

# SENTINEL SPORT



# Renmore survive Cup penalty shoot-out!

**AIB Connacht Senior Cup holders, Renmore started the defence of their title with a 5-4 penalty shoot-out success over Sligo Rovers as stand in goalkeeper, Noel Greaney excelled once more.**

Two set pieces were the downfall of Olde Ground as they were beaten 2-1 by St. Kevins in the sixth round of the Guinness FAI Junior Cup.

In the Western Hygiene Supplies Brod Trill Premier league, West United and Mervue United both picked up points in their quest to avoid relegation as they shared the spoils with Hibernians and Bohemians.

MacDara regained leadership of the First Division as they defeated OLBC 2-0 while there were also wins for UCG, Corrib Celtic and Bank of Ireland.

**St. Kevins.....2  
Olde Ground.....1  
The new found confidence of Galway sides facing teams from the capital is to be welcomed.**

Gone are the days of the invincibility of the Dublin clubs as the country cousins now face allcomers with more self belief and enthusiasm.

Ture, Olde Ground went out by the narrowest of margins as a free kick and a penalty proved to be their downfall.

They took an early lead and maintained it until the closing stages and only a dubious penalty award in extra time swung the match in favour of St. Kevins.

That lead goal arrived on just eight minutes as Tony Crowe finished off a fine three man move. Enjoying a considerable amount of pressure in these early stages, they should have added a second when John Carr was through with just the goalkeeper to beat but he miskicked when a goal was on.

Another Crowe effort was effort as Olde Ground failed to gain reward for their early supremacy.

However, St. Kevins from a proud footballing tradition and one of the favourites for this season's Junior Cup gradually began to impose themselves on proceedings.

Wilkins and Ryan brought fine saves from Damien McIlroy before the equaliser arrived on 75 minutes when Declan Dolan floated home a free kick from outside the penalty area to tie it at 1-1.

The game played at the superb AUL Complex began to drift away from Olde Ground when four minutes into extra time the home side were awarded a penalty.

Little seemed wrong when Olde Ground's Ger Lee and St. Kevin's John Ryan clashed what seemed outside the area. However, the match official pointed to the spot and Philip Long duly planted the matchwinner past McIlroy.

**Sligo Rovers.....1  
Renmore.....1  
(Renmore won 5-4 on penalties)  
Last season Renmore started off their AIB Connacht Cup campaign with a win on penalties over Galry Bohemians.**

They subsequently went on to win the competition for the first time ever and on Sunday at Strandhill Road they started off their defence in a similar winning fashion.

It was a badly depleted side that made the journey to Sligo as they were denied the services of goalkeeper Martin Greaney, Conor Molloy and

Kevin Carr.

Once more Noel Greaney stepped in as net minder and for the second Sunday in succession made vital saves.

His most important save in the penalty shoot out and his save from Oakes turned out to be the matchwinners as colleagues Eoin Keane, Ciaran Conneely, Alan Corcoran, Mike Noone and Benny Fahy all hit the target as Renmore advanced 5-4.

For all their efforts the visitors failed to take advantage of a clear number of chances. Alan Corcoran was the biggest culprit as on three occasions he failed to find a way past Sligo goalkeeper, Heraty when he just had the young custodian to beat.

It was Rovers who snatched the lead goal four minutes before the break. Donagh Oates fired a drive that Greaney tipped onto the crossbar but the following up Paul McGroarty fired home the rebound.

After the break, Rossi Flaherty and Eoin Keane began to get a grip in midfield and they were rewarded with the equaliser when Keane powerfully headed home Fahy's corner kick.

Despite creating a number of late opportunities it was left to the shoot out to decide the issue as Renmore finally got their reward.

**West United.....2  
Hibernians.....2  
In recent weeks, West look more like potential champions than relegation candidates as they continue their quest to get away from**



**LEGS UP ... Mervue United's Mathias O'Malley and Mark Folen of Bohemians battle for possession during Sunday's Premier league clash.**

the foot of the table. At least they achieved that on Sunday because as a result of the point gained they moved off the bottom of the table for the first time this season.

