennessy.

Having lost out in the opening game in their group series to Galway, Cork have been superb since that opening round game with excellent victories over Kilkenny, Limerick and Wexford.

Their work-rate has been huge and the will to win is there to be seen.

The competition for places on the starting 15 is huge and with a very strong bench, Donie Daly and his management have been changing their lines out and keeping everyone on their toes.

Captain Keely Goulding has not featured due to a cruciate knee injury picked up earlier in the season but she continued to be a huge part of the set-up.

Tipperary will come into this clash as underdogs having lost out in the Munster final but with players of the calibre of Emer Dwan, Daniele Ryan, Ciara O'Hara and Danielle Ryan they will give it their all in their quest to bridge an eight-year gap and bring the title back to the Premier county.

## It could be four for Cork camogie

IT is wonderful that the Cork camogie teams could bring home quadruple success this season.

To even get to the point where there is a realistic possibility of winning four All-Irelands is absolutely brilliant. Over the weekend the senior, intermediate and U16 teams all reached their respective All-Ireland finals, a magnificent achievement in itself.

With the minors having already won the All-Ireland championship, the Rebels have the chance of making it a clean sweep of titles this season.

It will start next weekend when the U16s take on Tipperary in their final and then on Sunday, August 7, the seniors and intermediates will both be in action at Croke Park to make it an amazing year for Cork camogie. The senior side are up against Kilkenny and intermediates face Galway.

Cork's last win in the senior grade was 2018, beating Kilkenny in the final - the same opponents as this year and also a year they won the intermediate title as well.

Cork fans can of course be relied upon to give their full support to these sides, as the Leesider women lead by example again.

We shouldn't forget the ladies footballers either who have had a good year at underage levels. The U14 and U16 sides both lost All-Ireland finals after extra-time, but the minors will be hoping to bring the title to Cork when they play Galway on Wednesday week as they too have reached the ultimate decider.

That will be a special few days for the Cahalane family, a name synonymous with GAA in Cork. To have one family member wear the Rebel red is a proud achievement, but this season alone five siblings, sons and daughters of former Cork star Niall, have all represented the county.

Damien, Conor and Jack all lined out on the men's side, with Meabh and Orlaith both playing camogie and ladies football. For Orlaith it could be a great week as she will play in the All-Ireland minor football final on Wednesday night, against Galway before turning her attentions to the senior camogie final on the Sunday.

So Cork now let's all get behind these sides and, hopefully, we could be celebrating four All-Ireland titles in the space of eight days. That would be truly momentous for Cork sport.

Matthew Twomey, the senior camogie manager; Trevor Coleman, intermediate camogie manager; Joe Carroll, ladies minor footballer manager, and Donie Daly, camogie U16 manager and all of their back-up teams have done tremendous work.

The players must take huge satisfaction in getting to this point and we wish them the very best of luck in the remaining challenges. They are a credit to their families, their schools and colleges, their clubs and themselves.



Cork's Joanne Casey scoring the winning point against Derry.

## Clean sweep is on for Cork ladies but much to be proud of anyway

WHAT an incredible year its turning out to be for Cork Camogie.

### CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

With the All-Ireland minor title already in the bag Cork are in the U16A final tomorrow and the intermediate and senior finals next weekend. We could do a clean sweep and regardless of what happens over the coming eight days there are a number of people who can be very proud of the strong position Cork are in, namely the clubs, development officers, county board and all management teams.

Both the senior and intermediate squads will feel they didn't reach great heights last weekend but they showed great character and dug out wins. That's what semi-finals are all about. Rarely are they glamorous with so much at stake.

Both Waterford and Derry are to be given credit for their performances. Waterford really put it up to the seniors but Cork's defence were excellent. What a full-back Libby Coppinger has turned into and I feel Meabh Cahalane doesn't get the accolades she deserves outside of the camp.

Ashling Thompson swung the game Corks direction and Laura Treacy came out with a lot of ball, in the first half in particular, before Thompson took up the sweeper role.

