

GALWAY SOCCER WRAP UP

Lee's goals help Renmore go clear in chase for promotion

Galway clubs have no joy in the FAI Junior Cup

RENMORE	2
WEST COAST UNITED	1

MIKE RAFFERTY

ADAM Lee struck goals in each half as Renmore saw off promotion rivals West Coast United on Sunday and, in the process, moved three points clear at the top of the Western Hygiene Supplies First Division.

Going back a few decades names like Greaney, Langan, Shaughnessy, Walsh, Coll and Lohan were very much to the fore as the club contended for and won honours on a regular basis, but time waits for no one and for some years there were only lean pickings in the lower divisions.

However, firstly under the stewardship of Owen Noone they made huge progress with regular promotions and new manager Paul Sinnott has maintained that competitive instinct. With just one loss from their opening seven games, they are very much in the mix for promotion to the top flight.

At the weekend, Renmore made the perfect start when taking a first minute lead as Lee swept home a Daragh Hynes cross for a 1-0 advantage. They continued to threaten, but Neil Lydon and Alan Walsh excelled in the West Coast defence as they soaked up the early pressure.

Opportunities were presented at both ends as Colie Ridge had a free kick gathered by goalkeeper Cathal O'Neill, before Lee made a great break from his own half, before sliding an effort past the advancing O'Neill and the far post.

Cathal O'Regan was denied by another O'Neill save, but matters weren't going just one way as Cillian Murphy executed a smashing save to keep out a Sean Mullen shot at close range. Thomas Madden should have hit the target, when he looped a Robert Gannon delivery over both Murphy and the crossbar from close range.

Paddy Gannon and James Sinnott were imperious at the heart of the home defence as they generally snuffed out the visitors attack while in midfield O'Regan and Jouffe just got better as the game progressed.

West Coast United had one chance just after the restart to level matters when Madden latched on to an O'Neill clearance, but with just Murphy to beat, he pushed his effort wide of the target.

Renmore put themselves in a commanding position when they made it 2-0 on 53 minutes. Colie Ridge was the provider as Lee executed a perfect half volley from just inside the box that flew past O'Neill. Chances really dried up after this, but John Finnegan took the wrong option when he found the side netting at a tight angle.

Now West Coast United have some good young talent in their ranks as Nathan Leamy, Cathal Action and Jake Mortimer are a testimony to the work done at schoolboy level and they were central to a late fightback.

Dara Hennessy and Leamy went close, as it was a backs to the wall situation for the home side in the closing stages. The Connemara men got a merited reward on 86 minutes when Hennessy released Leamy down the left and the young winger lofted an effort past the advancing Murphy to reduce the arrears to 2-1.

Some frantic defending kept West Coast out thereafter as the win edged Renmore clear of Maree/Oranmore at the top of the table.

Renmore: Murphy, Clarke, Andrew, Sinnott, Gannon, O'Regan (Lamberto 79mins), Lee (Connolly 57mins), Jouffe, Finnegan, Hynes (O'Seanain 86mins), Ridge.

West Coast United: O'Neill, Morgan (Nicky Varley 71mins), Acton, E Gannon (Hennessy 53mins), N Lydon, Walsh, Mortimer, Noel Varley, Madden, R Gannon (S Lydon 58mins), Mullen (Leamy 63mins).

Premier Division

According to West United manager Rodney Grant, "Loughrea won all the battles, all over the pitch and deservedly won the game" as he watched his second placed side hammered 3-0 by the newly promoted and relegation threatened visitors at South Park.

Sunday morning's only Premier Division contest provided plenty of talking points and a shock outcome. While Loughrea played well and were worthy of their victory, they got their fair share of good fortune as their opening two goals were with the aid of deflections.

In the opening half, a Pat Nagle free kick from outside the box got the better of Aaron Connolly who was wrong footed by a deflection off the defensive wall, while on the hour mark, a Thomas Hoban shot made it to the net via another detour off a defender. Darren Creaven set up the third for Paul Hoban as Loughrea forced home their advantage.

The win moves them off the



West United's Sean Keogh on the ball against Loughrea during Sunday's Premier League tie at South Park. PHOTO: JOE O'SHAUGHNESSY

lonely solo bottom spot as they now share the basement with Corrib Rangers and Salthill Devon. Interestingly, they travel to Westside to face Rangers on Sunday.

West United also face a huge obstacle if they hope to get back to winning way as they face Premier Division leaders Athenry away on Saturday.

First Division

While Renmore were moving clear at the top with their win over West Coast United, the students of NUI Galway were continuing their impressive form with a 5-1 win over bottom side St Patricks. Player/manager Gary Mullin (two), Ali Sanusi, Ger Bane and Klorane Tabot-Ndip all found the net for the home side at Danganas as they joined Maree/Oranmore in second position in the table.