Looking back they could see this game as two points lost. Having had a strong wind advantage they led 2-0 at the interval and with Hibernians down to 10 men, following the dismissal of Dave Samuels, the advantage lay with the home side.

It was two crisp strikes from Alan Beatty and Shane Flaherty that gave them that first half lead as poor finishing denied them further reward.

After the break, Hibernians showed their resolve with a spirited comeback. Tommy Ward brought them back into it with a close range effort and when West's goalkeeper, Michael O'Toole was penalised for an indiscretion Johnny Walsh confirmed the comeback by converting from the spot to tie it at 2-2.

The most amazing goalmouth I ever witnessed failed to produce a reward on 67 minutes as four times Hibernians Pat Coyne cleared off his line in quick succession denying Alan Grant, Dara O'Donnell and Alan Beatty.

Mark Philbin was also tested in that packed goalmouth as his reflexes prevented Coyne doing all the hard work. West should have sealed it seven minutes from time. The busy and productive Grant released Tommy Keane and with just Philbin to beat he shot against the goalkeeper's body on the 18 yard line when he had time and space to go around him.

**St. Bernard's.....0  
Crescent United.....3  
This result means that Crescent have moved into the mid table comfort zone while St. Bernard's have**

gone the opposite way as they hit the bottom for the first time this season.

It was Crescent who led 1-0 at the interval courtesy of a Mike Corcoran goal and a second from him added to another from Colin Conneely after the break sealed the win.

The Abbeyknockmoy side too had their moments but failed to find the required finish when the opportunities presented themselves.

**Bank of Ireland.....3  
Knocknacarra.....2  
With game tied at 2-2 and time running out this First Division basement battle was decided by a defensive error which Banks' Tim Landers gratefully accepted before knocking home the match winner.**

The win moves Bank of Ireland out of the bottom two as Knocknacarra and Moylough are now in the relegation positions.

It was Banks who made the best start and Cosmos Gilmore opened their account following a Landers pass. Gerry Farrell then added the second firing past goalkeeper Michael McManamon from a tight angle.

A goal from Simon Heaslip just before the interval pulled it back to 2-1 and when Dean Toye set up Gary Lawlor for the equaliser, it looked like Kevin Cooney's side were at last getting a change of fortune.

However two minutes from time they created their own downfall as Landers punished the error.

**Oranmore.....1  
UCG.....3  
The only side that can pose a threat to the promotion prospects of either MacDara or Salthill Devon came from one down at the interval as Jeremy Skillington bagged a second half hat-trick to give the students a 3-1 success.**

With five games on hand on the leaders they have a lot of catching up to do, but it isn't outside the bounds of possibility for Mal Roche's side.

**Loughrea.....1  
Corofin.....2  
Division 2A leaders, Corofin United had to come from behind in this top of the table clash at Loughrea and the result now virtually seals their promotion to the First Division.**

It was Loughrea who broke the deadlock in the opening half as Martin Malone opened the scoring but Paul Burke secured the equaliser before the break.

Corofin left it late before clinching victory when Brian O'Donovan knocked home what could prove to be the most important goal they will score this season.

**Colga.....5  
Ballinakill.....0  
Colga's distant quest for promotion from Division 2B continues as a hat-trick from Sean Corcoran added to by Wayne Finn and Fintan Cussens saw them run out easy winners over a depleted and under strength Ballinakill side.**

**Craughwell.....6  
Thermo King.....2  
The gap between the top and bottom half of Division 2B was well exposed in this game at Craughwell as the home side ran out easy winners.**

First half goals from Ciaran Gilligan and Brian Mannion made it 2-0 at the break before Mannion went on to complete his hat-trick with Damien Gilligan adding two more.

Goalkeeper, Mike Gilligan also contributed with a fine penalty save as Thermo threatened to make a breakthrough.

Compiled by Mike Raftery



**PRESSURE ... Barry Crowley of Mervue United and Paul O'Connell of Bohemians are in the thick of the action during Sunday's Premier division league tie.**