

Ballygarvan's Clíodhna Browne breaks breaking between Fia Nic Einrí and Órla Nic Mhaolruanaidh of Gaelscoil na Dúglaise during the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí hurling and camogie county final at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture Dan Linehan



FOCUS: Ballygarvan's Gracie Driver battling with Cara Ní Chroimín, Gaelscoil na Dúglaise, during yesterday's Al rc Uí Rinn.

Nellie's is the star player as Ballygarvan beat Duglaise



Gracie Driver tries to block Cara Ní Chroimín, Gaelscoil na Dúglaise. Picture: Picture Dan Linehan

Ballygarvan	3-3
Gaelscoil na Duglaise	0-2

AFTER a superb game of camogie, Ballygarvan, inspired by Nellie Bateman, who scored 2-3, claimed the Allianz C1 title with a win over Gaelscoil na Duglaise yesterday at Páirc Uí Rinn.

The first half was played at a blistering pace and Gaelscoil na Duglaise started the brighter of the two teams with Orla Ní Mhaolruanaidh getting the first score of the game as she pointed over from a 65.

Vanessa Ní Loinsigh also created a superb goal-scoring chance but was denied by an excellent save from Ava Twomey.

It was 13 minutes before Ballygarvan got on the scoresheet with a superb score. Link-up play which began with the solid Zoe Bermingham, Bateman, Cliodhna Browne, and Caoileann Hickey resulted in Bateman scoring from a tight angle.

This was followed by a magnificent goal from Bateman who buried her shot past a crowded box.

Another point late in the half by Bateman gave her side a 1-2 to 0-1 lead at the break.

Gaelscoil na Duglaise started brighter again in the second half, but solid defending, in particular by Caoimhe Kelleher, kept them at bay.

Two minutes in and they deservedly added to their tally when Ní Mhaolruanaidh got her second point.

Ballygarvan responded when Mackey reacted quickest to bury her shot into the net after an initial save by Lily Ní Mahaolcheire to make it 2-2 to 0-2.

Ballygavan finished stronger with Bateman, daughter of former international hockey player Rachel Kohler, adding a further 1-1 to finish the scoring.

SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

Scorers for Ballygavan: N Bateman 2-3, C Mackey 1-0

Gaelscoil na Duglaise: O Ni Mhaolruanaidh 0-2.

GAELSCOIL NA DUGLAISE: Lily Ni Mhaoilcheire, Branagh Nic Eirinn, Lena Ni Chinneide, Leah Ni Mhaolchluiche, Fia Nic Einri, Cara Ni Chroimin, Caitlin Boardman, Clara Hobbs, Vanessa Ni Loinsigh, Kate Nic Searaigh, Orla Ni Mhaolruanaidh, Katie Ni Iarlaithe, Lily Ni Chadhla, Amelia Lily Nic Roibeaird, Aisling Ni Cholmain, Meabh Ni Mhuimhneachain, Faith Ni Chonchuir, Ella Ni Dhalaigh, Leann Han Kei Lam, Clara Ni Laoire, Eve Nic Seine, Emma Boardman, Jenny Nic Dhaibhidh, Sophia La Rocque, Doireann Ni Charra, Sadhbh Nic Fhiobhui, Amy Ni Bhriain, Sarah Ni Chronic, Rachel Ni Bhriain, Siomha Nic Fhinn, Farrah Ni Shuilleabhain, Grace Wolfe, Emilia Ni SHioda, Saoirse Ni Chonchuir, Caoimhe Ni Chrualaoi, Isabelle Ni Chrualaoi, Abigail Ni Mhaonaigh, Lara Breathnach.

BALLYGARVAN: Ava Twomey, Caoimhe Kelleher, Lily Walsh, Amy Twomey, Zoe Bermingham, Ana Ros O'Halloran, Cliodhna Browne, Aoife Finn, Nellie Bateman, Caoileann Hickey, Isla Duggan, Ava Walsh, Beth Connolly, Caitlin Mackey, Grace Driver, Madison Buckley, Jane Chambers, Keelin McCarthy, Robyn Calnan, Saoirse Daly, Jessica McCarthy, Niamh Keohane, Katie Aherne, Ruby Jones, Fleur O'Keeffe, Aifric Harrington, Jessica Connolly, Juliette Neary.

Referee: Kieran Forde (Carrignavar).



The girls from Gaelscoil na Dúglaise line up during the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí hurling and camogie county final at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture Dan Linehan

Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship

Cork v Wexford on Saturday in Páirc Uí Rinn at 2pm

Having picked up their first piece of silverware in Thurles last Sunday, manager Ger Manley was delighted with the win. "It's always nice to get a cup and doing it here before a good Cork crowd made it better again. Waterford as I knew they would, made it tough but we got the job done."

There was some aspects of their play that he was disappointed with: "We missed a few chances that would have made it more comfortable, equally I thought they got some very soft frees but we won and that's all that matters."

The game was ideal preparation for Saturday. "Perfect really, we had a good hard block of training done now, and with the games coming on week on week we won't be able to do that, so it's just a case from here on in of getting our tactics right and being a bit sharper all over the field."

As for Wexford, "they have been down for a while but are improving all the time and we will give them as we do every team the utmost respect and hopefully get off to a winning start as we must go to Down the following week."

There's mixed news on the injury front. Laura Tracey might not make this game but could be available for the trip north, not so good on Libby Coppinger who had surgery last week and could be set for a long spell on the sideline, which is a blow.

Wexford are not the force they once were and plied their trade in Division 2 of the league for a couple of years but they have shown steady improvement and will relish the opportunity of taking on the champions even away from home.

In many respects it's the ideal game for them to start with, they are rank outsiders and I don't think they are yet at Cork's level, but a good battling performance will give them encouragement for the remainder of the campaign.

With 3 teams coming out of the group, the top team goes to the semi-final, 2nd and 3rd to the quarter-finals that will probably be their target.

Cork with all their key players bar the odd injury exception, are in good shape as illustrated by the impact Clodagh Finn, Cliona Healy and Orlaith Mullins made off the bench in Thurles, add in the Mackeys, Saoirse McCarthy, Laura Hayes and Amy O'Connor and it all points to a Cork win.



John Allen makes the cup presentation to Ciara Ní Chúipéir. Picture: Larry Cummins

Gaelscoil Uí Ríordáin grab three goals

SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

Gaelscoil Uí Ríordáin	**3-2**
Riverstown	**0-3**

AFTER a competitive game of camogie, Gaelscoil Uí Ríordáin claimed the Allianz DC1 title with a win over Riverstown at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Gaelscoil Uí Ríordáin had a comfortable lead at the break 3-1 to 0-2, thanks to scores from Roisin Ni Dhraighneain, 1-1, and a goal apiece from Emma Nic Ghiolla Phradraig and Emily Ni Laoire, while Ruby Allen scored Riverstown's points.