Neither East United nor West United B could find the net as it finished scoreless at Castle Park, while Alan Meenaghan scored twice for Moyne Villa as they defeated Kinvara United by 2-1.

Lower Divisions

Promotion chasing Hibernians B failed to score at home for the second game in succession as they had to settle for a point in a 0-0 draw with Dynamo Blues in Third Division action.

Eamonn O Loinsigh (two) and David O Conghaile were on the mark for MacDara as the Carraroe

based side defeated Ramblers by 3-1 and, in the process, joined Bohemians B at the top of the Third Division. Danial Burke got the visitors' lone reward in the opening half.

Junior Cup

The road to the Aviva Stadium and a place in the FAI Junior Cup final is over for another year for the three Galway League participants as all exited the competition in disappointing fashion over the weekend.

Mervue United conceded a late penalty when going out by 1-0 against Killarney Celtic, while there was no good fortune for Salthill Devon either as they lost by 2-0 against Willow Park in Athlone. Two down at the break, matters just got worse for Athenry against Carrick United, as they exited by 4-0 in Waterford.

Ballinasloe Town also suffered a defeat, for despite taking the lead twice, they lost 5-4 on penalties after their contest against Villa FC finished level at 2-2 following extra time.

Women's League

Barna native Dora Gorman scored the opening goal for UCD as they defeated Galway WFC by 3-0 in the last game of the Women's National League season. The victory gave the Dublin College the runners up position in the table. Shelbourne were confirmed as the new champions, after going through the campaign

unbeaten.

For Galway WFC, it was a disappointing campaign, for apart from a bright start to the season, there were few highlights in the closing months.

Ryan Cup

Bohemians and Knocknacarra will contest the Joe Ryan Cup Final in Eamonn Deacy Park this evening (Friday) at 7.30pm.

The trophy is one that is close to Bohemians' hearts, as it is named after a former long serving club official and, no doubt, they will be doing their utmost to get their hands on the coveted silverware.

GALWAY SOCCER FIXTURES

Friday, December 9
Joe Ryan Cup Final: Knocknacarra v Galway Bohs B, at Eamonn Deacy Park, 7:30pm. **Western Hygiene Reserve League:** MacDara v Maree/Oranmore, at Carraroe, 7:30pm.

Saturday, December 10
Western Hygiene Premier Division: Athenry v West Utd, at Athenry, 3.30pm. **Western Hygiene Division 1:** Maree/Oranmore v NUI Galway, at Oranmore, 2pm. **Western Hygiene Division 2:** Galway Hibs B v Mervue Utd B, at Bohermore, 12noon. **Western Hygiene Division 3:** Bearnna Na Forbacha v Corrib Celtic B, at Furbo, 2pm; Ramblers v MacDara, at Leitrim, 2pm; NUI Galway B v Oughterard, at Dangan, 2pm. **Western Hygiene Division 4:** Craughwell United v Colemanstown Utd B, at Craughwell, 2pm; Loughrea B v Dynamo Blues B, at Loughrea, 2pm; Cregmore/Claregalway FC v St Bernard's B, at Cregmore, 2pm.

Both finalist play in the Second Division and their early season form could not be of greater contrast. While Bohemians enjoy leadership of the division, with four wins from their six starts, opponents Knocknacarra are in the lower half of the table and in a recent league meeting of the two sides, it was Tom Trill's side who emerged as comfortable winners.

On their way to the final, Bohemians saw off MacDara, Oughterard and Colga in the semi final, while Knocknacarra enjoyed three wins over good opposition in Corrib Celtic B, Merlin Woods/Medtronic and a shock success over Hibernians in the last four.

Western Hygiene Reserve League: Renmore v West Utd, at Renmore, 11am; Moyne Villa v Corrib Celtic, at Headford, 2pm; Colemanstown Utd v Colga, at Colemanstown, 2pm; Athenry v Kinvara Utd, at Athenry, 2pm.

Sunday, December 11
Western Hygiene Premier Division: St Bernard's v Galway Hibs, at Abbeyknockmoy, 11am; Mervue Utd v Salthill Devon, at Mervue, 11am; Corrib Rangers v Loughrea, at Westside, 11am; Colemanstown Utd v Corrib Celtic, at Colemanstown, 11am. **Western Hygiene Division 1:** Renmore v Tuam Celtic, at Renmore, 11am; East Utd v Moyne Villa, at Castle Park, 11am; Kinvara Utd v West Utd B, at Kinvara, 1pm; West Coast Utd v St Patrick's, at Letterfrack, 2pm. **Western Hygiene Division 2:** Dynamo Blues v Colga, at Tuam, 11am; Kiltullagh v Knocknacarra, at Kiltullagh, 11am; Medtronic/Merlin Woods FC v Galway Bohs, at Doughiska Park, 2pm.