

Og Sport Lu
U13 Championships
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At Darver on last Monday and Tuesday Night at the end of 7 hectic weeks of competition the finals in all 6 grades of the U13 championships were decided.

Monday night: On an abominable floodlit Monday night of raging rain and gale force wind.

- (a) Sean O Mahony saw off the dogged challenge of St. Patricks in grade 1A
- (b) St. Michaels proved too strong for Naomh Mairtin in grade 1B
- (c) Dundalk Gaels staged a a stunning comeback to overcome the Glen Emmetts in grade 2B

Tuesday night: On a more pleasant floodlit Tuesday night

- (a) St. Fechins 2's strong first half helped them to victory over Na Piarasigh in grade 3A
- (b) Kilkerry/Naomh Malachi had a convincing victory over John Mitchels grade 2A
- (c) Cuchulainn Gaels were victorious over a tenacious Lannleire in grade 3B

1A

Sean O Mahonys 3-6 St. Patricks 1-8

This years worthy winners of grade 1A – and with it the privilege of representing their county at next years Feile Peile na nOg in Kildare- are Dundalk's Sean O Mahonys. In an entertaining clash at a rain-lashed wintry Darver on Monday night last they came from behind in the final quarter to emerge worthy but leg-weary and energy-sapped winners.

There was so much at stake in this top of the bill encounter that the action was fast, furious and frenzied from the throw in and the umbrella-protected crowd had lots to be animated about.

At the half time whistle the teams at 1-3 each- were inseparable. A goal each from Glen Shields (Sean O Mahonys) and Darren O Connor (St. Patricks) were the highlights of a hell for leather pulsating half. Players like Jody Kennan, Eoghan Lafferty and Thomas Keenan for St.. Patricks and O Mahony's Ben Mc Loughlin, Liam Clarke and Paddy Byrne all made individual contributions of excellence to the game in this half. A gambling man however, would be none the wiser at the half time whistle.

The Lordship side gradually eased ahead after the bre ak and mid-way through the half had assumed a position of slight dominance. Statistics however show that in their 4 games in this championship O Mahony's have had to come from behind in the closing stages. And so it was in this game! A composed, competent and confident last 10 minutes had the desired result- a four point victory for the Quaysiders and the prospect of a weekend visit to Co. Kildare on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of July next year for the All-Ireland U14 Feile Peile na nOg competition. The hoarse and soaked spectators will remember this clash and no doubt will have been impressed by the emerging talent which promises so much for the future of

Louth football-if the proven pattern of the likes of County Tyrone is followed in the future. We will be seeing a lot more of Paddy Byrne, Eoghan Lafferty, Ban Mc Loughlin, Mark Pagni, John Connolly, and Scott Craven. The cohesion and togetherness of the Dundalk side was probably the deciding factor!

Final Score: Sean O Mahonys 3-6
St. Patricks 1-8

Team Sheets: Sean O;Mahony

Liam Clarke
Stephen Callan
Paddy Byrne
Gavin Grey
Derek Williams
Ben Mc Loughlin
Eoin Farrell
John Connolly
Kyle Carroll
Ben Clarke Hearty
Evan Hutchinson
Sean Matthews
Liam MC Kinney
Glen Shields
Adam Mc Kenna
Luke Bradley
Sean Maguire
Paddy Hoey
Mark White
Connor Murphy

St. Patricks

Dean Mulligan
David Crilly
Jody Keenan
Padraic Mc Cann
Rory Mc Artain
Ross Murphy
Joseph Mc Cann
Eoghan Lafferty
Mark Pagni
Allo Callan
Daire Lafferty
Killian Mc Carthy
Thomas Keenan
Patrick Kirk
Shane O Hanlon
Tommy Mc Govern
Jordan Donnelly
Padraic Reneghan
Darren O Connor
Scott Craven
Kieran Trainer
Padraig Reneghan

Referee: Dermot Woods

After the game Paddy Mc Mahon of the Darver Committee presented the winners trophy to a proud and ecstatic O Mahonys captain John Connolly.

1B

St. Michaels 0-16 Naomh martin 3-3

St. Michaels, comprehensive semi-final winners over Na Piarasigh and Naomh Martin, narrow winners over Geraldines did battle on pitch 1 in the 1B final with Noel Hand refereeing. Raging rain and a woeful wind made ball handling and underfoot conditions very challenging.

In a competitive first half Michaels tactics were to take their points and with the help of Andrew Keenan, James Clerkin and Tom Byrne they edged ahead and were 1 point to the good at half time. Big hitters for Naomh Martin were Carl Morgan, Jack Keough and Alan Maher.

Despite the slippery ball both teams served up some cohesive and skilful passages of play and entertainment a plenty. Some of the clean high catching belied the atrocious conditions.

St. Michaels maintained their point-scoring focus until the very end and amassed a total of 16 points. Their rare attempts at goal were ably dealt with by Robin Blakely, Jack O Donnell and Paddy Winters. There were some outstanding performances on the night. Defenders Conor Kieran, Conor Mc Gill and Aonghus Meehan were sound in the St. Michaels defence. At midfield Cian Doyle- although well policed- scored with both right and left foot. His colleague Andrew Keenan had one of his best games.

