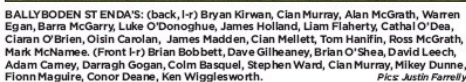


BODEN'S DREAM



DUBLIN U21FC 'A' SEMI-FINAL

KILMACUD CROKES	1-18
BALLYBODEN ST ENDA'S	0-6

Bónán Mac Lechlainn

KILMACUD Crokes dominated from start to finish when crushing local rivals Ballyboden St Enda's by 15 points in a disappointingly one-sided Dublin Under 21 'A' Football Championship semi-final at Silver Park on Saturday afternoon.

A tight encounter was expected, especially given the manner in which Boden had beaten a talented Na Fianna outfit seven days previously, but it never materialised as the greater athleticism and organisation of the hosts completely blitzed their opponents.

In truth, the margin of victory could well have been greater with Ballyboden's attack failing to impress, apart from a late and ultimately futile brace of points from play by Barra McGarry.

The remainder of their scores from play arrived through points from their half-back line, which struggled at times in terms of their primary duties, as Kilmacud probed calmly and intelligently through the efforts of Dan O'Brien, Tom Fox and Andrew McGowan.

What little possession Ballyboden managed to muster around the middle third, it generally led

to turnovers, while Kilmacud goalkeeper Kevin Creasay delivered a positive display between the sticks to thwart St Enda's on the rare occasions that they threatened.

It was evident from the moment that Tom Fox put Crokes a point clear in the second minute that the hosts were operating at a greater intensity than their opponents.

Frees from Cian O'Connor and Callum Pearson added to their lead and although Murray kicked Boden's sole score of the half in the seventh minute, the visitors were largely chasing shadows as they fell further behind following points from O'Connor, Pearson and Ben Shovlin.

Darragh Gogan kept his side in contention with a fine save to deny Sam Showlin but he proved powerless to prevent Kilmacud from stretching their lead thanks to well-taken points from Pearson and McGowan.

A disallowed goal by Adam Carney added to their collective frustration and St Enda's entered the break nine points in arrears (0-10 to 0-1), as Pearson kicked two late points to confirm his team's supremacy.

The holders seemed happy to absorb some

early Ballyboden pressure upon the resumption, but visiting keeper Gogan was forced to make another excellent block to thwart O'Connor in the 39th minute.

However, his side lacked punch at the opposite end and their fate was sealed in the 56th minute as Pearson fed O'Connor for a facile goal to put the finishing touches to a superb team display by Crokes.



Ballyboden's Brian Bobbett attempts to cut out the handpass from Kilmacud's Tom Fox at Silver Park.

MATCHFILE

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