While there was a five-point difference between the sides, there was a good battle between the sides and Riverstown had some good performances from Ava Daly, Ella Ni Phleimeann, Millie Ahern, Melanie O'Keeffe and Allen.

Gaelscoil opened the scoring with a superb goal from Emma Nic Ghiolla Phradiag. From here they had the edge of Riverstown as great link-up play between Emily Ni Dhonnabahin and Roisin Ni Dhraighneann led to a number of scores giving them a comfortable lead at the break.

The impressive Ruby Allen opened the scoring in the second half as her perfectly hit 45 sailed over the bar. Both teams battled hard and had a few scoring opportunities on both sides however both only managed a score a piece.



Róisín Ní Dhraighneáin drives through the tackle. Picture: Larry Cummins

Allen had Riverstown's point while Ni Dhraighneain hit over from a free after great work by Ni Dhonnabhain and time ran out, much to the delight of the huge Ballincollig support.

Scorers for Gaelscoil Uí Ríordáin: R Ni Dhraighneain 1-2, Emma Nic Ghiolla Phradraig, Emily Ni Laoire 1-0 each.

Riverstown: R Allen 0-3.

GAELSCOIL UÍ RÍORDÁIN: Sadhbh Ni Chondubh, Cliona Ni Ghoilin, Ellie Ni Mhora, Alice Verling, Cora Darby, Caoimhe Ni Chartaigh, Lucy Ni Seachain, Roisin Ni Dhraigheann, Ciara Ni Chuipeir, Aoife Brid Breathnach, Emily Ni Laoire, Emily Ni Dhonnabhain, Lara Ní hAolain, Emma MacGiolla Phadraig, Sarah Ni Bhriain, Clara Plaice, Robyn Ni hEili, Jessica Ni Dhunaigh, Ella Ni Phleimeann, Ruby Ni Chroinin, Katie Schlede, Saoirse Ni Mhuiri, Orlaith Ni Chearnaigh, Saorla Ni Loinsigh, Lauren Ni hAonasa, Olivia Ni Bhrudair, Eva Verling, Isabelle Ni Mhaoileain, Ellie Ni Dhunaigh, Saoirse Ni Choinn, Siobhain Ni She, Emily Ni Fhearail, Niamh Nic an Chrosain, Elise Nic Eodhaidh, Emma Barber, Alex Ni Mhadain, Caoimhe Ni Drisceoil, Meadbh Ni Cheilleachair, Leah Ni Bharr.

RIVERSTOWN: Millie Allen, Jess Tierney, Ava Daly, Ellie MacDonagh, Saoirse O'Leary, Kate O'Brien, Stephanie Cullen, Nuala Skaiska, Ruby Allen, `sophia Grainger, Melanie O'Keeffe, Kate Kiely, Danielle O'Herlihy, Alice Twohig, Alicia Philipps, Rachel O'Sullivan, Seren McKernan, Caoimhe Desmond, Olivia Morrissey, Cathy Murphy, Fia O'Flynn McDonagh, Ella Ryan, Emily Heavey, Ellen Leisk, Rachel Forbes, Brooklyn O'Gorman, Lucy Crowley, Ellie Crowley, Ella Skillington, Ladies Caulfield, Sophie Foley, Katie McGrath, Rosie Healy.

Referee: J O'Connor (St Anthony's).



Joy for Gaelscoil Uí Ríordáin after their win over Riverstown at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Larry Cummins



Éire Óg secured the Premier County camogie League title.

Cork marches on with unbeaten run after Limerick rout

Cork	**3-10**
Limerick	**0-7**

THE Cork U16 camogie team continued their unbeaten run as they made it three wins out of three in the All-Ireland U16 round-robin series of games as they overcame provincial champions Limerick on Sunday.

Goals again proved vital and Cork grabbed three, two from Sophie O'Sullivan and one from Laure Walsh ensured Cork continue their bid for a place in the last four.

Limerick hit the front with the game opening score Rachel O'Grady pointing from play and Mia Smith stretched the lead with Limerick's second point, but Cork responded well. Sophie O'Sullivan's grabbing the game's opening goal to put Cork into the lead and they stretched it with a converted 45.

Both sides battled hard and Limerick were back on level with points from Rachel O'Grady and Mia Smith. With the sides evenly matched, it was score for score as they battled to get a grip on the game. Clara Murphy and Caitlin Ryan twice exchanged pointed frees as it remained level before an Eve Kelleher point edged Cork into a one-point interval lead 1-4 to 0-6.

Cork showed huge determination from the restart. Laure Walsh fired over a point to extend the lead to two points before finishing to the net, to put Cork six points in front and continuing to cause huge problems for the Limerick defence, she added two points to her tally as Cork began to take over. With their defence rock-solid, Cork dealt with anything the Limerick attack threw at them. Now controlling the game, Cork kept the pressure on with Maria O'Donovan and Millie Lombard adding to the tally before Sophie O'Sullivan grabbed her second goal to give Limerick a mountain to climb. Kate Liston pointed for Limerick's only score of the second-half before the full-time whistle. In other games in the group, Kilkenny continued their impressive displays as they had a four-point victory over Galway 2-9 to 2-5 to ensure they stay joint top of the group with Cork. Tipperary had a 4-12 to 1-12 win over Dublin which keeps them in joint-third with Galway and Limerick.

Cork's thoughts now turn to this weekend, when they will play Dublin in Castle Road tomorrow at 2pm in a game where a victory would cement their place in the last four. Kilkenny are at home for their meeting with Tipperary, and Galway will take on Limerick as the battle for the semi-final spots intensifies.

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

ÉIRE ÓG TAKE PREMIER MINOR LEAGUE TITLE

Éire Óg	**1-12**
Sarsfields	**0-10**

Éire Óg captured the Premier Minor League title as they overcame Sarsfields in an exciting and closely fought contest played in Castle Road. Éire Óg led at the interval 0-6 to 0-5 after an opening half where neither side could manage to get a grip on the game as they traded score of score. The game's only goal came from Ally McGrath and it was vital to the Éire Óg cause as they ran out winners, with Orlaith Cremin on target with four points. Cork U16 captain Clara Murphy added three points, whilst Lisa Murphy hit two points with Ally McGrath, Jessica Power and Allanah Whelton with a point each, security the title.



Mairead Donovan, Chairperson of the Cork Camogie Board, presents the Premier Minor League trophy to Eire Og captain Abbie Casey.

Tipp eye another landmark title



A Tipp-Déise rematch is the pick of the games on opening weekend of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship, writes **Therese O'Callaghan**



From left: Grace Walsh of Kilkenny, Cork's Amy O'Connor, Waterford's Beth Carton, Karen Kennedy of Tipperary, and Galway's Siobhán McGrath.

