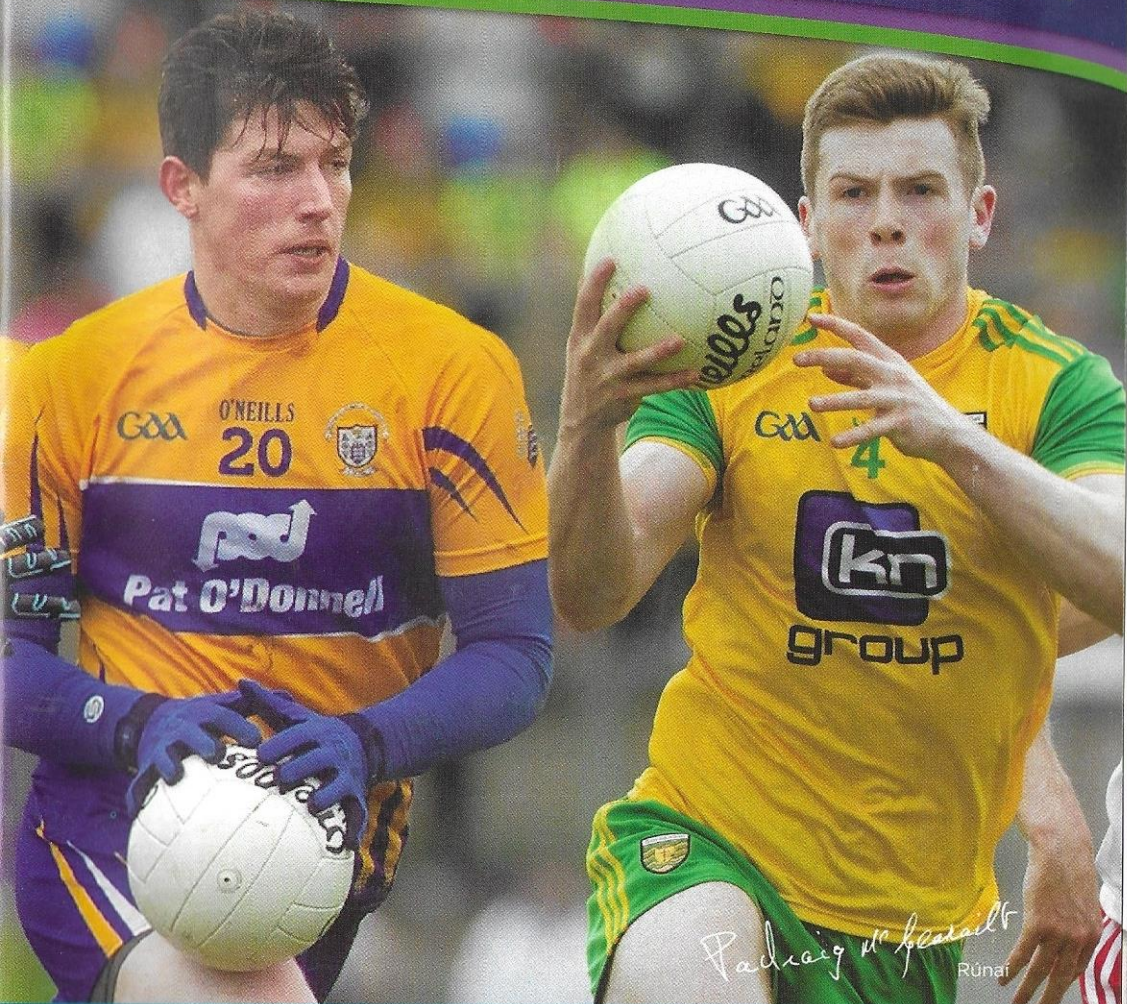


CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL
ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE
DIVISION 2, ROUND 1



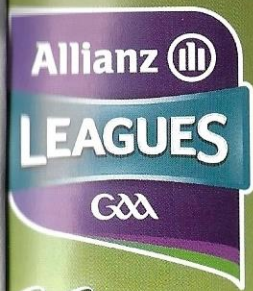
AN CLÁR V DÚN NA GALL



LÁTHAIR Páirc Ciosóg, Inis • DÁTA 27/01/2019

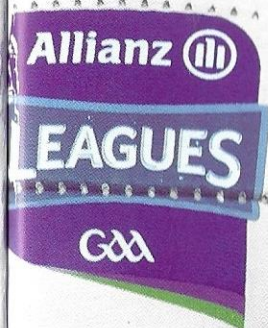
TOSNÚ 2:00pm • RÉITEOIR Padraig O'Sullivan (Carraí) • LUACH €3





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CHAIRMAN'S Address



On behalf of Clare GAA I would like to welcome supporters of Clare and our guests Donegal to Cusack Park for the first Allianz league game in Ennis for 2019.

Donegal are one of the top teams in Gaelic football and are regularly touted as contenders for any competition they enter. Congratulations to Clare who have started off 2019 in positive fashion capturing the McGrath cup title for the first time since 2008.

Donegal are managed by the legendary Declan Bonnar. Declan, along with his management team are welcomed to Clare GAA headquarters in what is expected to be a game in which the result should be in doubt until the final moments. Colm Collins is entering his sixth year in charge and has along with his hardworking management team created a confident Clare footballing unit that has solidified their position as a division 2

side and would hope this coming season to contest all league games with a winning mentality.

I would like to thank our loyal sponsor Pat O'Donnell for his continued association with Clare GAA for close on quarter of a century. Many thanks to the stewards, gatecheckers and all others in charge of logistics who ensure today's fixture takes place.

A number of Clare senior footballers are currently making headlines in the Sigerson cup and we wish them the best in the following rounds. Best wishes to the match official Pdraig O'Sullivan from Kerry and his team in the game today.

Seosamh Ó Cuairí
Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae an Chláir.



BUÍOCHAS ón PRO



Another season is upon us with numerous of different programmes for all competitions to be planned, produced and distributed to all corners of the county. Many thanks to Clare manager Colm Collins and Bernard Keane for their help this weekend. Thanks to Donegal PRO John McEniff and his predecessor Ed Byrne for their help in production of the programme. Sincere thanks to Clare GAA President Pdraig MacMathuna and his staff in the Cusack Park shop for selling and distributing the match programme on game

day as well as other sellers throughout the season. Many thanks to Eugene McCafferty for photographs, Seamus Hayes, Joe Ó Muircheartaigh, Tommy Tubridy and to Edel plus the staff in Realprint for production of the programme.