For Naomh Martin- who at all times represented a danger to the Michaels and who never eased their work rate – John Clutterbuck, Evan Byrne and Jack Keough made massive contributions to their sides performance. Their insistence on shouting for goals might have contributed to their defeat.

Overall an intensely-contested and rousing clash kept spectators animated and ended with two leg-weary teams.

**Final Score: St. Michaels 0-16
Naomh Martin 3-3**

Referee: Noel Hand.

Team Sheets:

St. Michaels

James Clerkin
Jamie Cummins
Lochlan Cummins
Tom Bryne
Ciaran O Brian
Andrew Keenan
Cian Doyle
Thomas Hoey
Dean Corrigan
Daniel Bannon
Sean Halpenny
Conor Mc Guile
Aonghus Meehan
John Campbell
Cian Geeney
Conor Kiernan
Christopher Ronan

Naomh Martin

Robin Blakley
Jack O Donnell
Paddy Winters
Sean Callaghan
Oisin Mc Avinchey
Rory Brodigan
Andrew Gorman
Jack Keough
Adam Winters
Karl Morgan
Cian Harrington
John Clutterbuck
Aaron Mc Cann
Ben Culligan
Alan Maher
Callan Duffy
Cormac Marron

2B

Gaels 5-9 Glen Emmets 4-6

These two teams had met earlier in the season- in a league game played in the ramparts in late April. On that occasion Emmets had a comprehensive and impressive victory (1-6 to 0-3) and the memory of the victory must have given them confidence going into Tuesday nights final on pitch 4.

It was Gaels however who assumed control and who were leading with only minutes remaining in the first half- a half in which their irrepressible Jack Greene (1-2) and Paddy Morgan excelled. Suddenly with the help of inventful play from James Butler, Conor Cassidy and Darragh Blake Glen Emmets racked up an incredible 2-2 in the space of a few minutes- to leave the Dundalk side in a state of shock.

Half time Glen Emmets 2-4
Gaels 2-2

On the turn over Glen Emmets maintained their dominance and following skilful play by James Englishby and Conor Cusack they extended their lead to 8 points with 10 minutes to remaining. The Gaels fight back began to take shape. Points from Jack Greene really got them into their rhythm and in stunning fashion they not only negated the 8 points but incredibly tagged on a further 6 points- in all a 14 point turn around. Emmets had no answer to this battling and emphatic Gaels fight back and failed to add to their tally.

Deserving of mention for the ecstatic winners were Liam Grey, John Coleman and goalkeeper Matt Raftis.

Final Score: Gaels 5-9
Glen Emmets 4-6

Overall a game of fluctuating fortunes but a game of emphatic finish

Team Sheets: Dundalk Gaels
Matt Raftis
Aaron Culligan
James Mc Cann
Oisin Murray
Adam Shields
Dylan Martin
Liam Grey
Paddy Morgan
Jonathon Minnock
Jack Greene
Sean Murray
Stephen Sharkey
Stephen Murray

Glen Emmets
Conor Kelly
Daren Wogan
Kelvin Ahallo
Declan Campbell
Ross Murphy
Conor Cusack
Jamie Farnan
Conor Cassidy
James Butler
David Connolly
Robert Bryne
Ben Fox

Referee Michael Boyle

2A

Kilkerley Emmets/ Naomh Malachi 3-9 John Mitchels 2-6

A slightly light Kilkerley/Malachi side made use of their pace and fitness to get the better of Ballybailie's John Mitchels in this 2A final on a floodlit Tuesday night at Darver. Played on pitch 1 with Liam Bird refereeing the Kil/NM combination opened the scoring with a snap goal and thereafter were never headed. Skilful play by Tadgh Mc Eaney, Ronan Mulholland and Cillian Mulligan brought their tally to 1-5 before we saw the long awaited Mitchels resurgence. This came with a late onslaught which yielded a Kevin Gallagher goal and a point from Mickey Nulty

Half Time: Kil/Nm 1-5

J. Mitchels 1-2

The second half followed the pattern of the first. Mitchels allowing Kil/NM too much leeway which they inevitably translated into scores. Mitchels then were relying on a late surge to make up the leeway! The speedy Kil/NM forwards were more than a handful for the Mitchels and then a snap goal just after the break left the Ballybaileside side with a mountain to climb (3-9 to 1-4.)

Mitchels roused themselves and Conor Reilly (1-0) and Jake Stewart brought the teams closer but time had run out. With the Mitchels in such a lively mood at this stage who knows what another 5 minutes would have thrown up?

For the deserving winners there were eye catching performances from Daniel Mc Keown, Darren Litchfield and Ben Mulholland. Stars on the Mitchels side were Johnny Durnin, Jamie Curtis, Kevin Gallagher and Conor Reilly.