GROUP 1

ANTRIM

Changes from last year: Carl McCormick and Martin Coulter were appointed as part of a new management team late in the season. Maeve Kelly has returned after two years absent due to cruciate injuries but is still regaining full fitness.

Positive signs: The Ulster champions got past Down, Kerry, and Limerick in Division 1B of the league.

Note of caution: Players unavailable include Laoise McKenna and Katie McKillop (Australia) and Niamh Cosgrove (retired). Three minors in defence is a huge learning curve. Injury concerns to experienced players, including Colleen Patterson (cruciate).

Verdict: Not much between them and Derry, while Limerick (June 29) will want to avenge a league defeat in Ballycastle.

DERRY

Changes from last year: Céat McEldowney, Megan Kerr-Donnelly, Bríd Rogers, and Clíodhna Ní Mhianáin are available. Long-serving captain Aoife Ní Chaiside is also there, while Áine Barton (née McAllister) remains their go-to player.

Positive signs: Reached the Ulster final, losing to Antrim by three points with Barton the chief scorer.

Note of caution: The step from Intermediate is challenging. Lost Division 2A final to Westmeath.

Verdict: Similar to Antrim, they can expect tough assignments against contenders Kilkenny, Tipperary, and Waterford.

KILKENNY

Changes from last year: Former Kilkenny hurler Peter 'Chap' Cleere is in his first year as manager, he previously managed the Carlow Intermediate team.

Positive signs: Retained the Leinster senior championship, getting the better of Dublin, with POTM Aoife Prendergast shooting eight points. Her strength, along with cousins Miriam and Grace Walsh who return after injury, is a boost. Caoimhe Keher Murtagh (granddaughter of Eddie Keher) is one to watch.

Note of caution: Denise Gaule and Michaela Kenneally are in Australia, while Claire Phelan and Emma Kavanagh have retired.

Verdict: Write Kilkenny off at your peril. They've had plenty of time to regroup since their elimination last summer.

LIMERICK

Changes from last year: Joe Quaid has returned for a second stint as manager. He led the Intermediates to All-Ireland glory 10 years ago.

Positive signs: Only narrowly missed a spot in the Division 1B final. Caoimhe Costelloe and Caoimhe Lyons were to the fore when they were defeated by Waterford in the Munster quarter-final. Rebecca Delee is back from a cruciate, while Sarah Carey adds strength after her absence of four years.

Note of caution: Kilkenny will be going all out to regain the O'Duffy Cup so it's a daunting opener.

Verdict: This is a home game for the Shannonsiders, meaning no room for error.

TIPPERARY

Changes from last year: The Division 1A league champions won an epic decider against Galway, bridging a 20-year gap. Seeing out tight matches will give Denis Kelly's charges confidence. There was no Cáit Devane in the league, however the newly-wed could yet be seen in the blue and gold.

Positive signs: Captain and leader Karen Kennedy is back to her best, having been sidelined with injury.

Note of caution: Disappointed not to have reached the Munster Championship final after Waterford edged a fantastic semi-final. Today's mouthwatering rematch is the pick of day one.

Verdict: It's 20 years since Tipperary claimed their last senior title, beating Cork in centenary year. Could it be Tipp's turn again as the Camogie Association celebrates its 120th birthday?

WATERFORD

Changes from last year: Cork native Jerry Wallace has taken the reins from Seán Power after he guided them to their first All-Ireland final since 1945.

Positive signs: Star attraction Beth Carton is 2023 Player of the Year and captain Lorraine Bray is influential as ever. Niamh Rockett is another standout performer. Encouraging to see Vikki Falconer back after her heart-breaking cruciate injury last August.

Note of caution: In the Munster final against Cork — their first appearance since 1968 — they demonstrated huge potential but Carton will need more support up front. Their backline is bolstered but getting the balance right will be key.

Verdict: Progress must continue, at least get back to the All-Ireland final.

Fixtures

TODAY

Group 1: Antrim v Derry, Cushendall 2pm, Limerick v Kilkenny, Mick Neville Park Rathkeale 4pm, Tipperary v Waterford, The Ragg 4.30pm.

Group 2: Clare v Down, Cusack Park Ennis 1pm; Cork v Wexford, Páirc Uí Rinn, 2pm; Dublin v Galway, Parnell Park 2pm

GROUP 2

CLARE

Changes from last year: Manager John Carmody brought in former All-Ireland winning Cork manager Paudie Murray during the league in an advisory role. The Banner are rebuilding with mostly a young squad. The step up is the test.

Positive signs: They've developed a panel, headed up by joint-captains Ciara Grogan and Áine O'Loughlin. Crowned All-Ireland Premier Junior champions in 2023 when they conquered fellow Tipperary. That winning mentality will help.

Note of caution: Relegated to Division 1B. Rachel Minogue and Lorna McNamara are injury doubts.

Verdict: Have targeted opening day fixture at home to Down as a must-win with their sights set on an All-Ireland quarter-final place.

CORK

Changes from last year: Ger Manley is in the managerial hot seat, and has already secured a 60th provincial title. All-Ireland medallists Chloe Sigerson and Orla Cronin opted out at the start of the year.

Positive signs: The defending All-Ireland champions rotated during the league and consolidated most positions. Now appear to have a settled side going into the championship. The versatile Ashling Thompson's return after ACL gives them options, so too Ciara O'Sullivan's return. Aoife Healy. Saoirse McCarthy and Amy O'Connor, among others, are in form.

Note of caution: Libby Coppinger is injured having had surgery on her hamstring. Laura Treacy is recovering from a similar injury which effectively robs Cork of their defensive spine.

Verdict: Cork will be looking to retain the title. There is no shortage of top-class players.

DOWN

Changes from last year: Struggled in senior last year and ended up in a relegation battle to beat Offaly. Have since lost important players — Niamh Mallon (transferred to Galway), Sara Louise Graffin and goalkeeper Catherine McGourty (retired), and one of their rising stars Lauren Clarke has gone to Australia.

Positive signs: Dearbhla Magee is captain and a quality player, Ciara Fitzsimons and Beth Fitzpatrick are others they can rely on, but they are inexperienced at this level.

Note of caution: Lost by 13 points to Derry in the Ulster semi-final. Derry in turn were seen off by Antrim. Will need big improvement in their scoring department.

Verdict: Their first game, away to Clare, will test the strength of their squad.

DUBLIN

Changes from last year: Appear to have much better depth and coming within five points of Kilkenny in the Leinster final was encouraging. Vibes are good in the county following league success over Wexford.

Positive signs: Relived glory days with a first senior title in 41 years in that thrilling Division 1B final win over Wexford, led by their captain Aisling Maher. The adaptable Maher can play in any position.

Note of caution: Galway bowed out at the semi-final stage 10 months ago, so Dublin won't expect anything easy from them in the opener.

