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CHRISTY RING CUP



NICKEY RACKARD CUP







KILDARE GAA

Páirc an Chrócaigh, Samhain 22 2020

Clár Oifigiúil / LUACH €3

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Dún na nGall

NICKEY RACKARD CUP FINAL 1.30 PM DÚN NA NGALL V MAIGH EO

An Réiteoir: Kevin Jordan (Tiobraid Árann) Linesmen: Thomas Gleeson (Áth Cliath) (Standby Referee), Kevin Brady (An Lú) Sideline Official: Colin Murray (An Dún) Umpires: PJ Bowden, Martin Fitzpatrick, Christy Moore, Paul Stapleton



Extra-time to be played in the event of a draw. A winner must be decided on the day.

KEVIN JORDAN (TIPPERARY)

The Thurles native has his first outing at Croke Park today and it will also be his first in the 2020 Nickey Rackard Cup. However, Kevin was on duty in the Christy Ring Cup in October for Roscommon v Wicklow at Dr. Hyde Park and earlier in the year enjoyed three outings in the Allianz League at Roscommon, Abbotstown and Cavan. The Premier official also has experience of assignments at LIT Gaelic Grounds and Páirc Uí Chaoimh.



CHRISTY RING CUP FINAL 4.00 PM

AN DÚN v CILL DARA

An Réiteoir: Chris Mooney (Áth Cliath) Linesmen: Richie Fitzsimons (Uíbh Fhailí) (Standby Referee), Colm McDonald (Antroim) Sideline Official: Mark Ryan (Áth Cliath)



Umpires: Eoin Cullen, Brian Mooney, Benny Browne, Faolan Radford-McGovern

Extra-time to be played in the event of a draw. A winner must be decided on the day.



CHRIS MOONEY (DUBLIN)

From the St Patrick's Palmerstown club, Chris returns to Croke Park for the first time since June 2019 when he took charge of the Electric Ireland Leinster Minor Final. The Metropolitan whistler has already been on duty in this year's Christy Ring Cup (Down v Derry at Ballycran) and earlier in the year refereed four ties in the Allianz League. His last Lilywhite match was in March 2019 when they played Down in the league.

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RÉAMHFHOCAL ÓN UACHTARÁN

Is cúis mhór áthais dom fáilte a chur roimh ár n-imreoirí chuig cluichí móra an lae inniu ar dheireadh seachtaine ollmhór don Chumann.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the hurlers of Kildare, Down, Donegal and Mayo to Croke Park for today's Christy Ring and Nickey Rackard Cup finals on what is a weekend of huge significance for the Association.

Last night's commemoration was of momentous significance to the GAA reminding us who we are and where we have come from as a people.

Sport – and our games – were at the heart of the tragic events of 100 years ago this weekend when 14 people came to this famous old venue but never made it home.

They were cut short in their prime – three of them hadn't even left childhood behind.

Last night we honoured their memory and the loss experienced by their families and our tribute remains in place at the Hill 16 end of the stadium today.

While these events place sport in its proper context, they also serve as a reminder of the central role our games play in the lives of so many.

It is in this spirit that two All-Ireland titles will be contested today and I hope the play today will further honour the memory of the 14 people murdered on Bloody Sunday.

Down come to Croke Park on the back of a huge win over Offaly last weekend when penalties were needed to separate the teams. Kildare posted a



huge score against Roscommon and advance to today's final buoyant.

Donegal came out tops in a high scoring encounter against Tyrone while Mayo had too much for Leitrim in the other Rackard Cup semi-final.

I wish the competing players and those who prepare them every success today and also acknowledge the role of our match officials in today's proceedings.

Go n-éirí libh.

Sopen & hOnor

Seán Ó hÓráin Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael



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NICKEY RACKARD CUP FINA







Tooreen

Ballyhaunis

By Cian O'Connell

THE STAKES ARE HIGH

Last Saturday afternoon, during these deeply uncertain times, word filtered through the hurling world that penalties were required at Páirc Esler: dramatic stories were continuing to unfold.

Offaly's Christy Ring Cup adventure was supposed to culminate in glory, but Down are enjoying a campaign sprinkled with encouraging tales.

Having claimed Allianz Hurling League Division 2B glory last month, another chapter was added to Down's 2020 account in Newry. Undoubtedly Down hit Croke Park heartened because that most valuable sporting ingredient - momentum - has been generated.

Kildare have stitched some encouraging victories together also. The opening round fixture with Offaly was postponed due to Covid issues in Offaly, but Kildare have embarked on a most productive stint.

David Herity's goalkeeping days with Kilkenny featured glorious outings at this venue, but his coaching career has provided interesting experiences. Clearly Kildare are benefiting from that guidance, and the Lilywhites are building for the future.