Team Sheets: Kilkerley/Malachi

Martin Connolly
Gearoid Cronin
Cillian Mulligan
Gerard Doran
Bara Mc Carthy
Conall Mc Eneaney
Ronan Mulholland
Daniel Mc Keown
Connor Kirk
Darren Litchfield
Niell Mulholland
Tadgh Mc Enaney
Daire Flanagan
James Bellew
Ben Mulholland
Niall Mc Enteggart

John Mitchels

Dylan Crawley
Johnny Durnin
John Devitt
Eoin O'Malley
Mitchel Keenan
Cathal Bradley
Cillian Crosson
Conor Reilly
Neil Reilly
Kevin Gallagher
Jake Stewart
Mikey Nulty
Ryan Cahill
Jamie Curtis
Aaron Keeley
Ciaran Mc Cormack

Referee: Liam Bird

3A

St. Fechins 2-6 Na Piarasaigh 1-3

A powerful first half performance by the Termnafeckin side proved to be the deciding factor in this well contested final.. They were first to score and with the help of an opportunist Brian O Connell goal they were ahead after 5 minutes on the score St. Fechins 1-3 – Na Piarasaigh no score.

Na Piarasaigh fought back and a goal and a point from Stefan Cooney narrowed the gap. All the while the Dundlk side seemed to be struggling around the middle of the field where St. Fechins Rory Clinton was dominating .Approaching half time and with the score standing at St. Fechins 1-4 Na Piarasaigh 1-1

Na Piarasaigh had a gilt edged goal opportunity which they somehow managed to squander.. St. Fechins broke away and found the net leaving the Dundalk side with a mountain to climb.

Na Piarsaigh piled on the pressure in the second half but with a combination of good defending by St. Fechins Kevin Lally and Emmet Murphy and inept finishing by their forwards led to their downfall. Best players for the deserving winners were Conor Matthews, Ciaran O Brian and Caomhin Seery. Na Piarsaigh players to catch the eye were James Mc Carthney, Eric Mc Quillan, Stephen Mc Quillan and Chris Kellett.

All in all a very sporting and competitive game. After the game the winners trophy was presented by sponsor Con Mc Namee.

Team Panels:	<u>Na Piarsaigh</u> Cormac Mc Carthy James Mc Carthy Glenn Mc Court Stephen Mc Quillan Eric Mc Quillan Stephen Maguire Thomas Maguire Chris Kellett Mark O Hare David Grimes Stefan Cooney Ryan Mc Auley Emmet Hayes	<u>St. Fechins</u> Ciaran mc Donnell Kevin Lally Conor Victory Emmet Murphy Chris Savage Rory Clinton Conor Matthews Brian O Connell Sean Haodgins Luke Montague Caoimhin Seery Ciaran O Brien Paul Matthews
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Referee: Michael Boyle

3B

Cuchulainn Gaels 6-12 Lannleire 4-7

Following a one point edge-of the-seat semi-final over Sean Mc Dermotts Cuchulainn Gaels faced up to Lannleire on Tuesday night in the 3B final on pitch 2 at Darver.

Lannleire were first to score- a low drive to the net from Craig Devlin. This proved to be the only time they would be in front. Scores followed from Cuchulainn Gaels man of the match – the impish Jordan Loye, whose tally for the night was 3-5. His accuracy from free kicks was another feature of his clubs success. Patrick Woods(2-2) and Aaron Rogers (1-3) also distinguished themselves and in the latter stages of the game when Lannleire were laying siege to the Gaels gaol in an effort to close the gap goalkeeper Fergal O' Hanlon proved his worth with a series of daring saves.

At the break Cuchulainn Gaels were ahead Gaels 4-4 Lannleire 3-3. On the turn over Lannleire's Conor Faulkner (1-0), Alan Torris(0-1), Craig Devlin(1-0) Mohammad Sauramba(0-1) and Sean Kennan came to the fore and began to make things difficult for the north Louth side. But the gap wasn't closing!

Main difference between the sides however was their approach to scoring. While the Cuchulainn Gaels were happy to take their points- many of them long range- Lannleire persisted to search for goals against a solid defence and an on-form Fergal O Hanlon between the posts - a difficult task. Add to that a fair bit of bad

luck. In the last 5 minutes of the game two Lannleire attempts at goal rebounded off the cross bar and back into play.

The Omeath side however finished the stronger and their victory was well merited.

Final Score: Cuchulainn Gaels 6-12
Lannleire 4-7

Team Sheets:

Cuchulainn Gaels

Fergal O Hanlon
Shane Mc Ginn
Daniel Browne
Michael Ryan
Dylan Lynch
Aaron Rogers
Patrick Woods
Jordan Loye
Paddy Doyle
Dean Harper
Barry Morgan
Paudie Ryan
Paul O Hanlon

Lannleire

Peter Curran
Stephen Mc Mullan
Padraig Hawkins
Darragh Goodman
Mohammad Sauramba
Obi Sasore
Craig Devlin
Michael O Hare
Conor Dunne
Josh Leslie
Conor Faulkner
Alan Torris
Sean Kennedy
Joey Reilly
Nathan Sauramba

Referee: Dermot Woods