The Cork intermediates looked extremely nervous. It was a big event for many of these girls, an All-Ireland semi-final in Nowlan Park where the crowd is very much by your side in the tight stadium. Even small things like the National Anthem amplifies the importance of the occasion.

Cork were so slow to start, Derry could have been out of sight on in the first quarter. Six wides by the seventh minute which would have put them six in front. There's three quarters of the game still to go but considering how the game played out it would have been difficult to claw back a strong Derry lead.

If the occasion was considered big last Saturday, you can magnify that to the power of ten on what awaits management and players in Croke Park. Quite literally the day can take your breath away and if you're not ready for it the hour on the pitch will fly by and it will be like an out of body experience, with you watching on.

For that reason, both man-

agement and players need to approach this final as calmly as possible, no razmataz, no over the top analysis. Be focused but relax, relax, relax. Have a bit of fun in the build-up. Play cards the morning of the game. Avoid Snap; with the competitive streak in these girls damage could be done!

Galway have a lot of experience of All Ireland final day from their management down. Cork need to address that by mentally working on being as composed as their opponents. Quick thinking and action is also needed. I think Cork were too slow in bringing in Katelyn Hickey on 43 minutes.

With half of Corks forwards struggling I was looking for her to come in before half time. She made an immediate impact. Cork's game-plan in the second half was unexpected. With a really strong wind behind them they held five defenders back to three Derry forwards.

At one point corner-forward Cliona O'Callaghan was on Cork's own endline. What that did was give Derry the numerical advantage out field and invited fierce pressure with runners coming through, picking off points. Taking short puck outs and soloing out of the full-back line into trouble was also a concern but Cork were losing their long puck-outs.

Their puck-outs were turned over repeatedly. The outfield players need to give options. They were too static. A puck-out is effectively a free pass. You can't gift it away.

What a finish by Joanne Casey with two first-rate frees to level and then win the game. She really is a top-class free-taker.

Her score to win it wasn't an easy one, the angle tight, but she's the type of player you want in those situations.

The last time Cork won the All-Ireland intermediate title was 2018. Cork won the double.

Eight years on from when Jenny O'Leary claimed the last of her four All Ireland senior medals, she is back in Croke Park as Jenny Curry, after shooting a goal and three points to help Armagh to a hard-fought junior semi-final win over Cavan.

# Tesco All-Ireland Under-16 A Camogie Championship Final

Sunday, 31st July, 2022 • Mallow GAA, Co. Cork @ 1:30 pm  
 Referee: Justin Heffernan (Wexford)  
 Standby Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny)  
 Line: TBC • 4th Official: Mike Flannery (Limerick)