Míle Buíochas
Micheál Ó Conchúir
PRO Coiste Contae an Chláir

AMHRÁN NA DHÉIARNA

Siomra fíanna fáil. atá pé gheall ag éiríonn. d'ádh dár slua
t'har tóim do ráinig chogáim. pé mhóid dheíth saor.
Sean tír ár sínsir peasta ní phagpar pé'n tíorán ná pé'n tráil
Anocht a chéam sa dhéar na dhaoil le gear ar ghaeil chom dáis nó saoil
le geara beireach pé lámhach na ópiléar seo lídh canaídh amhrán na dhéar.

MATCH OFFICIALS	Stand by Referee	Linesman	4th Official
	Jerome Henry (Mayo)	Seamus Mulvihill (Kerry)	Richard Moloney (Limerick)



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2019**

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Donal 086 3953637



*Donegal struggle
past shot shy Clare*

**ALL IRELAND FOOTBALL
QUALIFIER 2009**

By Michael O'Connor

Donegal 0-13 Clare 1-7

A start that yielded three points in as many minutes after the throw-in suggested that perhaps the failings of previous Championship outings had been corrected. A shaky few moments in the first period kept a lid on that notion a similarly positive start to the second-half that saw Donegal race six points clear looked to provide the platform for a trouble-free conclusion.

Yet a 30-minute scoreless period allowed Clare to come within a whisker of forcing extra-time.

For Donegal the win came at a costly price as Christy Toye was forced out of the action 20 minutes from the end. Toye has a serious Achilles tendon injury and is unlikely to play football for club or county for the rest of the year.

The second-half was as bad a half of Championship football as has been seen in quite some time as McFadden and Donegal started well. The St Michael's man swung over two early points, as the hosts started smartly with Barry Dunion racing onto a neat pass from David Walsh to add another. David Tubridy opened the Clare account with a fifth minute free, Donegal continued to press. Murphy pointed a free to restore the three-point lead before winning, and pointing another successful effort.

Donegal appeared to ease off the attacking mode and Clare were afforded a path back into the contest. O'Shea fed Enda Coughlan for his first of the day, before the Banner were gifted a goal on 20 minutes.

Donegal keeper Paul Durcan was penalised for taking down Gary Brennan on the edge of the square after the midfielder beat the Four Masters man to a high ball. Tubridy stepped up to stroke the penalty into the bottom corner. Durcan's was replaced by Termon's Michael Boyle at half time.

Donegal got back on track after Clare's goal. Murphy took a diagonal ball from Leo McLoone to put Donegal ahead again. Any time Donegal took the direct route Clare looked in trouble.

Christy Toye sent a long ball for Murphy to bat down to McFadden, who didn't need a second invitation as Toye capped off a good first-half display by scoring two points in as many minutes, charging forward from the middle to split the post.

Tubridy kept Clare in it with a free in stoppage time, but at 0-9 to 1-3 ahead at the break Donegal were fancied to press on.

McFadden, Murphy and Leo McLoone did just that in the opening five minutes of the second-half and the Clare challenge looked like it was wilting fast. Those points put Donegal six ahead yet the home side wouldn't score again until injury time.

The fact that the scoreboard wasn't troubled for such a lengthy spell will be a massive concern for the Donegal management, who watched Clare chip away at the lead with three points. Tubridy hit a free on 43, but the Banner shooting boots weren't present either. It was the 67th minute before they scored again, through Enda Coughlan's second of the game and another from Pádraig O'Dwyer.

Over six minutes of added time was played following the injury to Toye, but all that was chalked up in that period were two frees, one by Murphy and the other from Tubridy.

The Clare forward ended with 1-4 to his name and can feel aggrieved not to have sent the game to an extra period. He had hit the back of the net only to be blown up by referee Martin Higgins for lifting off the ground, but most observers disagreed with the decision as Donegal were unconvincing winners.

Donegal: Paul Durcan; Frank McGlynn, Neil McGee, Karl Lacey; Barry Dunion (0-1), Barry Monaghan, Eamon McGee; Christy Toye (0-2), Kevin Cassidy; Rory Kavanagh, Leo McLoone (0-1), David Walsh; Conall Dunne, Michael Murphy (0-5), Colm McFadden (0-4). SUBS: Michael Boyle for Durcan (half-time); Brian Roper for Toye (48 mins); Brenda Boyle for Monaghan (57 mins); Dara Gallagher for Walsh (60 mins); Michael Hegarty for McLoone (72 mins).

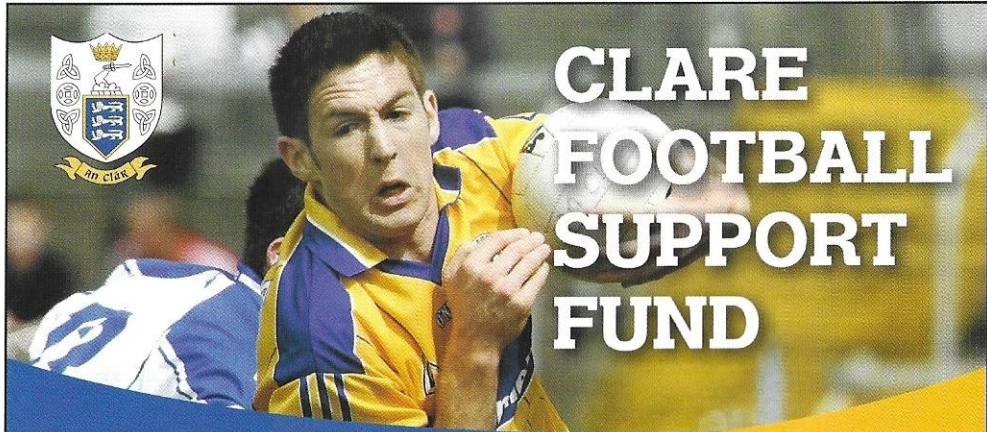
Clare: Dermot O'Brien; Laurence Healy, Conor Whelan, Martin McMahon; Gordon Kelly, Kevin Dilleen, Graham Kelly; Ger Quinlan, Gary Brennan; Enda Coughlan (0-2), David Russell, Seán Collins; Michael O'Shea, Frank O'Dea, David Tubridy (1-4). SUBS: Peter O'Dwyer (0-2) for O'Dea (26 mins); Cathal O'Connor for O'Shea (half-time); Pádraig McMahon for Collins (52 mins); Liam Markham for Graham Kelly (62 mins).

