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Connacht Tribune

Corofin United round off fine campaign with cup final glory



Author: Mike Rafferty
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Mike Rafferty at Eamonn Deacy Park

BASED on statistical evidence this Joe Ryan Cup final produced a comprehensive victory for Corofin United, but at Eamonn Deacy Park on Wednesday night, the evidence on the pitch was less clear cut as Cois Fharráige certainly gave as good as got in an entertaining contest that brought the local soccer season to a finale.

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One up at the break as Dylan Wall got their opener, Corofin's second just four minutes after the restart was the turning point as Barry O'Donovan applied the finish before two subsequent goals killed off the contest as it put a meaner look on proceedings that the Connemara side deserved. However, in front of a sizeable crowd, Corofin had more of a cutting edge as they made the most of the opportunities that came their way.

No doubt, the winners had long forgotten their opening game in the competition when they had just a Jonathan Keane goal to show for their efforts in a 1-1 draw after extra time with lowly Renmore B, but aided by the saves of Dylan Canney, they advanced by 3-2 in a penalty shoot out.

Of course, Corofin followed this up with a 3-2 away victory over Moyne Villa in the semi-finals and would have been the fancied team going into the decider. Cois Fharráige had seen off Cregmore/Claregalway by 7-0 and this was followed up by a Seamus de Búrca winner in a 1-0 derby success over Mac Dara.

After a tentative opening as both sides probed, it was Corofin United who made the breakthrough on 14 minutes when Nathan Kearney did all the good work down the right and the inrushing Dylan Wall got the touch to his cross to make it 1-0 from close range. Cois Fharráige threatened a response, as Seamus de Búrca sent Chris Ó Biadhá through on goal, but Canney made the first of many smart saves to deny him.

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