Potential exists, but the present matters too with Herity supplying valuable sideline leadership. The impending challenge against Down should be an exacting test.

The inter-county challenge is one Kildare's collection of experienced players relish and

embrace. Paul Divilly has occupied a central part in the Kildare GAA story in recent years due to his work with a progressive Coaching and Games staff in the county.

On the field of play, though, Divilly remains an integral figure stressing the pleasure that can be gained from being involved at this level. "We get to play with the best lads in the county against the best lads from other counties,"

Divilly remarked a few years ago at the launch of the Celtic Challenge competition which was brought in to assist developing counties.

"It is a win, win for me. Fair enough you have nights during the winter when you are travelling down to Hawkfield when you mightn't fancy it, but sure it is the same as any walk of life.

"Sometimes I do think we overplay the whole emphasis on commitment and sacrifice intercounty players give. We do get a lot out of it and it is a very enjoyable past time for us."

Winning aids that aspect too and that is why Down will be eager to hoist further silverware at the Jones' Road venue. Goalkeeper Stephen Keith did his bit in the shootout success over Offaly, ensuring the prized Faithful scalp was taken.

Tradition exists in Down too and the Sands' name will always be synonymous with an interesting spell in the early 90s. The next generation are contributing handsomely for Down, who will be completely aware of Kildare's ability which is perfectly illustrated by the Lilywhites triumphs in the 2014 and 2018 Christy Ring Cup finals.

Down were victorious in the 2013 decider, and while last year's loss to Meath in the showpiece hurt, the response has been noteworthy. Back at the outset of March, Down narrowly overcame Kildare by 0-19 to 1-14 in the league, and all the recent signs suggest it could go the distance.

In the Nickey Rackard Cup, Donegal demonstrated admirable resilience when overcoming Tyrone in the penultimate round. Despite missing a string of key players, Donegal, prompted by Gerard Gilmore's two goals in attack, prevailed.

That represented a particularly sweet Saturday for Donegal as Gilmore pounced to net a brace of opportunistic majors inside a purposeful burst. Suddenly Donegal had something to protect and a trip to the capital was booked.

Mayo endured a disappointing Allianz Hurling League in Division 2A, but the standard of opposition was decent. Ultimately, Mayo have started to believe in themselves once more with Shane Boland's 1-11 haul guiding them to a win against Leitrim in the penultimate round.

Though Leitrim caused the green and red some problems in the opening period, Mayo dictated the agenda after the restart. Eight different Mayo players nailed scores in the match which highlighted the confidence that has been generated.

Four years ago, Mayo gleaned the Nickey Rackard Cup when edging out Armagh. It could be similarly tight and tense when Mayo collide with Donegal.

Both teams have chalked up fine victories on the way to this encounter. Donegal have beaten Longford, Armagh, and Tyrone. Mayo have proven too strong for Monaghan, Tyrone, and Leitrim since October 24, so the stakes are piled high. © 2020 GAA. No part of this digital publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means.

CHRISTY RING CUP FINA



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2020 NICKEY RACKARD CUP

Round 1

Oct 24, Letterkenny	Donegal	2-13	1-14	Longford
Oct 24, Clontibret	Mayo	3-32	2-10	Monaghan
Oct 24, Armagh	Armagh	1-21	0-12	Leitrim

Round 2A

Oct 31, Letterkenny	Donegal	3-13	1-9	Armagh
Oct 31, Omagh	Mayo	1-23	0-9	Tyrone

Round 2B

Nov 7, Longford	Leitrim	1-11	0-12	Longford
Nov 7, Clontibret	Tyrone	2-19	1-12	Monaghan
Semi-Finals				
Nov 14, Castlebar	Mayo	3-23	1-11	Leitrim
Nov 14, Letterkenny	Donegal	3-25	1-21	Tyrone



NICKEY RACKARD FINALS 2005-2019

2005	London	5-8	1-5	Louth
2006	Derry	5-15	1-11	Donegal
2007	Roscommon	1-12	0-13	Armagh
2008	Sligo	3-19	3-10	Louth
2009	Meath	2-18	1-15	London
2010	Armagh	3-15	3-14	London
2011	London	2-20	0-11	Louth
2012	Armagh	3-20	1-15	Louth
2013	Donegal	3-20	3-16	Roscommon
2014	Tyrone	1-17	1-16	Fingal
2015	Roscommon	2-12	1-14	Armagh
2016	Mayo	2-16	1-15	Armagh
2017	Derry	3-23	2-15	Armagh
2018	Donegal	2-19	0-18	Warwickshir
2019	Sligo	2-14	2-13	Armagh