Referee: Martin Higgins (Fermanagh).





CLARE FOOTBALL SUPPORT FUND



On behalf of the Clare senior football management and panel we sincerely thank the following for their support of our 'sponsor a player' scheme.

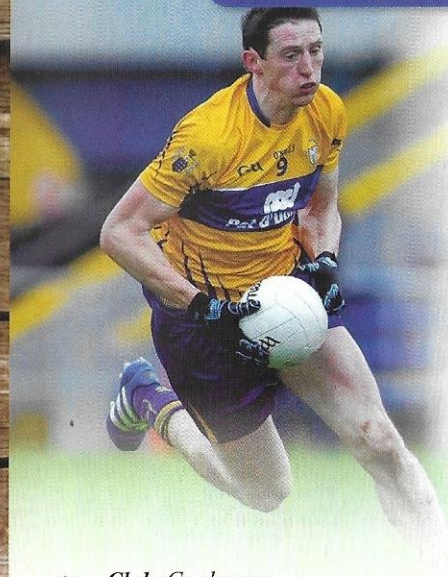
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- Martin Daly Tyre Stop, Tulla Road, Ennis
- Fr. Kevin McNamara Cooraclare and Kerry
- John Kelly, Lisheen,
- Lymar Construction Ltd, Lissycasey
- Sherwood Inn Restaurant, Ennis,
- Logue's Atlantic and Shamrock Hotels
- Tubridy's Bar and Restaurant, Doonbeg
- Ciaran's Bar, Ennis
- M&S Boland, Civil Engineers,
- Casey and Meaney Construction,
- Halfway House Bar, Clare Road, Ennis
- Western Joinery, Tulla Road, Ennis
- Banner Leisure,
- Lucas' Bar, Parnell Street, Ennis
- Durty Nellies, Bunratty
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- Kilrush Credit Union
- Shannonside Building Supplies, Kilrush and Ennis
- Johnston Enterprises, Kilmihil
- David O'Shea, Tool Hire, Kilrush
- Gerard O'Neill Accountancy Services, Kilrush
- Patrick Bourke's Menswear Ennis and Kilrush
- Kilmihil Hardware,
- Donal O'Sullivan, Accountants, Kilrush,
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- Power Plumbing, Tiermaclane, Ennis
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- N.C. Paint and Decor, Ennis
- Burke's Armada hotel, Spanish Point
- TempleGate Hotel, Ennis
- Christy's Wines and Spirits, Cork
- Jones' SuperValu, Miltown
- O'Shea and Associates, Kilrush

MÍLE BUÍOCHAS Manager Colm Collins Captain Gary Brennan



CLARE PLAYER PROFILE

CATHAL O'CONNOR



- *To date what is your favourite moment in sport?* Winning Junior Title with Coolmeen
- *Favourite Venue?* Croke Park
- *Favourite G.A.A. player?* Daragh Ó Sé.
- *What sports person would you most like to meet?* Roy Keane
- *Toughest player to mark in training?* Gordon Kelly or Gary Brennan
- *Who is the 'joker' on the panel?* Aaron Fitzgerald
- *If you won the lotto what would be the first thing you would buy?!* A helicopter for the commute to training
- *Favourite holiday destination?* Iceland
- *Favourite Music?* Whatever is on the radio
- *Favourite Film?* Pitch Perfect
- *In ten years time I hope to be?* Retired and following Clare around the country with the rest of the retired crew
- *7-a-side Dream Team?* Adam Carrig, Marty McMahon, Kev Harnett, Gary Brennan, Jamie Malone, Eoin Cleary, Shane McGrath
- *One thing you may not know about me.....* I'm a serious man to pluck a turkey.
- *Club* Coolmeen
- *Occupation* Civil Engineer
- *Schools/College Attended* Rice College Ennis, NUI Galway
- *Weight* 88kg
- *Height* 185cm
- *Achievements with club & county to date* Junior Championship with Coolmeen 2015
NFL Div.3 with Clare 2016
- *When and where did you first start playing football?* At home in the kitchen and back yard as soon as I could walk.
- *Biggest influence on your career?* Parents
- *What sporting event would you most like to attend?* Rugby World Cup Final with Ireland in it.



Dathanna
Ór agus Gorm

FIR IONAIÐ

16. Eamonn Tubridy
Doonbeg
17. Darragh Bohannon
Shannon Gaels
18. Eoghan Collins
Ballyhaunis
19. Sean Collins
Craioe
20. Gavin Cooney
Éire Óg, Inis
21. Conor Finucane
Lissycasey
22. Pearse Lillis
Coarclare
23. Cormac Murray
St Josephs, Miltown Malbay
24. Gearoid O'Brien
Kilrush Shamrocks
25. Conal Ó hAinifein
Éire Óg, Inis
26. Alan Sweeney
St. Breckans

BAINISTÍOCHT

Manager
Colm Collins
Coach
Brian Carson
Selectors
Declan Downes
Declan O'Keeffe
Enda Coughlan
Evan Shanahan
Physio's
Sean O'Meara
Neil McCarthy
Kit men
Jim Murrinan
Tom Bonfil
Liaison Officer
Bernard Keane

CLARE



Robert Eyres
R. Iarsach
Kildysart



Kevin Harnett
C. Ó hAirtmeada
Meelick



Cillian Brennan
C. Ó Braonain
Clondegad



Gordon Kelly
G. Ó Ceallaigh
St Josephs Miltown Malbay



Dean Ryan
D. Ó Riain
Éire Óg, Inis



Aaron Fitzgerald
A MacGearailt
Éire Óg, Inis



Dale Masterson
D. Mac an Mhaistir
St Breckans



Gary Brennan (C)
G. Ó Braonain
Clondegad



Cathal O'Connor
C. Ó Conchuir
Coolmeen



Cian O'Dea
C. Ó Dea
Kilfenora



Jamie Malone
S. Ó Maoleoin
Corofin



Dermot Coughlan
D. Ó Cochláin
Kilmurry Ibrickane



Kieran Malone
C. Ó Maoileoin
St Josephs Miltown Malbay



Keelan Sexton
K. Ó Seasnain
Kilmurry Ibrickane



David Tubridy
D. Ó Tiobraide
Doonbeg

An Chéad Leath	An Dara Leath	IOMLÁN
:	:	:

DONEGAL



Dathanna
Buí agus Glas

FIR IONAIÐ

16. Mark Anthony M'Ginley
Naomh Mícheál
17. Leo M'Loone
Naomh Conaill
18. Jason M'Gee
Cheann Fhaola
19. Stephen M'Menamín
Aodh Rua, Cúil na nCuiridín
20. Peadar Mogan
Naomh Náille
21. Eoghan Bán Gallagher
Na Cealla Beaga
22. Oisín Gallen
Sean Mac Cumhaill
23. Paddy Dolan
Naomh Mhuire Commhaigh
24. Lorcan Connor
Na Dunaibh
25. Ciaran Diver
Bun an Phobail
26. John Campbell
Bun Crannacha



Shaun Patton
S. Ó Peatáin
Naomh Adhamhnáin



Conor Morrison
C. Ó Muircheasáin
Naomh Adhamhnáin



Caolan Ward
C. Mac an Bháird
Naomh Adhamhnáin



Brendan M'Cole
B. Mac Cumhaill
Naomh Náille



Paul Brennan
P. Ó Braonáin
Bun Dobhráin



Eamonn Doherty
É. Ó Dochartaigh
Naomh Adhamhnáin



Ryan M'Hugh
R. Mac Aodha
Cill Chartha



Hugh M'Fadden
A. Mac Pháidín
Na Cealla Beaga



Michael Langan
M. Ó Longáin
Naomh Mícheál



Niall O'Donnell
N. Ó Domhnaill
Naomh Adhamhnáin



Ciaran Thompson
C. Mac Thomais
Naomh Conaill



Caolan M'Gonagle
C. Mac Congaill
Bun Crannacha



Marty Reilly
M. Ó Raghallaigh
Sean Mac Cumhaill



Martin M'Elhinney
M. Mac Giolla Chainnigh
Naomh Mícheál



Jamie Brennan
J. Ó Braonáin
Bun Dobhráin

An Chéad Leath	An Dara Leath	IOMLÁN
:	:	:

BAINISTÍOCHT

Manager
Deaglán Mac Cnáimhsí
Maor Fóirne
Carl de Léis
Selectors
Pól Mac Congaill
Medics
An Dr. Caoimhín Ó Móráin
Cathal Ó hAilís
Kit Man
Oisín Ó Canáin
Waterboys
Gearóid Ó Baoill
Andy M'Govern



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*A huge test which **CLARE** are eagerly looking forward to*

By Seamus Hayes

When Clare qualified for the division 3 football league final in 2016 and sealed their promotion to division 2, not many followers of the game would have predicted that almost three years later the county would still competing in this division.

At the start of the 2017 campaign they were on many people's short list to drop back down and it was the same twelve months later but the team has deservedly maintained its place in the higher division. Indeed they came close to winning promotion to the top division last season.

Clare begin this season's campaign at Cusack Park this afternoon against, arguably, the top ranked team in the group, Donegal. The Banner outfit will do so without their top scorer and one of the leading forwards in the game at present, Eoin Cleary who is ruled out due to a hand injury.

While the absence of the Miltown St. Josephs man is, without doubt, a big blow, Clare are boosted by the availability of the experienced Kevin Hartnett and Dean Ryan who are back in the squad having missed last season. Hartnet has returned from injury while Ryan is available having spent last season in Australia and both played key roles in the team's McGrath cup victory two weeks ago.

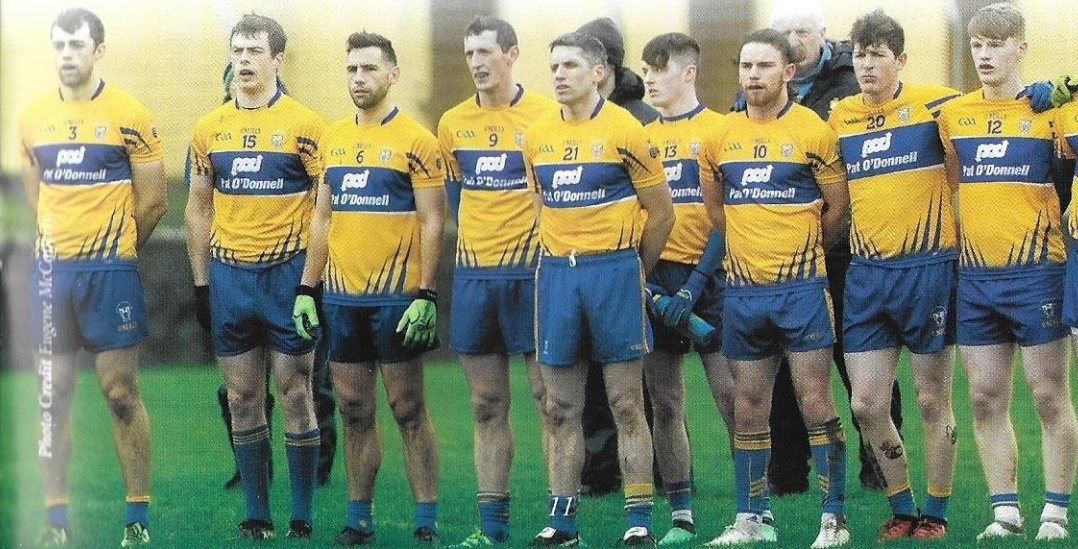
While Donegal make the journey to Cusack park without a number of the players who helped them in their successful Ulster campaign last season, they are still expected to be difficult opposition. The Gweedore contingent which includes Oran MacNiallais who had an outstanding season in 2018, will be absent as they continue their preparations for the All-Ireland club semi-final while team captain Michael Murphy is understood to be one of a number of players currently not available due to injury.

That said team boss Declan Bonnar, one of the stars when the Northern men won the All-Ireland title in 1992, will still have a strong squad from which to select his starting fifteen.

The progress which Clare has made in recent seasons under Colm Collins has certainly inspired the younger players in the county as evidenced by the performances of the minor and under 21 teams as well as some college sides in the past two seasons and it's no surprise that players such as Dermot Coughlan and Gavin Cooney who have been to the fore with the minors over the past two years are now very much part of the senior panel.

A combination of youth and experience is vital if a team is to make progress and the arrival of the aforementioned duo to join up with Gary Brennan, Cathal O'Connor, Gordon Kelly, David Tubridy and Jamie Malone should see Clare compete strongly for honours again this year.

Tosach maith leath na h-oibre (A good start is half the battle) the proverb says and Clare supporters are confident that their team will make a good start to the 2019 league campaign this afternoon.