## Corcaigh Cork

Dearg agus Bán • Red and White

## Tiobraid Árann Tipperary

Gorm agus Ór • Blue and Gold



|   |  |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |  |  |   |   |  |  |                                  |  |   |   |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| 1<br>E Ni Shuilleabháin<br>EMMA<br><b>O'SULLIVAN</b><br>Cloughduv             | 2<br>C de Ris<br>CIARA<br><b>RICE</b><br>Sarsfields                      | 3<br>S Ni Mhuirthile<br>SINEAD<br><b>HURLEY</b><br>Sarsfields | 4<br>R de Roiste<br>RACHAEL<br><b>ROCHE</b><br>Sarsfields | 5<br>A Ni Riordáin<br>AMY<br><b>O'RIORDAN</b><br>Ballinora             | 6<br>A Ni Dhálaigh<br>AOIBHE<br><b>DALY</b><br>Youghal             | 7<br>L Ni Dhuinnshléibhe<br>LAURA<br><b>DUNLEA</b><br>Sarsfields           | 8<br>A Nic Cearaill<br>AVA<br><b>FITZGERALD</b><br>Sarsfields   | 9<br>A Nic Charthaigh<br>AMY<br><b>MCCARTHY</b><br>Clonakilty     | 10<br>A Ni Néill<br>AOIBHINN<br><b>O'NEILL</b><br>Erins Own              | 11<br>C Nic Fhinn<br>GRAINNE<br><b>FINN</b><br>Fr. O'Neills                | 12<br>C Ni Fhionnuasa<br>KATE<br><b>FENNESSY</b><br>Sarsfields    | 13<br>L Ni Chonaill<br>LUCY<br><b>O'CONNELL</b><br>Blarney            | 14<br>O Ni Chreimín<br>ORLAITH<br><b>CREMIN</b><br>Eire Og           | 15<br>A Ni hAoire<br>AMY<br><b>SHEPPARD</b><br>Cloughduv         | 16<br>A Ni Glasáin<br>KILADANGAN | 17<br>Robyn Fitzgerald • R Ni Gearaill • Holycross Ballycahill | 18<br>Aine Finn • A Ni Fhinn • Newport Ballinahinch | 19<br>Cathlin Shelly • C Ni Sealbhaig • Moycarky Borris | 20<br>Ciara O'Hara • C Ni Hadhra • Eire Og Annacarty Donohill | 21<br>Emma Maher • E Ni Meachair • Borris-Ileagh | 22<br>Hazel Ryan • H Ni Riain • Slevé Felim Rapparees | 23<br>Meabh Cahalan • M Ni Cathalán • Shannon Rovers | 24<br>Ava Bevens • E Ni Bevens • Borris-Ileagh | 25<br>Clodagh Ryan • C Ni Riain • Clonoulty Rossmore | 26<br>Hannah Butler • A de Butléir • Cashel King Cormacs | 27<br>Miah Bourke • M de Burca • Holycross Ballycahill | 28<br>Aoife Fitzgerald • A Ni Gearaill • Borris-Ileagh | 29<br>Nicola Kelly • N Ni Ceallaigh • Shannon Rovers | 30<br>Isobel Carr • I Ni Carr • Holycross Ballycahill |
| 1<br>D de Butléir<br><b>DANIELLE<br/>BUTLER</b><br>Eire Og Annacarty Donohill | 2<br>A Ni Mellerick<br>AOIFE<br><b>MELLERICK</b><br>Newport Ballinahinch | 3<br>I de Grás<br>IRIS<br><b>GRACE</b><br>Burgess Duharra     | 4<br>E Ni Dolain<br>EABHA<br><b>DOLAN</b><br>Moyle Rovers | 5<br>S Ni Meachair<br>SOPHIE<br><b>MAHER (C)</b><br>Clonoulty Rossmore | 6<br>S Ni Corcoráin<br>SARAH<br><b>CORCORAN</b><br>Moycarky Borris | 7<br>A Ni Gearaill<br>ALISON<br><b>FITZGERALD</b><br>Holycross Ballycahill | 8<br>P Ni Choirc<br>PAULA<br><b>QUIRKE</b><br>Boherlahan Dualla | 9<br>L Ni Purseal<br>LUCY<br><b>PURCELL</b><br>Thurles Sarsfields | 10<br>C Ni Stakelúim<br>CAOIMHE<br><b>STAKELUM</b><br>Thurles Sarsfields | 11<br>D Ni Riain<br><b>DANIELLE<br/>RYAN</b><br>Eire Og Annacarty Donohill | 12<br>C Ni Sealbhaig<br>CIARA<br><b>SHELLY</b><br>Moycarky Borris | 13<br>C Ni Gleasáin<br>CIARA<br><b>GLEESON</b><br>Cortnaheo Glengoole | 14<br>A Ni Ceallaigh<br>ALI<br><b>O'KELLY</b><br>Kilruane MacDonaghs | 15<br>E Ni Dabháin<br>EMER<br><b>DWAN</b><br>Cashel King Cormacs |                                  |  |   |   |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |

16 • Maeve Loneragan • M Ni Loneragan • Ballincollig  
 17 • Keeley Goulding • K Ni Ghabhlán • Rockban • **CAPTAIN**  
 18 • Anna Nestor • A Nic an Adhastair • Sarsfields  
 19 • Louise O'Neill • L Ni Néill • Ballinora  
 20 • Aoife Cottrell • A Cottrell • Ballinhassig  
 21 • Sarah Murphy • S Ni Mhurchú • Glen Rovers  
 22 • Alice Buckley • A Ni Bhuachalla • Newcestown  
 23 • Ellie McAuliffe • E Nic Amhlaibh • Ballinora  
 24 • Ellie Buckley • E Ni Bhuachalla • Aghabullogue  
 25 • Isabelle Nestor • I Nic An Adhastair • Midleton  
 26 • Nessa Treacy • N Ni Threasaigh • Sarsfields  
 27 • Bláithín O'Connor • B Ni Conchobhair • Newtownshandrum  
 28 • Ava McAuliffe • A Nic Amhlaibh • Castlemartyr

