

Moate CS v Edenderry

Lidl PPS U16B Championship

On Monday the 20th of November the Moate C.S. U16 girls kicked off their Leinster campaign with a heart stopping encounter at home to Edenderry. Moate got off to a great start with Niamh O'Reilly getting them on the score board early. However, Edenderry were quick to reply and they soon slotted the ball in the back of the Moate net, shortly followed by a point. After a famine of possession for MCS and with Edenderry struggling to capitalise on numerous scoring opportunities, the reliable boot of Leah Quigley soon got Moate back on track slotting over a free. Edenderry replied with two points of their own but Moate fought back and two long range efforts from midfielder Aine Gaynor were beautifully finished. Tenacious defending from Ruth Martin, Hazel Hughes and Roisin Killian prevented Edenderry breaking through the Moate defence, keeping them scoreless for a long period. However, Edenderry rallied and applied huge pressure on the Moate attack turning over a promising Moate attack and punished with a score at the other end. The safe hands of Therese Robbins carried the ball out from full back and a piercing run through the heart of the Edenderry defence by Roisin Ennis resulted in a Moate free which Quigley converted. Edenderry got a score at the other end and Therese Robbins tenaciously denied a second with a powerful block. Sinead Robbins and Maria Farrell combined well for MCS and laid the ball off to corner forward Niamh O'Reilly who was pulled down in the square and the referee awarded Moate a penalty. Aoife Dalton's cool head ensured the ball reached the back of the net. Quigley then added two more points, putting Moate well in control. Edenderry still ticked away at the score board and won a number of kick outs in a row but Moate air tight defending of Aimee Smyth and Hazel Kelly prevented scores. Ruth Martin turned over the ball in Moates half and Gaynor carried, played it to Sinead Robbins who slotted it past the Edenderry keeper. Dalton soon followed with a goal of her own leaving it 4-5 to 1-5 in favour of Moate at the break.



The second half got underway and Moate got off to a dream start with Maria Farrell and Aoife Dalton putting away two quick goals. Fiona Fox pulled off a top class save and her kick outs throughout the game were top quality. The Moate defence seemed unbreakable as Edenderry found it hard to cope with the immense pressure of Killian, Martin and Smyth and three amazing blocks by

Therese Robbins kept the Edenderry forwards hungry for scores. Aine Gaynor, Sinead Robbins and two Aoife Dalton points dampened the Edenderry girl's spirits but they were far from giving up as they also slotted over three points of their own. Hazel Hughes and Roisin Killian worked hard to provide the Moate forwards with excellent quality inside balls which Aine Gaynor and Sinead Robbins comfortably converted, making it look like Moate would run out comfortable winners. However, Moate would not score again for a while as Edenderry were not prepared to give up. Despite Moates excellent defence, Edenderry scored four unanswered goals leaving Moate trailing by a point in the dying minutes. Moate then won a free to draw level, but when Quigley's effort dropped short, O Reilly won the rebound, laying it off to Sinead Robbins who found the back of the net. It turned out to be heartbreak for Edenderry who came so close but it was the Moate girls never say die attitude that helped them get over the line. This places the girls top of the group and secured them a Leinster semi-final position. Edenderry were disappointed to have lost the game and many onlookers would have said it was a heart stopping game that would have made for a great Leinster final. The MCS girls will defiantly march on to try and secure a place in this years' Leinster final as they chase the coveted title for the third consecutive year.

Moate CS Team: Fiona Fox, Hazel Kelly, Therese Robbins, Aimee Smyth, Hazel Hughes, Ruth Martin, Roisin Killian, Aine Gaynor, Roisin Ennis, Sinead Robbins, Leah Quigley, Maria Farrell, Ava Cornally, Aoife Dalton, Niamh O Reilly, Ava McHugh, Emma Quigley, Caoimhe McDonnell, Cliona McCormack, Rachel Butler, Kacey Rotheroe, Marina Heavin, Clodagh McCormack and Erin Petit.



By Emma Kelly and Therese Geoghegan.