

Kiladangan give Newport a lesson

Kiladangan

1-21

Newport

0-10

By Shane Brophy in Dolla

NEWPORT were given a rude welcome back to the North Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship on Sunday evening as holders Kiladangan had too much class and craft in this first round clash.

One felt beforehand that with Newport having nothing to lose, they could give it a right go but they found out the gap they have to bridge between a side returning from the intermediate grade to a side in Kiladangan who have their eyes on winning the county title.

The gulf in class in the first half was striking as Kiladangan's movement and touch was such that Newport struggled to lay a glove on them at times. Even playing Eamon McCormack as an extra man at midfield didn't work as Kiladangan had ten points on the board by the seventeenth minute and trailing by eight points at that stage, the game was as good as done.

What makes Kiladangan such a difficult team to beat is not only their quality and movement on and off the ball to create scoring opportunities, everyone knows their roll both on and off the field, even down to carrying water, including when logistics man Jim Ryan was struck by an accidental flying hurley in the first half. As quickly as him receiving treatment was Tommy Connors being called forward to carry the water-bottle in Ryan's position; even the smallest detail is addressed and the same goes for what the players do on the field.

Willie Connors got the scoring underway with a point and despite a report from Eoin Shinnors, Kiladangan would assert themselves early on with Tadhg Gallagher and two points from impressive midfielder Martin Minehan along with a Darragh Egan free seeing them into the groove.

Playing with one less forward, Newport struggled to give their over-worked defence any relief with Alan Flynn and Peral Hayes sweeping up aimless clearances effectively from where they used the ball effectively to where minor Billy Seymour helped himself to three points in the first sixteen minutes while Minehan, Gallagher, Connors and the industrious Johnny Horan also found the range as Kiladangan eased to a 0-13 to 0-2 lead at half time and but for eight wides, it could have been a whole lot worse on the Milkair men.

Sunday was a huge occasion for

Newport to be back in North Tipp senior hurling and it could have explained part of their first half struggles as they came out at the start of the second half more aggressive and raised their intensity a couple of levels to take the game to Kiladangan.

Eamon McCormack got the ball rolling with his second point, to add to a first half effort while Martin Carey drew a free which led to Darragh Carroll converting with Eoin Shinnors, Peter O'Sullivan and McCormack also getting on the scoresheet and by the 40th minute, the margin was back to six points with Kiladangan struggling to get a foothold.

A good contest was developing with a little needle thrown in for good measure but Kiladangan are too good a side to be in a slumber for long as Tadhg Gallagher got his sides first score in the second half in the 42nd minute with Martin Minehan following up with his fourth from play.

The hard working Steven O'Connor kept Newport ticking over before Kiladangan killed the game off with ten minutes to go with a Darragh Egan point from play being added to by a Paul Flynn goal as the Tipp senior panel stretched quickest in the square after Michael Flannery saved from Joe Gallagher.

From there to the end, Kiladangan eased to a fourteen point success with Gallagher (3), Seymour, Egan (free) and Paul Flynn all adding to their tallies with Eamon McCormack and sub Daniel Carew providing the consolation scores for Newport who got a taste of the task that is ahead of them but they showed they have the ability to learn from this experience.



Kiladangan's Billy Seymour wins possession with Newport's Steven O'Connor in close pursuit. PHOTO: BRIDGET DELANEY

Match Digest

Man of the Match: Tadhg Gallagher (Kiladangan)

Kiladangan: Barry Hogan (G), Darron Moran (G), Hughie Flannery (G), Peral Hayes (G), David Sweeney (G), Alan Flynn (G), Charan Kelly (G), Johnny Horan (D-1, 7), Martin Minehan (D-4, 8), Joe Gallagher (G), Willie Connors (D-2, 7), Tadhg Gallagher (D-6, 8), Paul Flynn (D-1, 7), Darragh Egan (D-3, 20 G), Billy Seymour (D-4, 8).

Subs: Andy Loughmane for Sweeney (G-9 blood); Eoin Kelly (G) for Horan (4G); Andy Loughmane for A. Flynn (G-FT blood).

Newport: Michael Flannery (G), Andrew Hickey (G), Conor O'Mahony (G), Jordan Young (G), Cian Flanagan (G), Sean O'Brien (G), Conor Floyd (G), Steven O'Connor (D-1, 7), Darragh Carroll (D-2, 10 G), Peter O'Sullivan (D-1, G), Eoin Shinnors (D-2, 7), Pa Ryan (G), Aidan Moloney (G), Martin Carey (G), Eamon McCormack (D-3, 7).

Subs: Daniel Carew (D-1, G) for Young (G); Robert Houlahan (G) for Floyd (47 inj); Padraig Hogan (G) for Moloney (G).

Referee: Kieran Delaney (Tomovara)