29 • Ally Mulvey • A Ni Maolcharáin • St. Catherine's  
 30 • Julie Guiney • S Ni Ghuní • Mallow

### Management

Manager • Donie Daly  
 Selector/Coach • John Moloney  
 Selector/Coach • Mossie O'Sullivan  
 Strength & Conditioning • Stephen O'Mahony

Management  
 Manager • John Ryan  
 Selector • Tomás Gleeson  
 Coach • Siobhán Ryan



**REBEL YELL:** Cork players celebrating their victory against Tipperary in the All-Ireland Under-16 A Camogie Championship final at Mallow yesterday. See report Page 13  
 Picture: Denis Minihane

# Cork U16s claim All-Ireland title

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| Cork      | 2-18 |
| Tipperary | 0-10 |

A SUPERB Cork U16 weathered an early Tipperary challenge to confidently retain their All-Ireland crown at Mallow where first-half goals from Sarah Murphy and Grainne Finn turned the game in the Rebels' favour.

It was back-to-back Tesco U16 A All-Ireland titles for Cork, and were it not for Covid in 2020 could very well be four in a row in front of a huge crowd.

Seven points separated the sides at the interval as Cork held a 2-6 to 0-5 advantage and looked in a strong position to add to the minor title the county annexed recently.

Early on it wasn't as clear-cut, Corks hit five wides in a row before finally scoring and Tipp availing of every chance to go three in front thanks to Sarah Corcoran (2) and Danielle Ryan.

Cork settled with a Kate Fennessy point and with the midfield pairing of Ava Fitzgerald and Amy McCarthy was hugely influential as they drove at the Tipperary defence who were conceding frees which Grainne Finn converted.

Kate Fennessy and Caoimhe Stakelum swapped points as it remained level but a superb run from McCarthy was instrumental in Cork's opening goal as her long-range effort dropped short and Sarah Murphy reacted fast to finish to the net.

Again the sides swapped points but Cork, boosted by the goal, came in search of more. Finn then finished a good move by Orlaith Cremin to open a six-point advantage which Fennessy turned into seven before the break.

The second half belonged to Cork they were totally dominant in all sectors.

Corcoran did get Tipperary off the mark with an early second-half free but with all the Cork forwards on top they reeled off the scores. Nicole Kelly did force a good save from Emma O'Sullivan but that was the nearest Tipperary came as the Cork defence closed them down totally.

Up front, Aoibhinn O'Neill, Fennessy, Amy Sheppard, Cremin, Sarah Murphy, Finn and Louise O'Neill were all on target as the flood gates opened.

Corcoran did keep Tipperary on touch with frees, as well as a score from Ciara O'Hora but on the day there was no disputing the result as the Cork camogie bandwagon continued to roll with Ava Fitzgerald named as Player Of the Match.



Cork players Kate Fennessy and Ava Fitzgerald in a tussle for the ball with Tipperary's Alison Fitzgerald.

Pictures: Denis Minihane

**Scorers for Cork:** G Finn 1-3, S Murphy 1-2, K Fennessy 0-4, A Fitzgerald 0-3 (0-1 f), A O'Neill 0-2, A Sheppard 0-1.

**Tipperary:** S Corcoran 0-6 (0-5 f, 0-1 45), C Stakelum 0-2, D Ryan, C O'Hora 0-1 each.

**CORK:** E O'Sullivan, C Rice, S Hurley, R Roche, A Daly, L Dunlea, A O'Riordan, A Fitzgerald, A McCarthy, A O'Neill, G Finn, K Fennessy, L O'Connell, O Cremin, A Sheppard.

