

# Historical Win Over St. Leo's Secures Third Consecutive Final For MCS Girls

**MCS v St. Leos, Carlow**

**Lidl PPS School Junior B Leinster Semi Final**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

January is becoming synonymous with Leinster U16 finals in MCS with the pink and navy army set to play in their consecutive final after storming through the semi-final last week.

Last Friday, the u16 girls headed to Mountmellick to face St. Leos of Carlow in the Leinster semi-final. Moate CS emerged from their group unbeaten and the girls were very determined to keep this impressive streak going.

Leos started strong winning the throw in, then working it the whole way up the field, testing Fiona Fox in the MCS goals early on who pulled off a fantastic save to prevent St. Leos finding the net to open the scores. Moate then had an attack of their own but they proved more clinical this time as a great move resulted in Leah Quigley putting Moate on the score board with a well taken point. Roisin Ennis pulled off a brilliant block to deny Leos to reply with a score of their own and the hard working Moate backs cleared the ball to safety. After a period of a lot of turnovers on both sides with no scores, showing how much each team were willing to work, Leos found the back of the net and took the lead. However, this did not dampen the MCS girl's spirits and after a Niamh O Reilly free hit the post, the rebound fell for Aoife Dalton who kept her head and finished the ball in the back of the St. Leos net. This was shortly followed by another Leah Quigley free putting MCS firmly in control of the game. The MCS backs worked very hard to deny Leos any chance of a score, with Hazel Hughes and Aimee Smyth preventing St. Leos developing an attack. Ruth Martin made a super turnover, played the ball to Maria Farrell after her brilliant run left St. Leos wide open resulting in a goal slotted in by Maria Farrell. Roisin Ennis pushed on her team from Midfield, making a super carry right through the St. Leos defence, earning a free which Quigley slotted over the keeper's head, adding another goal to the MCS score line. However, Leos were not ready to lay down yet, working

the ball into Moates half of the field and despite Therese Robbins pulling off a brilliant block, the rebound fell nicely for St. Leos, who found the back of the net but the goal did not stand as the umpires signalled a square ball, meaning St. Leos went even longer without a score. Fiona Fox's kick outs were top class, with the ball landing perfectly for Roisin Ennis who played the ball to Aoife Dalton who finished the play with a well taken point. The combined work of Sinead Robbins, pulling off a number of turnovers and Ava



Cornally's super ball carrying meant that Moate CS dominated possession leaving Leos finding it hard to cope. Quigley worked hard at tracking her player in defence earning a turnover which resulted in a point finished by Cornally. Cornally soon replied with another point after a super block by Therese Robbins and great clearing by Roisin Killian. The Moate girls finished with two excellent points by Dalton and Quigley before the break, leaving them with a lead of 3-9 to 1-0 at half time.

St. Leos opened the second half with all guns blazing as they quickly worked the ball into the back of the Moate net. Moate had a very quick response with Dalton winning a free slotted over by the reliable boot of Leah Quigley. The determination to reach the final was showed by the work rate of the Moate CS girls, with Ennis and Cornally all making super turnovers and the ball being well cleared at the backs by Hazel Kelly and Aimee Smyth. MCS made a double substitution, with Ava McHugh coming on for Hazel Kelly, and Kacey Burslem-Rotheroe replacing Niamh O Reilly, with both subs making a positive impact. Once again Ennis made a great carry and finished with a beautifully taken point to place her name on the score sheet. Aine Gaynor was very influential in midfield, setting up a number of attacks. A great carry from Gaynor earned her team a free, played quickly to Dalton who found the back of the net, adding to her impressive personal tally. Sinead Robbins also earned herself a point and pressure put on the Carlow girls by the excellent MCS backs earned them a free, resulting in a Farrell goal. Gaynor also found the back of the St, Leos net straight after. Cliona Mc Cormack was introduced in the place of Hazel Hughes and got stuck in immediately, winning a free which was once again slotted over by Quigley. Cornally adapted perfectly to the sweeper role she had in the second half mopping up all loose ball and applying huge pressure on the St. Leos girls. Ava McHugh also had a positive influence on the game when introduced as her excellent defending forced St. Leos to kick the ball wide. Leos then earned themselves a free which hit the post with Moate winning the rebound, pretty much summing up how the game went for Leos. Rachel Butler was introduced for Sinead Robbins and got involved in a lot of play from the get go. Quigley added another point to the score board before St. Leos ended the game with a point of their own, which unfortunately for them was too little too late as the MCS girls running out comfortable winners on a score line of 5-15 to 2-2.

This is the third year in a row that the u16 Moate CS girls have reached the Leinster final, and with a number of these girls suffering the heartbreak over the defeats of the last two finals, can the Moate CS girls make it third time lucky? After this emphatic win, there is no doubt that can finally go all the way and bring home the cup. So while the turkey and chocolates will be enjoyed in part, this panel will be working hard over the holidays on the playing field to maintain peak condition for their January final date. An exciting final awaits the MCS girls on January 18<sup>th</sup> where old rivals Eureka, Kells will provide the opposition at a venue to be confirmed.

MCS team:

Fiona Fox, Aimee Smyth, Therese Robbins, Hazel Kelly, Hazel Hughes, Ruth Martin, Roisin Killian, Aine Gaynor, Roisin Ennis Capt., Sinead Robbins, Leah Quigley, Maria Farrell, Ava Cornally, Aoife Dalton, Niamh O Reilly, Cliona McCormack, Kacey Burslem Rotheroe, Ava McHugh, Rachel Butler, Martina Heavin, Erin Pettit, Caoimhe McDonald, Emma Quigley and Clodagh McCormack

By: Emma Kelly (TY Student)