Verdict: Mentally Dublin should be in a good place. With Galway one of the teams to beat, they will know more after hosting them.

GALWAY

Changes from last year: Cruciate victim Siobhán Gardner is sidelined. Carrie Dolan and Mairead Dillion are carrying knocks, whilst the availability of one of their leading goal scorers Siobhán McGrath is uncertain.

Positive signs: Stalwarts Niamh Kilkenny and Ann Marie Starr return to the panel. Niamh Mallon has joined from Down and made her first appearance in the league final. Niamh Niland, sister of Evan and Aaron, steps up to the senior panel.

Note of caution: Unlike the other three provinces, they have not seen any competitive senior championship action since the league. They do, however, have a good block of training under their belt.

Verdict: It is the first time Cathal Murray will bring his charges to Parnell Park, so the visitors will be looking to hit the ground running. Their most recent All-Ireland title was in 2021.

WEXFORD

Changes from last year: Colin Sunderland has done good work with this group. In comparison to where they were a couple of years ago, they have genuine good players and have welcomed back a few more, including Joanne Dillon who was travelling.

Positive signs: Enjoyed some good moments during their Division 1B league campaign, albeit a huge disappointment to fall to Dublin on the big day. Sisters Ciara (captain) and Sarah O'Connor, Shelley Kehoe (Colin's wife), Ciara Storey and Linda Bolger provide know-how. Chloe Foxe and Anais Curran are others they will look to.

Note of caution: Unlike the formidable team they are up against this afternoon, Wexford do not have the same conveyer belt of underage success. A big ask, but staying competitive will be crucial.

Verdict: Exited the Leinster Championship at the semi-final juncture, losing to Kilkenny by a mere three points. A knockout spot is the aim.

Tipperary's campaign gets off to a flying start

By **Kevin Egan**

TIPPERARY beat 2023 All-Ireland finalists Waterford 1-19 to 2-13 in their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship opener at The Ragg.

As expected, this was a tight affair. At half-time Waterford led by 1-7 to 1-5 thanks to a Mairead O'Brien goal and an impressive five-point haul from Beth Carton, with Lorraine Bray and Sarah Lacey also on target for the Déise.

Tipperary found the net through Clodagh McIntyre, but were put under more pressure when O'Brien scored her second goal.

Mary Burke then popped it over the bar for Tipp to make it 1-11 to 2-11 and, following a red card to Waterford's Keeley Corbett Barry, they shot five of the next six points to seize control.

Páirc Uí Rinn played host to Cork's opening defence of their All-Ireland title, and they beat Wexford 1-15 to 1-6.

Amy O'Connor got the game's first score from a dead ball inside the opening minute.

After further scores from O'Connor, Katrina Mackey and Saoirse McCarthy, Wexford finally got off the mark thanks to a strike from Shelley Kehoe, but the home side went in 0-8 to 0-2.

Early in the second half, Ciara O'Connor converted a penalty to give her Wexford charges a real shot in the arm but, seven minutes into injury time, Clodagh Finn's green flag sealed the deal.

Kilkenny eased past Limerick by 1-19 to 0-4 at Mick Neville Park, Rathkeale. After Aoife Doyle's opening score from play, the Cats went on to gather a 0-6 to 0-0 lead, with Miriam Bambrick, Aoife Prendergast, Katie Nolan, Miriam Walsh and Julianne Malone all on the scoresheet.

Limerick's Caoimhe Costelloe got her side off the mark on 30 minutes before adding their second. These came either side of a Doyle double for the visitors.

Leading 0-10 to 0-2 at half-time, Kilkenny kicked on in the second half. Steffi Fitzgerald scored the game's first goal to make it 1-13 to 0-3, and it was plain sailing from there.

In the early stages of the meeting between Clare and Down in Ennis, it looked like Clare might be pushed to the wire. Down were up by four points within 22 minutes thanks to a goal from Ciara Fitzsimmons against the run of play.

For Clare, Áine O'Loughlin got a goal back to make it 1-6 to 1-4 at the break. However, the home side pushed on, eventually running out 1-14 to 1-5 winners.

Derry came away from Cushendall with a relatively straightforward 3-17 to 2-10 win against Antrim, having already held a double figure lead by half-time.

Aoife Shaw was on fire in the early stages, notching 1-1 to kickstart Derry's day. These scores sandwiched points from Antrim's Róisín McCormick and Maeve Kelly.

Shaw managed a second goal for Derry before Dervla Cosgrove got a goal back for Antrim on the 50 minute mark, making it 2-14 to 1-7. Derry continued strongly but Antrim raised the next green flag from a Róisín McCormick strike.

Aimee Lennon put the third nail in Antrim's coffin with another goal for the visitors.

Galway edged Dublin by 0-17 to 1-11 at Parnell Park. This one was all square at 0-11 to 1-8 by half-time, but Galway really pushed on after the break. The Tribeswomen got off the mark first thanks to a point from Niamh McPeake, but it was a nip and tuck encounter where Galway led by 0-8 to 0-7 after 20 minutes until an Aisling O'Neill goal put the Dubs two points to the good.

Niamh Niland's point with five minutes left gave Galway some breathing space.



TIPPING THE BALANCE: Grace O'Brien of Tipperary (left) and Kate Lynch of Waterford

Bench depth can set Cork apart in bid for camogie crown

Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship

Cork v Wexford

Saturday: Pairc Uí Rinn



Daragh Ó Conchúir

Continuing to build the depth of the panel is a key element of the Cork strategy, as they get their defence of their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie crown under way against Wexford at Páirc Uí Rinn tomorrow (2pm).

The O'Duffy Cup holders did not make the Division 1 final of the Very Camogie League but registered a 60th Munster title at Semple Stadium last Sunday when defeating Waterford in a repeat of last year's All-Ireland final.

It was a far more keenly contested affair on this occasion, however, but just as in last season's championship, the bench was crucial, with Clodagh Finn hitting two points after her introduction and fellow subs, Clíona Healy and Orlaith Mullins also on target. Another sub, Ciara O'Sullivan made an impact after missing last year with a cruciate knee ligament injury.

And this was while they have had to reshuffle the heart of their defence, with the experienced anchors in full-back, Libby Coppinger and centre-back, Laura Treacy out of action with hamstring injuries. Dual star Coppinger has had surgery and according to manager Ger Manley, will be on the sidelines for between eight and ten weeks.

"For the likes of Clodagh Finn, Ciara Sull, to come back after her cruciate injury and make a difference when she came on, is massive," noted Fiona Keating afterwards.

"It shows the strength of the panel. We're always on about that. It takes more than 15 players to finish a match."

It is very obviously a theme in the dressing room given how often it comes up but the benefits are obvious, in terms of adding energy and quality when a game has opened up, but also raising standards with the battle for places so ferocious.