CHRISTY RING FINALS 2005-2019

2005	Westmeath	1-23	2-18	Down
2006	Antrim	5-13	1-7	Carlow
2007	Westmeath	2-15	0-13	Kildare
2008	Carlow	3-22	4-16	Westmeath
2009	Carlow	1-15	0-14	Down
2010	Westmeath	2-16	1-18	Kerry
2011	Kerry	2-21	2-8	Wicklow
2012	London	4-18	1-17	Wicklow
2013	Down	3-16	2-17	Kerry
2014	Kildare	4-18	2-22	Kerry
2015	Kerry	1-20	0-12	Derry
2016	Meath	2-17	1-20	Antrim
Replay	Meath	4-21	5-17	Antrim
2017	Carlow	5-23	4-15	Antrim
2018	Kildare	3-19	1-11	London
2019	Meath	4-19	2-15	Down

Round 1

Oct 24, Tullamore	Kildare	W.O .	Scr.	Offaly
Oct 25, Roscommon	Wicklow	2-19	3-14	Roscommon
Oct 25, Derry	Derry	W.O .	Scr.	Sligo

Round 2A

Oct 31, Ballycran	Down	1-13	0-13	Derry
Nov 1, Newbridge	Kildare	2-14	1-10	Wicklow

Round 2B

Nov 7, Newry	Offaly	0-32	1-12	Derry
Nov 8, Athleague	Roscommon	0-20	0-17	Sligo

Semi-Finals

Nov 14, Newry	Down	2-20	1-23	Offaly
(Down won 3-2 on per	nalties)			
Nov 14, Newbridge	Kildare	3-24	1-9	Roscommon



2020 CHRISTY RING CUP

CROKE PARK SAFETY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

REGULATIONS Páirc an Chrócaigh

- All persons entering this ground are admitted only subject to the following Rules (which are designated to protect the Health and Safety of all entrants to the ground). Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all of these Rules.
- 2. The management reserves the right of admission.
- 3 The instructions of the stewards must be obeyed at all times.
- 4 All persons entering the ground agree to be searched by a member of the Garda Síochána.
- 5. Every person (including infants) entering the ground must have a ticket.
- The following are not permitted: 6.
- 6.1 Entry upon the pitch or engaging in conduct that causes or is likely to cause injury or harm to, or otherwise interferes with, disrupts, hinders, or distracts a person playing in, refereeing or otherwise having a role in a match at this around.
- 6.2 Any unauthorised contact with the boundary wall surrounding the pitch or incursion on to the pitch. Any such unauthorised contact or incursion constitutes a trespass to property.
- 6.3 The climbing of floodlights or other pylons, stands or other buildings. Such behavior constitutes a trespass to property.
- 6.4 Throwing of objects onto the pitch.
- 6.5 Remaining or loitering in any gangway or aisle
- 6.6 Behaving in an offensive or indecent manner.
- 6.7 Bringing of alcohol into the ground.
- 6.8 Bringing into the ground of fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, glasses, cans, flags, banners, poles, distress signals, laser pointers and similar articles or containers, including anything which could or might be used as a weapon.
- 6.9 Excessive noise such as that from the use of radio sets or other appliances and behaviour likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind including foul or abusive language.
- 7. If a person commits a trespass, reasonable force may be used to prevent, restrain or terminate any trespass.
- 8. Where a person is in breach of any of these rules, or where the management believes that a person constitutes a source of danger to others, or to the ground, such person may be refused entry or ejected from the ground, and reasonable force may be used for that purpose.

Safety and General Information

Supporters are asked to respect the fact that they are entering and leaving the stadium through residential areas.



Safety Notice

In the interests of safety, patrons will not be allowed to enter the playing area after the games.



The policy to prohibit such encroachment in the future has been taken to avoid further injuries and possible fatality and has been taken on the advice and promptings of the safety authorities, namely the Gardai, Dublin City Council, Fire Brigade and the HSE. The full co-operation of supporters is requested to avoid serious injury and to ensure that games can be enjoyed without resource to fencing or avoidable obstructions to seeing action from all vantage points.

Together we can ensure that the Croke Park experience is both enjoyable and safe, particularly for the young and vulnerable.

Smoking Policy

Croke Park now operates a No Smoking policy except in designated areas of the ground.

Medical Assistance

First Aid Centres are located in the following areas:

Section 313
Section 333
Section 702
Section 724
Section A
Hogan Players Tunnel

Lost Children

Lost children will be brought to the above First Aid Centres.

Please play your part by co-operating with the Greener On and off the pitch initiatives at the Stadium and using the recycling stations provided. Please log onto www.crokepark.ie/about/sustainability for further information.



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If 2020 wasn't mad enough already...