**Subs:** S Murphy for L O'Connell (18), L O'Neill for K Fennessy (36), J Guiney for A O'Neill (55), I Nestor for A O'Riordan (56), E Buckley for A Fitzgerald (58).

**TIPPERARY:** D Butler, A Mellerick, I Grace, E Dolan, S Maher, S Corcoran, A Fitzgerald, P Quirke, L Purcell, C Stakelum, D Ryan, C Shelly, C Gleeson, A O'Kelly, E Dwan.

**Subs:** A Fitzgerald for C Shelly (30), A Bevan for E Dwan (11), R Fitzgerald for A Fitzgerald (34), N Kelly for A O'Kelly (38), C O'Hora for C Gleeson (44).

**Referee:** Justin Heffernan (Wexford).



Cork players celebrating their victory against Tipperary in the Tesco All-Ireland U16 A Camogie Championship final at Mallow.

## Rebels stay cool to claim U16 crown

### All-Ireland U16 A Camogie final

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| Cork      | 2-18 |
| Tipperary | 0-10 |

John Tarrant  
Mallow

Cork delivered on their potential to regain their Tesco All-Ireland U16 A Camogie Championship title following a comprehensive victory over Tipperary in Mallow.

Tipperary started at pace with Sarah Corcoran and Danielle Ryan giving them an early lead. A wasteful Cork hit five wides before turning the tie on its head with goals from substitute Sarah Murphy and Grainne Finn for a 2-6 to 0-5 interval lead.

Amy O'Riordan, Aoibhe Daly, Laura Dunlea, Amy McCarthy, and player of the match Ava Fitzgerald led by example on the restart as points from Kate Fennessy and Louise O'Neill saw them cruise to an impressive win before a delirious home crowd.

**Scorers for Cork:** G Finn 1-3 (2f), S Murphy (1-2), K Fennessy (0-4), A Fitzgerald 0-3 (1f), L O'Neill (0-3), A O'Neill, O Cremin, A Sheppard 0-1 each.

**Scorers for Tipperary:** S Corcoran 0-6 (4f, 2'45s), C Stakelum (0-2), D Ryan, N Kelly 0-1 each.

**CORK:** E O'Sullivan (Cloughduv); C Rice (Sarsfields), D Hurley (Sarsfields), R Roche (Sarsfields); A O'Riordan (Ballinora), A Day (Youghal), L Dunlea (Sarsfields); A Fitzgerald (Sarsfields), A McCarthy (Clonakilty); A O'Neill (Erins Own), G Finn (F. O'Neills), K Fennessy (Sarsfields); L O'Connell (Blarney), O Cremin (Eire Og), A Sheppard (Sarsfields).

**Subs:** S Murphy (Glen Rovers) for L O'Connell; L O'Neill (Ballinora) for K Fennessy, J Guiney (Mallow) for A O'Neill, I Nestor (Midleton) for A O'Riordan, E Buckley (Aghabullogue) for A Fitzgerald.

**TIPPERARY:** D Butler (Eire Og Annacarty Donohill); A Mellerick (Newport Ballinahinch), I Grace (Burgess Duharra), E Dolan (Moyle Rovers); S Maher (Clonoulty Rosamore), S Corcoran (Moycarky Borris), Alison Fitzgerald (Holycross Ballycahill); P Quirke (Boherlahan Dualla), L Purcell (Thurles Sarsfields); C Stakelum (Thurles Sarsfields), D Ryan (Eire Og Annacarty Donohill), C Shelly (Moycarky Borris); C Gleeson (Gortnahoe Glengoolie), A O'Kelly (Kilruane MacDonaghs), E Dwan (Cashel King Cormacs).

**Subs:** A Fitzgerald (Borris-Ileigh) for C Shelly, A Bevan (Borris-Ileigh) for E Dwan, R Fitzgerald (Holycross Ballycahill) for A Fitzgerald, N Kelly (Shannon Rovers) for A O'Kelly, C O'Hora (Eire Og Annacarty Donohill) for C Gleeson.