"They've been doing that every game," says Amy O'Connor of the finishers. "It's brilliant that we're building again, another bench this year. That's why we won the All-Ireland last year so hopefully we can keep building on it."

Manley credited his predecessor Matthew Twomey for building the squad and the ethic that enables it to flourish. It will be important in what he believes is one of the most competitive championships ever.

"Camogie has levelled off an awful lot," Manley maintains. "There is very little between the top six or seven teams.

"We have a big game against Wexford. They are going well. There is very little between all the teams in our group, but we have that bit of quality in the squad and we are hoping it will come through for it," Manley said.



Saoirse McCarthy and Sorcha McCartan, Cork, battle with Ciara O'Connor and Shelly Kehoe, Wexford. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Manley delighted with performance of side

CORK got the better of Wexford in their opening game as they began the defence of their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie title.

Conditions were more like December than May at Páirc Ui Rinn as the torrential rain made it difficult for either side to play decent camogie.

But Ger Manley's side got the job done as expected by 1-15 to 1-6, with the weather as much a talking point afterwards as anything else.

"We normally check the weather conditions two or three days beforehand to see what they will be like but they were horrendous today," said Ger.

"But the pitch was perfect, they did a great job here at Páirc Ui Rinn, they gave it a break for a few weeks, but conditions were just terrible.

"The wind seemed to change in the second half, they had it in the first and then it seemed to swirl around in their favour again.

"But we scored 1-15 to 1-6, and I don't like saying much about referees but he gave them a penalty there and it seem about 20 yards outside and it kept them in it really.

"Then we were very comfortable all through and I don't think there was ever a doubt who was going to win. Our scoring rate wasn't great but you have to take the conditions into consideration there, but we will take it."

Cork will be away to Down in their second game next Saturday and Ger's attention was already turning to that long trip up north.

"We will probably have to make a few changes for that game, Pamela Mackey got a head injury there and Amy O'Connor got injured as well. There are a few more with a few knocks, but it was the conditions. With the rain the pitch was very skiddy and players were slipping and sliding which was bound to happen on a day like today.

"We will have to look at our free tally as well, we seem to be giving away loads of frees and getting very few, so we will have to have a look at that ahead of the Down game.

"We were very good in the first half and maybe we were a big leggy in the third, but we had a six day turn around since the Munster final.

"We started the second half a bit slow and they got the goal and we picked it up again after that. We could have had three goals there towards the end.

"Give Wexford their credit, they are a hard side to beat. Colin Sunderland (manager) has put in a pile of work with them. If we had taken our goal chances there could have been a different complexion on the scoreboard, but we are delighted to win," concluded Ger.



Cork camogie manager Ger Manley. Picture: Ray Ryan



Ashling Thompson, Cork, clears against Wexford at Páirc Uí Rinn in the Saturday downpour. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Cork off to a winning start

REACTION

Rory Noonan

CAMOGIE



Rory Noonan

Cork	1-15
Wexford	1-6

CORK got the defence of their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie title off to the right start against Wexford at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Cork's win was built on another rock-solid defence as the likes of Meabh Cahalane, Pamela Mackey, Laura Hayes and Meabh Murphy didn't put a foot wrong over the 60 minutes.

This was epitomised by the fact they went the whole game without conceding a single score to the Wexford starting six forwards and the subs that came on to replace them. Ashling Thompson and Saoirse McCarthy were in control at midfield and up front Amy O'Connor and Katrina Mackey led by example.

O'Connor got Cork off the mark when she pointed from a free in the first minute, after Sorcha McCartan was fouled.

Two minutes later, and it took a great save from Laura Brennan to deny Katrina Mackey a goal, after some good build-up play from Saoirse McCarthy and O'Connor. Mackey pointed from the breaking ball to make it 0-2 to no score with five minutes gone.

Conditions didn't help either side as the rain got heavier and heavier, making it difficult to play any decent camogie.

McCarthy got Cork's third point after 10 minutes, with Mackey adding their fourth a minute later. O'Connor increased Cork's lead further from another free as Wexford had yet to threaten the Cork goal.

She hit another free to put the Rebels further ahead as the rain turned into a torrential downpour, turning it so dark that they nearly had to put the lights on.

Wexford were finally off the mark in the 18th minute when Shelley Kehoe pointed before Ciara O'Connor hit the upright from a free. McCartan played O'Connor in to make it 0-7 to 0-1 after 24 minutes as Cork were well on top at this stage.

O'Connor made no mistake with her second free to put five between the sides with four minutes to half time. Mackey to the last score of the half as the Rebels led by 0-8 to 0-2 at the break, in a game they were well in control.



Amy O'Connor, Cork, gets away from Miria O'Dowd of Wexford. Picture: Jim Coughlan

O'Connor got the first score of the second-half to further increase Cork's lead as the rain continued to make it difficult. She added another before Wexford were awarded a penalty in the 42nd minute.

After referee Aaron Hogg, consulted with the umpires and both linesmen he gave the penalty for a foul on Ciara O'Connor. She got up and dusted herself down to take it and gave Amy Lee no chance of saving, to make it 1-2 to 0-10.

McCarthy scored a long-distance free for Cork to keep the scoreboard ticking over with O'Connor adding another from close in, to make it 0-12 to 1-3 with 10 minutes to go. Ciara O'Connor hit another free for Wexford, with Hannah Looney, not long on as a sub, replying for the Rebels.

Kehoe was on target for her side as Mackey replied to make it 0-15 to 1-5 as the game went into injury time.

The Rebels got a goal seven minutes into injury time when Mackey's shot was well saved by Brenann, but Clodagh Finn pounced on the rebound. They now face a long trip to Down next Saturday for their second round-robin game.

Scorers for Cork: A O'Connor 0-7 (0-5 f), K Mackey 0-4, C Finn 1-0, S McCarthy 0-2 (0-1 f), C Healy, H Looney 0-1 each.

Wexford: C O'Connor 1-4 (1-0 pen, 0-3 f), S Kehoe 0-2.

CORK: A Lee; M Murphy, M Cahalane, P Mackey; I O'Regan, L Hayes, N O'Callaghan; A Thompson, A Healy; O Cahalane, F Keating, S McCarthy; A O'Connor, K Mackey, S McCartan.

Subs: C Healy for O Cahalane (38), H Looney for S McCartan, C Finn for N O'Callaghan (both 46), O Mullins for A O'Connor (52),

WEXFORD: L Brennan; K Tomkins, C Storey, M O'Dowd; L Dempsey, S O'Connor, R Cooney; S Kehoe, C O'Connor; A Curran, C Foxe, K Kirwan; E Tomkins, J Dillon, L Bolger.

Subs: E Dempsey for L Bolger, O Sinnott for A Curran (both 45), C Jackman for K Tomkins, A Neville for R Cooney (both 55),

Referee: Aaron Hogg, Clare.