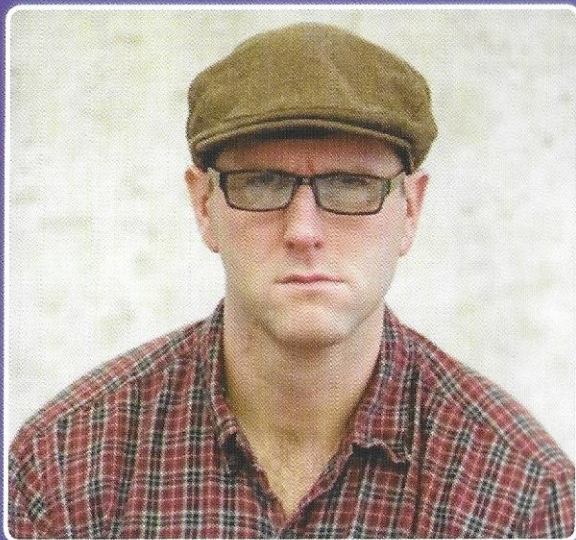
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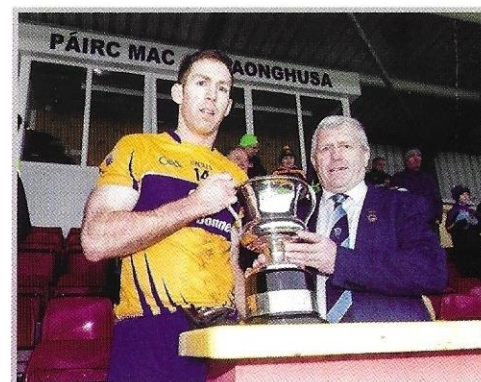
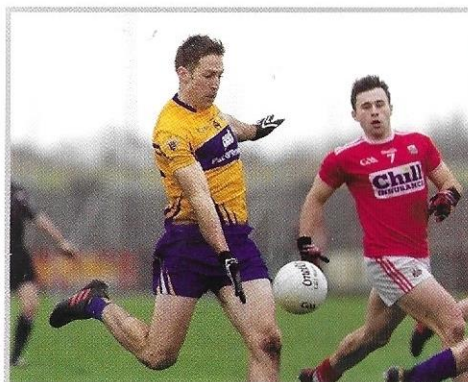
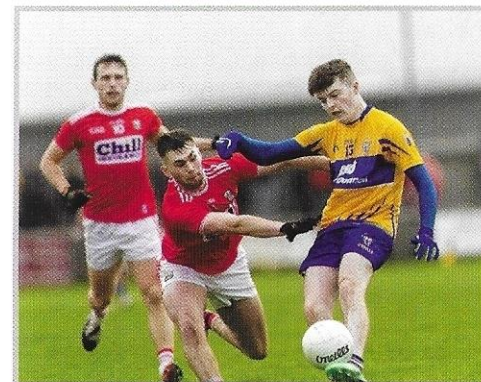
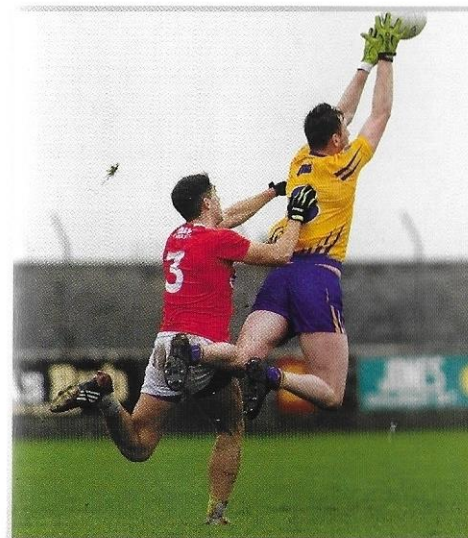
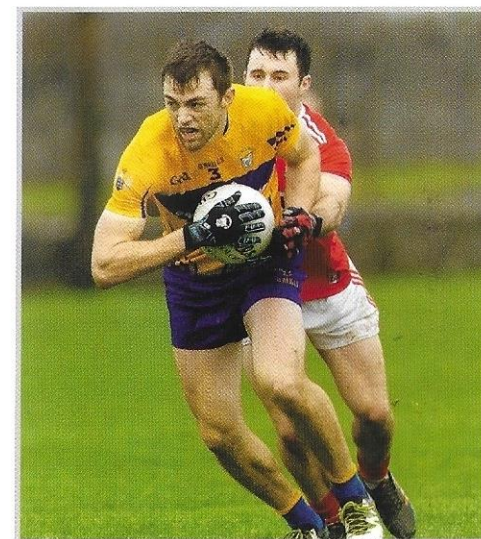
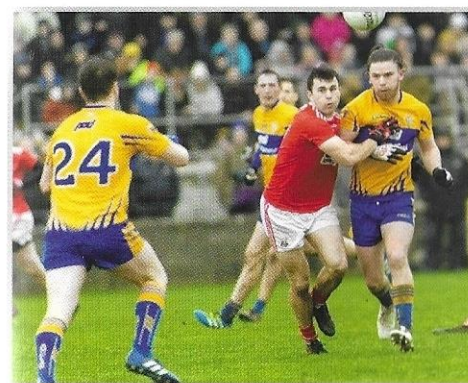
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McGRATH CUP FINAL ACTION

Clare 1-9 v Cork 0-9



ST JOSEPH'S DOORA BAREFIELD

under-age Football

The under-age players brought great excitement to the "parish" this year. We started off from a good base by getting over 350 juvenile players registered at the beginning of 2018 which was an increase on the previous year. As a dual club most of these players play both football and hurling.

Our first football success of the year was the U16's who had a great victory in the A championship. They went through their campaign undefeated however in the final against Ennistymon they had a real battle. Mid-way through the match they were 11 points in arrears, but they rallied and a great second half performance saw them gain a narrow victory. Captain, Alan Killeen proudly lifted the cup on behalf of the team

Our minor footballers also went through their campaign undefeated. They did have to take two attempts to get over a resilient Corofin team in the semi-final. The final was not played until November and victory was theirs' after a great battle with Ennistymon. Conal Kelleher who had played a captain's role throughout the year brought great pride to the Doora Barefield supporters when he lifted the cup.

Two other teams reached finals but were unlucky to come away with defeat. Our U15's were beaten in the North Clare final by Ennistymon and the U21's lost out to a very good Eire Og team in the A final.

