

DÚN NA NGALL V AN CABHÁN

QUARTER FINAL | 18ú MÁRTA | PAIRC MAC CUMHAILL BALLYBOFEY

Throw in 8.00pm. Extra Time to be played if necessary. Clár Oifigiúil \mathcal{D} o Words Rúnaí















OFFICIAL SPONSORS

DUN NA NGALL

DONEGAL TEAM





FIR IONAID/SUBSTITUTES

- 16. Joe Coll, Cloich Ceann Faola 17. Kieran Gillespie, Gaoth Dobhair 18. Eammon Mc Grath, Aodh Ruadh
- 📵 Clan Mulligan, Gaoth Dobhair 20. Caolan Mc Gonigle, Bun Cranacha 21. Oisin Crawford, Glean Súilí
- Mall Friel, Gooth Dobhair 23. Lorcan Connor, Na Dunaibh 24. Michael Miller, Naomh Adhamhnáin



Referee: Sean Hurson (Tír Eoghain) Standby: Martin McNally (Muineachán)

Linesman: Dan Mullan (Doire) Sideline: Martin Conroy (Tír Eoghain)

AN CABHAN

CAVAN TEAM



FÍR IONAID/SUBSTITUTES

16. Liam O'Reilly, Gaeil na Sionnáine 17. Niall Clerkin, Searcóg 18. Niall Walsh, Gaeil na Sionnáine

19. Eoin Somerville, Reamór Aontaithe 20. Andrew Graham, Gaeil an Chabháin 21. Vincent Coyle, Gaeil an Chabháin

22. Cormac Daly, Caisleán Reathain 23. Kevin Brady, Gaeil an Chabháin 24. Ryan Connolly, Droim Leathan



















ULSTER U21 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
SEMI FINALS | WED **APRIL | ALL GAMES THROW IN 8.00PM

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GAA – EIRGRID ULSTER UNDER-21 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTER-FINAL

McHugh provides late winner for U21s

BY CHRIS MCNULTY AT SEAN MACCUMHAILL PARK

RYAN McHugh snatched a late, late winner for Donegal's Under-21s on Wednesday night to gun down fourin-a-row Ulster winning Cayan.

The game clock was well into the red zone – there were 30 seconds of normal time remaining – when Conor Parke sent a hopeful ball into the crowded goalmouth.

Man of the Match Ciaran Thompson fended off the close interest to fetch, turn and off-load to the lurking McHugh – who had missed a secondhalf penalty – and the captain rolled home a dramatic match-winner.

It was rough justice on Cavan – a county whose last defeat at this grade was at the hands of Jim McGuinness's Donegal in the 2010 Ulster final – but on the balance of things, Donegal had deserved it.

They lost their way for long perids, yes, and they certainly rode their luck at times, but it was Maxi Curran's boys who had the better of the chances, although their lack of botency when and where it mattered booked as if it would be costly.

Match Stats

Donegal/Cavan

Goals 1/0 Points 7/9 Wides 11/5 45s 3/0 Short efforts 3/1 Frees awarded 16/18 Frees scored 1/3 Black cards 0/2 1/2 Yellow cards Red cards 0/0

Donegal led by the minimum, 0-5 to 0-4, at the break, but by that stage Donegal could have had their passage to an April 1 semi-final against Monaghan copper-fastened.

A scoreless 25-minute spell seemed as if it would haunt Donegal in this sink-or-swim competition, but when a ring buoy was thrown the hosts let it slip into the tide.

Corner-back Jack O'Brien, after a lung-bursting run in the 47th minute, was the unlikely beneficiary when Eoin McHugh lobbed a teasing ball to the edge of the square. O'Brien was pulled down and Sean Hurson, after appearing a little reluctant to begin with, awarded a penalty.

Ryan McHugh assumed responsibility, but his tamely struck penalty was turned around his post by the Cavan goalkeeper, Mark Fagan, who got down low to his left to make the save.

It suggested a seminal moment in the contest, but Hugh McFadden found his range, after spurning a couple of early efforts, from the '45 and it was a one-point game again.

Donegal – who drafted senior players McFadden and Darach O'Connor into the starting line-up having not been named in the programme 24 – threatened to run away with things in the first half, but cunning Cavan stayed in touch as Donegal didn't take their chances.

Conor Madden opened the scoring for the visitors, but Donegal quickly assumed control of proceedings.

Thompson was on fire with three superb points, one of which might've been a goal had the Glenties man – younger brother of senior star Anthony – shown just a little more composure.

With Daire McDaid and Darragh Mulgrew on the mark, Donegal led 0-5 to 0-1 by the 17th minute before O'-Connor shot a fine goal chance just wide of the mark. Without the hamstrung Willie Gillespie, Donegal gave a first intercounty appearance to Glenswilly's Oisin Crawford, while five of last year's county minors – Danny Rodgers (still the minor 'keeper this year), Conor Morrison, Eoghan Bán Gallagher, Tony McClenaghan and Stephen McBrearty – were handed starts.

With six wides and another effort dropping short in the first half, the slender advantage – just a solitary point – didn't reflect Donegal's dominance of the first stanza.

Cavan clipped the opening three of the second half through Michael Argue, Madden and Jonathan McCabe to get back in front and Donegal had gone 25 minutes without a score until Ryan McHugh slotted over a free.

The captain passed up the chance to put Donegal back in front when he saw the 47th minute penalty saved by Cavan 'keeper Mark Fagan, but McFadden's converted '45 kept Donegal in check.

In the minutes before the penalty, Eoin McHugh shot into Fagan's arms when, after weaving his way into Cavan's territory, he elected to shoot from distance with Donegal in a 3 v 2 scenario.

McFadden hit two wides with chances to level the tie and when O'Reilly tapped over an easy free the curtains were in the process of being closed.

In last year's provincial final, Cavan scored 1-3 late in the day to pull the rug from beneath Donegal. Roles were reversed here, though, when, cometh the hour – and three minutes past it – cometh McHugh with that precious swing of the boot to win it for the relieved home side.

Donegal: Danny Rodgers; Conor Morrison, Conor Parke, Jack O'Brien; Tony McClenaghan, Ryan McHugh (1-1, 1f), Eoghan Ban Gallagher; Darragh Mulgrew (0-1), Hugh McFadden (0-1, 1 '45); Ciaran Thompson (0-3), Eoin McHugh, Oisin Crawford; Darach O'Connor, Daire McDaid (0-1, 1f), Stephen McBrearty Subs: Cian Mulligan for McDaid (half-time), Rory Carr for O'Connor (49 mins), Eamon McGrath for

McBrearty (49 mins).

Cavan: Mark Fegan; Barry Fortune, Mark Magee, Fergal Reilly; Gerard Smith, Padraig Faulkner, Ciran Brady; Kevin Brady, Michael Algue (0-1); Jonathan McCabe (0-1), Conor Madden (0-2), Aaron Watson; Caomhin O'Reilly (0-4, 3f), Tom Hayes, Enda Flanagan (0-1, 1f). Subs: Vincent Coyle for McCabe (51), Niall Walsh for Madden (55), Niall Clerkin for Fortune (black card, 56), Cormac Daly for Faulkner (58), Ryan Connolly for O'Reilly (59 mins).

Referee: Sean Hurson (Tyrone).