Devane steps in, McGrath steps out as Championship bursts into life

Camogie round-up

Kevin Egan

The return of Cáit Devane to the Tipperary colours and the departure of Siobhán McGrath from Galway's were just two of several notable talking points as the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship got under way.

Devane's appearance in Tipp's 1-19 to 2-13 win over Waterford, having missed their entire Very League winning campaign, during which she got married, was only one of the many aspects that left manager, Denis Kelly extremely satisfied.

"Cáit rolled back the years. We didn't know until after the league final that she was going to come back" he beamed, as he reflected on a game where Waterford held a 1-7 to 1-5 half-time lead, thanks to a Mairéad O'Brien goal and an impressive five-point haul from Beth Carton.

Tipperary found the net through Clodagh McIntyre, but were put under more pressure when O'Brien scored her second goal to push Waterford further in front, and it needed a strong finish from the Premier women to see them home in a contest that was very physical and very competitive.

"It was a great spectacle to look at.

"We don't want frees blown willy nilly for small tackles and I must credit (referee) Liz Dempsey," said Kelly.

"She let both teams go at it and the crowd there were fierce excited because she let the game play out and that's what you want to see. It was a great test of our women and their character. We were tested in the league final as well and we've come up trumps.

"There's serious jockeying for positions there now and there's some girls who didn't come on today who will be disappointed and they'll come back next Tuesday night fighting for a spot against Derry."

McIntyre went on to collect player of the match honours, greeting it in typically understated fashion.

"We just about fell over the line, so a good start for the Championship," she said.

"I didn't have a great match in the League final and so I wanted to prove something. Everyone was telling me to take the ball and put the head down. It wouldn't be anywhere near goal of the year or anything but a goal's a goal," smiled the Lorrha club woman.

On a day when four of the six senior championship fixtures were decided by at least nine points, the other tight battle was in Galway, where Cathal Murray felt that his Tribeswomen had to shake off ring rust before edging out Dublin by 0-17 to 1-11.

"We're delighted with the win first and foremost. Lots of teams have come up here and the results gone the other way," he said. "But we hadn't had a game in six weeks, that was a huge disadvantage. Dublin had several games in the Leinster championship and we were rusty, you could see that. We just made a lot more mistakes all over the field, but we were really happy with some of our play as well. The longer the game went on, the better we were getting, and hopefully that's a good sign."

Murray paid tribute to McGrath, the two-time AIB club player of the year who stepped away from the panel this week, but the recruitment of former Down star Niamh Mallon is likely to be a huge addition.

Mallon shot 0-10 and won player of the match as Galway responded well to Aisling O'Neill's goal.

"They've been great," said Mallon, speaking about her switch to Galway.

"I've been in Galway a long time with work and that made it very hard to get back up home and play, but I can't thank Cathal and the girls enough for everything that they've done to welcome me in, and I hope to be able to contribute in some way over the summer."

Elsewhere, it was straightforward for Kilkenny as they eased past Limerick by 1-19 to 0-4 at Mick Neville Park, Rathkeale. Leading by 0-10 to 0-2 at half-time, Kilkenny didn't let up from there, with Steffi Fitzgerald putting her name on the game's only goal.

Cork begin title defence in style

All-Ireland senior camogie championship

Cork.....1-15

Wexford.....1-6



Therese O'Callaghan

Páirc Uí Rinn



Cork's Saoirse McCarthy gets her shot away under pressure from Wexford's Sarah O'Connor in Saturday's All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship clash in Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Cork got the defence of their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship crown off to a winning start in Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday.

As expected, in this Group 2 opening round in persistent rain and strong winds, the champions played at a slightly higher level.

However, and to put the contest into perspective, Wexford are in the midst of a rebuild and partook in the Division 1B league. That Colin Sunderland's charges remained competitive and didn't concede a goal until the eighth minute of second-half stoppage from Cork sub Clodagh Finn, will give them a lot of encouragement.

However, the outcome was never in doubt. Amy O'Connor emerged Cork's chief scorer with seven points.

The visitors had the elements at their back in the first half, but it was Cork who settled quicker with an O'Connor free in the first minute following a foul on Sorcha McCartan.

Once they got their running game going, despite the torrential rain at this stage, they reeled off five unanswered points between the 4th and 16th minute — Katrina Mackey (2) and Saoirse McCarthy on target, while O'Connor added two frees.

A solid Cork defence gave Wexford very few opportunities, as a result it was the 17th minute before Shelley Kehoe opened their account having been teed up by Anais Curran.

They were buoyed by the score and when captain Ciara O'Connor floated over a free from the middle of the field in reply to an O'Connor point, the gap was five points.

But Cork were in control in a lot of positions and Mackey's third from play saw them go to the changing-room 0-8 to 0-2 in front.

Ger Manley's side restarted, just like they did the first half, with O'Connor landing a free after Orlaith Cahalane was brought down. Her sixth point further stretched the gap.

Wexford got thrown a lifeline when Ciara O'Connor was fouled for a 43rd-minute penalty, which she duly converted herself, 1-2 to 0-10.

Both teams got some energy from their bench as Ciara O'Connor and Saoirse McCarthy (free) exchanged points. Further Cork white flags were raised from subs Cliona Healy and Hannah Looney, and it was Finn who got in for the only goal after a Mackey shot was bravely saved by Laura Brennan deep in stoppage.

Cork travel to Down next weekend, while Wexford are at home to Galway.

Scorers for Cork: A O'Connor (0-7, 0-5 frees), K Mackey (0-4), C Finn (1-0), S McCarthy (0-2, 0-1 free), C Healy and H Looney (0-1 each).

Scorers for Wexford: C O'Connor (1-4, 1-0 pen, 0-3 frees), S Kehoe (0-2).

CORK: A Lee; M Murphy, M Cahalane, P Mackey; I O'Regan, L Hayes, N O'Callaghan; A Thompson, A Healy; O Cahalane, F Keating, S McCarthy; A O'Connor, K Mackey, S McCartan.

Subs: C Healy for O Cahalane (39), C Finn for N O'Callaghan, H Looney for S McCartan (both 48), O Mullins for A O'Connor (52).

M Lynch (Capt).

WEXFORD: L Brennan; K Tomkins, C Storey, M O'Dowd; L Dempsey, S O'Connor, R Cooney; S Kehoe, C O'Connor (Capt); A Curran, C Foxe, K Kirwan; E Tomkins, J Dillon, L Bolger.

Subs: E Dempsey for L Bolger, O Sinnott for A Curran (both 46), C Jackman for K Tomkins, A Neville for R Cooney (both 55).

Referee: Aaron Hogg (Clare).