Great credit is due to Paudie O'Callaghan and Kieran Ryan, managers of the U16's and minors and their fellow selectors for all their hard work during the year to get lads to the finals. Training



Captains & Managers with Gary Brennan

in the cold wet evenings in February is not very glamorous however it builds character and mental toughness which our lads showed in abundance in their matches. Our Club is fortunate to have large number of people who volunteer their time to coach and mentor teams from U6 onwards. A huge debt of gratitude is also due to the parents who bring their sons to training and matches and spend hours on the sidelines watching the action.

A very enjoyable night was held in Gurteen before Christmas to present the medals to the players. Clare senior footballer, Gary Brennan came along to do the presentation. There was a huge attendance of players, mentors, parents and supporters. Gary gave a very inspiring talk to the lads before giving out the medals.

As a club we were delighted to have many players involved with the Clare under-age development squads. Cian McDonagh was a member of the Clare minor football squad for the 2018 championship.

2018 was not one of the best years for our senior footballers however the Club can have great hope for the future as there is a strong pipeline of very talented players coming along in the years ahead to represent Doora Barefield. Some teams have already started training for 2019 and we wish them every success.

Pat O'Shea
Minor Club Secretary



MUNSTER GAA HAVE CONFIRMED THE DATES FOR THE 2019 *Bord Gais Energy Munster GAA Hurling Under 20 Championship and the 2019 EirGrid GAA Football Under 20 Munster Championship.*

These games will take place in July 2019 to accommodate players sitting the Leaving Cert exams in June or 3rd Level College exams in May.

UNDER 20 HURLING
Wednesday July 3rd
**Bord Gais Energy Munster
GAA Hurling
Under 20 Championship
Quarter-Final**
Cork v Limerick
@ 7:30pm in a Cork venue

Tuesday July 9th
**Bord Gais Energy Munster
GAA Hurling
Under 20 Championship
Semi-Final**
Tipperary v Waterford
@ 7:30pm in a Tipperary venue

Wednesday July 10th
**Bord Gais Energy Munster
GAA Hurling Under 20
Championship Semi-Final**
Clare v Limerick or Cork
@ 7:30pm in a Limerick
or Cork venue

Tuesday July 23rd
**Bord Gais Energy Munster
GAA Hurling Under
20 Championship Final**

UNDER 20 FOOTBALL
Tuesday July 2nd
**EirGrid GAA Football Under
20 Munster Championship
Quarter-Finals**
Waterford v Clare
@ 7:30pm in a Waterford venue
Tipperary v Limerick
@ 7:30pm in a Tipperary venue

Thursday July 11th
**EirGrid GAA Football Under
20 Munster Championship
Semi-Finals**
Cork v Waterford or Clare
@ 7:30pm in a Cork
or Clare venue
Kerry v Tipperary or Limerick
@ 7:30pm in a Tipperary
or Kerry venue

Wednesday July 17th
**EirGrid GAA Football
Under 20 Munster
Championship Final**

Also, Munster GAA can confirm that the curtain-raisers for the Munster Senior Football Championship Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals will be games in the TG4 Munster Ladies Football Senior and Intermediate Championship which will see each of the six adult Ladies Football teams in the province taking part in at least one curtain-raiser. Details as follows –

**SENIOR FOOTBALL & SENIOR
/ INTERMEDIATE LADIES
FOOTBALL**
Saturday May 11th
**Munster Senior Football
Championship Quarter-Final**
Tipperary v Limerick
@ 7pm in Semple Stadium
Thurles

**TG4 Munster Intermediate
Ladies Football Champion-
ship Round 1**
Tipperary v Limerick
@ 5pm in Semple Stadium
Thurles

**Munster Senior Football
Championship Quarter-Final**
Clare v Waterford
@ 7pm in Cusack Park Ennis

**TG4 Munster Senior Ladies
Football Championship
Round 1**
Kerry v Waterford
@ 5pm in Cusack Park Ennis

Saturday June 1st
**Munster Senior Football
Championship Semi-Final**
Cork v Tipperary or Limerick
@ 7pm in Pairc Ui Chaoimh

**TG4 Munster Senior Ladies
Football Championship
Round 3**
Cork v Kerry
@ 5pm in Pairc Ui Chaoimh

**Munster Senior Football
Championship Semi-Final**
Kerry v Clare or Waterford
@ 7pm in Cusack Park Ennis
or Fraher Field Dungarvan

**TG4 Munster Intermediate
Ladies Football
Championship Round 3**
Clare v Limerick
@ 5pm in Cusack Park Ennis or
Fraher Field Dungarvan



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ALLIANZ NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE - DIVISION TWO

Donegal survive late Clare

Donegal got the full quota of league points but were made fight to the bitter end by a very determined Clare outfit

CLARE 0-13
DONEGAL 0-16

PETER CAMPBELL
at Cusack Park, Ennis

Donegal were made fight to the finish to get a result against a good Clare side in Cusack Park, Ennis.

With Eoghan Bán Gallagher back in Donegal colours the side relegated from Division One last year were given a real run for their money.

It took some calm heads in the final minutes as Clare, a point behind, came forward looking for an equaliser. In the end, Hugh McFadden played a captain's role, firing over an insurance point before Jason McGee closed out the game.

It was a new-look Donegal and manager Declan Bonner will be reasonably happy, especially with the way his side coped with a difficult final 15 minutes.

For Clare their two better known players, Gary Brennan and David Tubridy, were excellent with Brennan causing Donegal many problems from beginning to end.

SCOREBOARD TICKING

Donegal had the scoreboard operator in action on 55 seconds with Michael Langan winning and pointing free.

It was the first score in a free flowing opening half. Clare's impressive midfielder Gary Brennan levelled and Keelan Sexton put the home side ahead from a free on five minutes.

It should have been better for Clare after Sexton got in behind the Donegal defence but blazed his effort into the side netting. It was a warning for the Donegal defence, but in fairness, they tightened up after that, even though Shaun Patton did have some issues with kick-outs.

Donegal, playing against the breeze, then had a strong period and by the 11th minute they were 0-5 to 0-2 ahead with points from

Michael Langan, Ciaran Thompson (2) and a great effort from Eoghan Bán Gallagher after he combined with Conor Morrison. Indeed, Morrison was involved in two of the points, with the Bán Gallagher point coming from a superb run from the Killybegs man.

Dean Ryan pulled a point back for Clare but Michael Langan pointed a free after Caolan McGonagle was fouled on a forward run.