**Referee:** J Heffernan (Wexford).



Cork's Grainne Finn up against Tipperary's Sarah Corcoran.



The Cork U16 ladies camogie team celebrating with the cup.



# Thompson is more motivated than ever



A dejected Ashling Thompson after Cork's defeat to Galway in last year's All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final in Croke Park. Picture: Ben McShane/Sportsfile

## Joy as Cork U16s win All-Ireland title



Cork players celebrating after beating Tipperary in the Tesco All-Ireland U16 A Camogie championship final at Malloy, the first of a possible four All-Ireland titles for the county in the next week. See Echo Sport. Picture: Denis Minihane

## Congratulations to U16 champions

CONGRATULATIONS to our newest All-Ireland champions, the Cork U16 ladies who put on a great display in Sunday's camogie final. The performance saw them confidently retain their All-Ireland crown, despite an early Tipperary challenge. Having won it in 2019, and again in 2021 and 2022 (it wasn't played due to Covid-19 in 2020), retaining the crown on Sunday meant they have won it each of the last three years that it was competed for. And but for the pandemic it could have been four-in-a-row. Under manager Donie Daly, Cork won by a scoreline of 2-15 to 0-10 at Malloy, giving Cork back-to-back Tesco U16 All-Ireland titles in front of a great crowd of supporters. Cork camogie remains on a high... congratulations to one and all.

## CAMOGIE

■ Daire Walsh

AHEAD of her seventh appearance in an O'Duffy Cup decider next Sunday, Ashling Thompson has insisted she is more motivated than ever to do what is best for Cork camogie.

Having won four All-Ireland senior titles under the guidance of Paudie Murray, all of them coming during a five-year spell from 2014 to 2018, the Milford midfielder is now aiming to do likewise in Matthew Twomey's debut campaign as Rebel boss.

Murray's decade-long tenure ended in a three-point defeat to Galway in the 2021 show-piece, but it is their arch rivals Kilkenny who stand between Cork and national glory at Croke Park on Sunday.

"I'm probably more motivated than I've been any other year. I think it just builds as you grow. A lot of people probably think that you get sick of it, but I think you actually get more hungry as the years go on. We'll be throwing everything at this final to get over the line," Thompson said at last week's All-Ireland championship finals launch in Dublin.

At 32, Thompson is one of the most experienced members of the Cork set-up. The old adage of 'age is just a number' is very much in vogue at the moment, however, with elder statesmen like Paul Conroy, Richie Hogan (both 33), David Moran and TJ Reid (both 34) all having featured in All-Ireland finals over the past fortnight at GAA HQ.

Additionally, seeing so many young players breaking into the senior squad over the past 12 months has helped to put an extra spring in Thompson's step.

"They don't let me forget anyway that I'm the oldest! A lot of young girls have come in this year. We've really extended the panel, but they've slotted in like they've been there for the last 10. Which is something that you have to pay credit to the management for.

"All you have to do is help the young ones along the way and they really appreciate it. It's great to have fresh faces and a bit of competition in the panel. You can see there, you had



Kilkenny's Claire Phelan and Cork's Ashling Thompson pictured ahead of their All-Ireland final clash. Picture: INPHO/Laszlo Gezo

Emma Murphy coming on the last day, scoring a point and she was unbelievable when she came on."

When she set out on the latest chapter of her inter-county journey at the beginning of the year, Thompson was undoubtedly driven on by the thought of climbing the Hogan Stand steps for an eighth time; she has also won three All-Ireland club titles at Croke Park with Milford in the past.

Kilkenny's impressive semi-final win over champions Galway means that Twomey's charges will have a tough task on their hands if they are to lift the O'Duffy Cup for the 29th time in their history. Yet Thompson — who appeared as a sub in Cork's last-four victory against Waterford after having a two-game suspension overturned at the 11th hour — is ready to take on the Cats with all guns blazing.

"Kilkenny always bring the same amount of intensity, the same effort. They give no less than 110% and I think it actually brings the best out in us at times. They're a team that I have massive respect for, but at the same time I'm looking forward to the challenge. Hopefully we can bring the best out in the team on the day."