CAMOGIE

All-Ireland Senior Championships: Antrim 2-10 Derry 3-17, Limerick 0-4 Kilkenny 1-19, Tipperary 1-19 Waterford 2-13, Clare 1-14 Down 1-5, Cork 1-15 Wexford 1-6, Dublin 1-11 Galway 0-17.



The Gaelscoil Uí Riada team which defeated GS Ghoirt Alainn in the DC4 Camogie final at the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí finals yesterday. Picture: Larry Cummins

Lucy leads way with two goals

SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

GS Uí Riada	**4-5**
GS an Ghoirt Alainn	**0-3**

INSPIRED by Lucy Nig Coirc who scored 2-0 and who was immense throughout, Gaelscoil Uí Riada claimed the Allianz DC4 camogie title with a win over Gaelscoil an Ghoirt Alainn at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday.

Gaelscoil an Ghoirt Alainn opened the scoring when Sibeal Ní Mhurchú-Ronan pointed over from close range. However a minute later Gaelscoil Uí Riada got their first score and dominated from here.

It was a tremendous team performance by Gaelscoil Uí Riada in the first half as they led 3-5 to 0-1 at the break.

Standout player Lucy Nig Coirc got her side's first scores of the game as she blasted two fast goals.

This was followed with a goal and a point from Grace Ní Riain after great work by Sile Nic Giobuin and Aoife Nic Giolla Bhui.

Cliona De Bhaldraithe added a lovely point while three superb points from Aoibhinn Ni Uiginn gave the Wilton school a comfortable lead.

Grace Ní Riain opened the scoring in the second half when she hit the back of the net from close range.

Gaelscoil an Ghoirt Alainn battled hard and came close to scoring, but were denied by great goalkeeping from Caoimhe Ni Eigeartaigh and superb defending from de Bhaldraithe.

Sibeal Ní Mhurchú Ronan got the first score in this half for her side as she hit over a beautiful point from a free after great work by Sophie Ní Shuilleabháin.

Ní Mhurchú Ronan added another a minute later from another free and that finished the scoring, giving her side a deserved victory.



Lucy Nig Coirc scored two goals for GS Uí Riada in the final. Picture: Larry Cummins

Scorers for GS Uí Riada: G Ni Riain 2-1, L Nig Choirc 2-0, A Ni Uiginn 0-3, C de Bhaldraithe 0-1.

GS an Ghort Alainn: S Ni Mhurchu-Ronan 0-3.

GS Uí Riada: Caoimhe Ni Eigeartaigh, Sile Nic Giobain, Sadhbh Ni Lunasaigh, Rachel Ni Aodain, Isabella Ni Liathain, Aoife Nic Giolla Bui, Cliodhna De Bhaldraithe, Lucy Nig Coirc, Amelie Ni Thoibin, Aoibheann Ni hUiginn, Grace Ni Riain, Clair Ni Mhuirthile, Caoimhe De Paor, Metasebiya Ni Shuibhne, Leah De Swart, Kate Ni Cheilleachair, Leia Uno Susuiko, Ciara Ni Mhurchu, Helena Ni Chaoimh, Caoileann Ni Shuibhne, Millie Ni Longain, Allie Nic Coisteala, Ilona Nic an tSaoi, Lead Ni Fhainin.

GS an Ghoirt Alainn: Ava Nic Chaithmahoil, Sophie Ni Shuilleabhain, Leah Ni Mhathuna, Fern Ni Mhochaidhean, Vanessa Ni Laighin, Ali Ni Shuilleabhain, Alannah Ni Rinn Mhathuna, Sibheil Ni Mhurchu Ronan, Bronagh De Roiste, Lauren Ni Mhauthuna, Amelia Ni Chonaill, Saoirse Ni Argain, Aoibheann Ni Shuilleabhain, Lucie Ni Choigligh, Ava Ni Dheasunaigh, Niamh Sottocomola, Aoibhinn De Burca, Laura Ni Chathain, Grace Rall Ni Chonchuir, Imogen De Riordain, Alex Rall Ni Chonchuir.

Referee: M Collins.



Clair Ni Mhuirthile in action for GS Uí Raida in the DC4 final. Picture: Larry Cummins



Barryroe celebrate their win over Klilbrittain in the DC3 final. Picture: Larry Cummins

Good start puts Barryroe on their way to final win



Barryroe team, captained by Kate Collins, with goalkeeper Megan Whelton as vice-captain, celebrating their win. Picture: Larry Cummins

SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

Barryroe	**2-6**
Kilbrittain	**2-4**

AFTER an entertaining camogie contest, Barryroe claimed the Allianz DC3 camogie title with a win over Kilbrittain at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday.

Barryroe got off to a great start when Kate Collins' long-range effort drop into the back of the net.

Megan O'Regan had a strike on goal, however a great save by Kilbrittain keeper Sinead O'Neill tapped over for a 45 resulted in Collins converting to make it 1-1 to no score.

At the other end, the lively Meabh Kelleher and Rhea Bryan had two great goal-scoring opportunities but were denied by great goalkeeping from Megan Whelton.

Midway through the half Kilbrittain did manage to get on the scoreboard when the impressive Kelleher hit the back of the net to leave a point between the sides, 1-1 to 1-0.

It should have been level terms soon afterward with Bryan a constant threat, but excellent defending by Eve Tobin and Aoife Walsh kept their opponents at bay.

The superb Sinead O'Neill made another three great saves which made it an entertaining contest.

Two well-worked points from Amy Shaw and O'Regan widened the gap for Barryroe, however a lovely point by Ava Deasy put the pressure on.

Just before the break the hard-working Bryan got her deserved score when she buried her shot past the keeper to put Kilbrittain in the lead for the first time, 2-1 to 1-3.

Kilbrittain started the second half the way they finished the first; in great form and added two early points through Deasy and Kelleher.

O'Regan closed the gap for Barryroe when she showed great skill before hitting over.

Both teams battled hard which made for an exciting final few minutes.

Bryan and Kelleher linked well and the latter hit over her third score of the game but at the other end Barryroe's key player Collins had a super effort saved by O'Neill.

Seconds later the equaliser came when O'Regan hit the back of the net to leave it 2-4 apiece.

Collins then hit over two more points to give her side the lead and despite superb work from Kelleher and Deasy, time ran out for Kilbritain, and Barryroe celebrated a well-earned victory.



Barryroe's Amy Whelton on the attack. Picture: Larry Cummins

Scorers for Barryroe: K Collins 1-3, M O'Regan 1-2, A Shaw 0-1.

Kilbritain: M Kelleher 1-2, R Bryan 1-0, A Deasy 0-2.