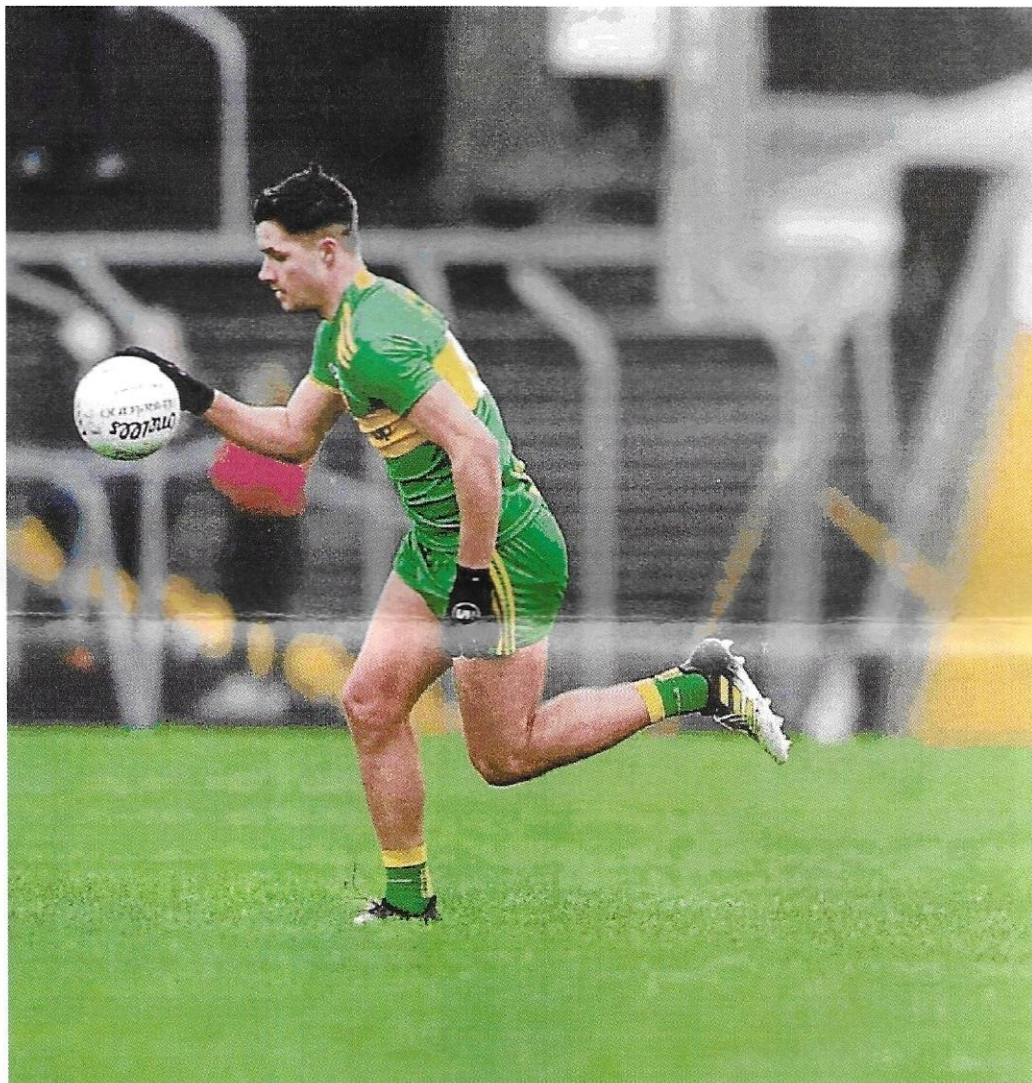
Another great Gary Brennan effort after a terrific solo run was countered by another Langan free before Dermot Coughlan and David Tubridy pulled the margin back to a point on 25 minutes.

Jamie Brennan hit the point of the half from a difficult angle but Clare were persistent and two points from David Tubridy (one free) had them on level terms. The Clare corner-forward was giving a lesson in good use of possession and a great ability to take his chances.

But on the stroke of half-time Donegal struck back for a decisive lead. Jason McGee landed from an angle and from the kick-out Niall O'Donnell drove back over the bar to leave Donegal ahead by 0-10 to 0-8 after a very entertaining first half.

Two Donegal handling mistakes gave David Tubridy the chance to hit two points to level within two minutes of restart. Gary Brennan then struck the lead point, his effort tipped over by Conor Morrison, as he bore down on goal. It was a big turning point, and even though it put Clare ahead for only the second time in the game, it could have been worse for Donegal.

After five wides in 10 minutes, Jason McGee finally got Donegal back level on 41 minutes. Caolan McGonagle edged them ahead after Niall O'Donnell won the free. However, their wide tally kept rising and McGonagle hit an upright



with a free from almost the same distance a minute later.

Clare lost their 'keeper to injury as Hugh McFadden

forced a turnover and Jamie Brennan applied the finish to put Donegal two ahead on 61 minutes and within seconds the Bundoran man added

another to open a significant gap.

David Tubridy cut the deficit from a free and Gavin Cooney left just a point in it

as eight minutes went up on the board for added time (there had been a significant stoppage when Clare 'keeper Robert Eyres had to be helped off after colliding with a post).

Clare kept driving forward and looked dangerous but Donegal held their nerve and Hugh McFadden eased Donegal worries when he found space to loft over an insurance point with four minutes of added time played and Jason McGee had the final point in the 11th minute of added time.

It was a very open game with just four yellow cards and there were no sin bins, forward marks or sideline kick

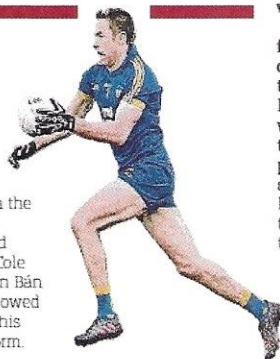
Man of the Match

GARY BRENNAN, CLARE

The big Clare midfielder Gary Brennan was a joy to watch from start to finish. He contributed three points to Clare, but it was his ability to win ball and drive forward at every opportunity which makes him special. He was carrying the Clare team at times and he will be vital to their chances of retaining their Division Two status.

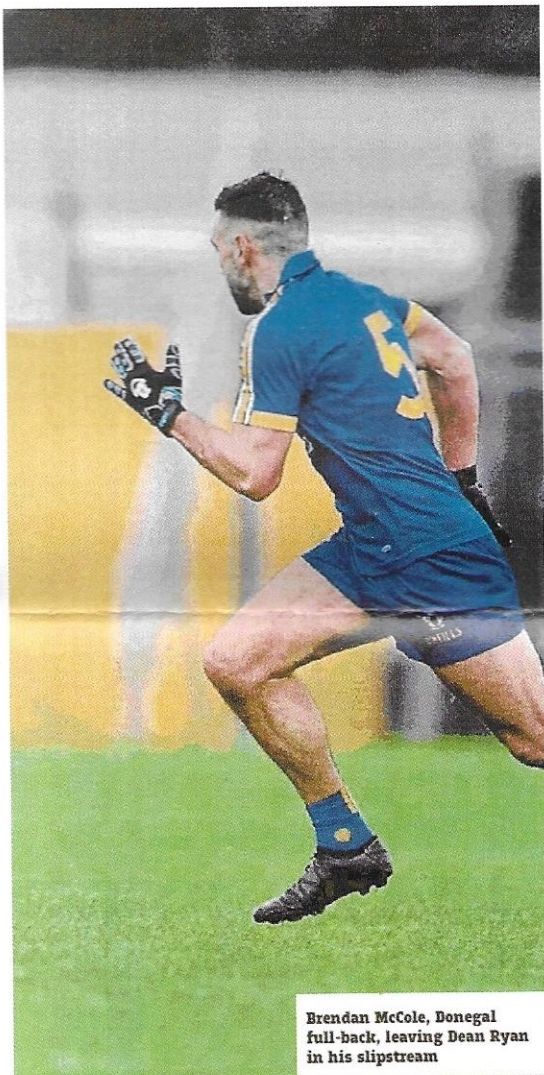
For Donegal Ryan McHugh was again a big player, making the right decisions and winning frees with his runs. Jamie Brennan also performed well and his directness is a big

plus for Donegal. Favourable mention also goes to new boys on the block Conor Morrison and Brendan McCole while Eoghan Bán Gallagher showed glimpses of his great 2018 form.



ALLIANZ NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE - DIVISION TWO

surge to take the points



Brendan McCole, Donegal full-back, leaving Dean Ryan in his slipstream



HOW THEY LINED OUT

TEAMS

CLARE: Robert Eyres; Kevin Harnett, Cillian Brennan, Gordon Kelly; Dean Ryan (0-1), Aaron Fitzgerald, Eoghan Collins; Gary Brennan (0-3), Cathal O'Connor; Cian O'Dea, Jamie Malone, Dermot Coughlan (0-1); Kieran Malone, Keolan Saxton (0-1.1f), David Tubridy (0-6, 3f). Subs: Pearse Lillis for E Collins 47; Sean Collins for K Malone 53; Eamonn Tubridy for Eyres 58; Darragh Bohannon for J Malone 62; Gavin Cooney (0-1) for Coughlan 66.

DONEGAL: Shaun Patton; Conor Morrison, Brendan McCole (pictured), Caolan Ward; Paul Brennan, Eoghan Bán Gallagher (0-1), Eamonn Doherty; Hugh McFadden (0-1), Jason McGee (0-3); Claran



Thompson (0-2), Ryan McHugh, Caolan McGonagle (0-1, f); Niall O'Donnel (0-1), Michael Langan (0-4.4f) Jamie Brennan (0-3). Subs: Martin McElhinney for P Brennan 42; Leo McLoone for McGonagle 55; Stephen McMenamin for Bán Gallagher 66; Peadar Mogan for Doherty 81.

REFEREE: Pdraig O'Sullivan (Kerry).



Eoghan Bán Gallagher on the ball for Donegal



Ryan Mc Hugh goes past Dean Ryan, Clare, in the league game in Cusack Park, Ennis on Sunday

MARKSMAN - how the Donegal players fared

PETER CAMPBELL
sports@donegaldemocrat.com

SHAUN PATTON: Didn't have much to deal with. Was put under pressure in opening half on kick-out but coped well. 7
CONOR MORRISON: A good outing for the young St. Eunans man, who got forward well in the first half. 7

BRENDAN MCCOLE: Is making good progress as a member of the full-back line. Will be happy with this outing. 7

CAOLAN WARD: Might have given the ball away a few times, but overall carried out his defensive duties well and gave Donegal pace going forward. 7

EAMONN DOHERTY: Solid rather than spectacular. Was used to try to stop Clare players on the burst. 6.5

EOGHAN BAN GALLAGHER: Good to have the Killybegs man back and he showed glimpses of his great

attacking prowess. Also got a good point. 7.5

PAUL BRENNAN: Worked very hard but then picked up a yellow card which led to his substitution. 6.5

HUGH MCFADDEN: Up against a very good Clare midfielder, McFadden got better as the game went on and hit a vital point which put Donegal on their way in the final minutes. 7.5

JASON MCGEE: Hit three good points and got on some good ball. Can use those long legs to make more breaks. 7

CIARAN THOMPSON: Hit a few good points and also missed a few. Has plenty more to offer Donegal. 6.5

RYAN MCHUGH: Was a driving force throughout and won some vital frees. Again one of Donegal's best performers 8

CAOLAN MCGONAGLE: Had some very good moments but needs to get involved in the game more. Made some great carries. 7

NIALL O'DONNELL: Got on a lot of ball and this was an improved performance. So much more to come from the talented St Eunans man. 6.5

MICHAEL LANGAN: Had a great first half and hit some good frees. Struggled to make an impact in the second half. 7

JAMIE BRENNAN: His direct style is great to watch and he hit some great scores. Will be vital to Donegal in this league campaign. 8

MARTIN MCELHINNEY: In for Paul Brennan, McElhinney won some vital frees but most of his work was on the periphery. 6.5

LEO MCLOONE: In for Caolan McGonagle, McLoone didn't have a great influence but the game time will help him going forward. 6

STEPHEN MCMENAMIN AND PEADAR MOGAN: Not on long enough to rate

infringements.

It was a good opening win for Donegal, especially away from home. Clare were a good test and it should stand to Donegal as they face Meath in MacCumhail Park, Ballybofey on Saturday

evening next in round two.

Meath were the only other winners in Division Two with the other two games ending level. It means that whoever wins between Donegal and Meath on Saturday will be clear leaders after two rounds.

Allianz Football League Div 2

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts.
Meath	1	1	0	0	4	2
Donegal	1	1	0	0	3	2
Fermanagh	1	0	1	0	0	1
Cork	1	0	1	0	0	1
Kildare	1	0	1	0	0	1
Armagh	1	0	1	0	0	1
Clare	1	0	0	1	-3	0
Tipperary	1	0	0	1	-4	0