BARRYROE: Megan Whelton, Gemma O'Brien, Eve Tobin, Aoife Walsh, Sarah Harrington, Kate Collins, Aibhlin McCarthy, Amy Shaw, Megan O'Regan, Amy Whelton, Elaine Whelton, Heidi Doyle, Nadine Hayes, Juliet Gresham, Faye Knowles, Elle McCarthy, Emma McCarthy, Grace Kirby, Lucy O'Regan, Kate Gresham, Maya Pulin, Sarah Fleming, Lucy Healy, Sophie Flynn, Vlada Berdysheva.

KILBRITTAIN: Sinead O'Neill, Niamh McKewin, Chloe O'Donoghue, Ashling Ahern, Kate Enright, Molly O'Hanlon, Abide Gray, Ava Deasy, Ellen Dollard, Kate O'Sullivan, Meath Kelleher, Keira O'Mahony, Rhea Bryan, Niamh Conlon, Anabel O'Leary, Grace O'Mahony, Hannah Ahern, Andrea Deane, Aoibhe Duggan, Aideen O'Donovan, Clara Cronin, Nessa Fitzgerald, Katelyn Collins, Eliza O'Riordan.

Referee: M Collins.

DOUBLE JOY FOR FARRAN BOYS AND GIRLS SCHOOLS AT



Farran celebrate their win over Rennie in the Allianz Sciath na Scol DC6 Final at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Jim Coughlar

Goals prove crucial in Farran's win over Rennies



Farran joint captains Emily Bushell and Ayla O'Sullivan kiss the cup after their Sciath ns Scol win. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Farran	5-2
Rennies	0-4

FARRAN proved too strong for a gallant Rennies side as they captured the Allianz DC6 camogie title at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday.

SCIATH NA SCOL

■ **Barbara O'Connell**

Farran opened the scoring when Orlaith O'Connell's long-range effort hit the back of the net.

The hard-working Aila Cronin got Rennies first score of the game when she hit over from a 45.

Farran added another point when Lily Mae Healy went on a superb run before striking over a beautiful point.

Rennies finished this half strong and two points from Hannah O'Driscoll left one point between the sides, in Farran's favour, 1-1 to 0-3.

Healy started well in the second half, and she went on another superb run before striking a great shot at goal. However a great save from Laoise O'Mahony denied her on this occasion.

Farran piled on the pressure and deservedly got on the scoreboard again when Alex Brennan pulled first-time to the back of the net.

Charlie Twomey defended superbly throughout for Rennies, and Hannah O'Driscoll managed to get her third point of the game which widened the gap once again.

Farran were dominating possession at this point and the impressive Healy struck for another goal which was followed by a superb long-range goal from Jane McCarthy.

McCarthy hit another great ball in which seemed goalbound, but a last-minute pull in the air from Brennan gave her the goal although she was quick with her praise for McCarthy.

Healy hit another great point and while Rennies worked tirelessly to close the gap, time ran out giving Farran a comfortable victory.

Scorers for Farran: A Brennan 2-0, L Mae Healy 1-2, J McCarthy and O O'Connell 1-0,

Rennies: H O'Driscolll 0-3, Aila Cronin 0-1.

FARRAN: Anna Moriarty, Aayla O'Sullivan, Esme O'Hanlon, Sarah Knowles, Emily Bushell, Anna Sally, Orlaith O'Connell, Lily Mae Healy, Jane McCarthy, Alex Brennan, Aoife O'Callaghan, Maisie O'Brien, Caoimhe Buckley, Katie Reihill, Aisling Kelly, Ciara Corcoran, Cara Walsh.

RENNIES: Laoise O'Mahony, Ellie Burke, Sally Cunningham, Lucy Hosford, Aila Cronin, Libby Cunningham, Aisling O'Mahony, Leah Robinson-Kingston, Beth Kingston, Lucy Hunt, Nessa Coveney, Kaiya McAlonan, Hannah O'Driscoll, Rebecca O'Sullivan, Clodagh Walsh, Sadbh O'Shea, Kayla Coveney, Laura Jagoe, Robin Wright, Jessie Marron, Mairead Ní Chonchuir, Ciara Cronin, Charlie Twomey, Sarah Collins, Sarah Cronin.

Referee: C Ó Mhurchú.



Sarah Knowles Farran, under pressure from Hannah O'Driscoll, Rennies. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Farran's Lilly Mae Healy under pressure from Rennies' Leah Robinson-Kingston. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Glenville celebrate winning Scoil DC7 trophy following their win over Rathpeacon in the final in Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Howard Crowdy

Goals are key in Glenville's win

SCIATH NA SCOL

■ **John Leonard**

Glenville	4-4
Rathpeacon	2-1

GLENVILLE won the DC7 camogie title as they defeated Rathpeacon in the decider, which produced four goals at Páirc Uí Rinn.

The first half, in which Rathpeacon produced a promising start, was evenly contested as both sides scored one goal apiece. The second half was one-way traffic in Glenville's favour, as they took control of proceedings, with three goals. They also restricted Rathpeacon to a point from a placed ball.

Isobelle O'Sullivan had Rathpeacon in the driving seat as she drilled home a goal from the edge of the square as she embarked on a solo run after winning possession from a Rathpeacon puck-out in the middle of the park in the fourth minute.

Wayward puck-outs were costly for Glenville as Aisling Rowley got Rathpeacon's second goal from the edge of the square, a minute later.

Glenville began to seize the initiative and opened their account with a goal from Abiageal Fenton from the edge of the Rathpeacon square.

Glenville continued to have Rathpeacon on the back foot as persistent fouling was proving to be costly for Rathpeacon. Fenton converted two unanswered frees to put Rathpeacon 2-0 to 1-2 at half-time.

Rathpeacon got the first score of the second half, a pointed free from Isobelle O'Sullivan.

Glenville began to take a grip on proceedings as wayward puck-outs were proving to be Rathpeacon's undoing. Glenville held Rathpeacon scoreless for the rest of the game as Fenton and Michelle McHugh each got goals in the space of a minute to give their side a lead of 3-2 to 2-1.

Persistent over-carrying was proving costly for Glenville, while wayward shooting from placed-balls denied Rathpeacon further scores.

Amelia O'Donovan tagged on two points from play for Glenville and this was followed by their fourth goal when Abiageal Fenton completed her hat-trick with a goal from the edge of the Rathpeacon square with time running out.

Scorers Glenville: Abiageal Fenton 3-2 (0-2f); Michell McHugh 1-0, Amelia O'Donovan 0-2.

Rathpeacon: Isobelle O'Sullivan 1-1, Aisling Rowley 1-0.

GLENVILLE: Aoife Linehan, Ciara Kennedy, Áine Cotter, Rebecca McCarthy, Aoife Kennedy, Amelia O'Donovan, Abiageal Fenton, Michell McHugh, Sophie Desmond, Sophia Counihan, Ciara Hegarty, Grace Murtagh, Jessie Connolly, Annabel Fenton, Cara Kiely, Ava Morgan, Ailing O'Reilly, Emily O'Leary, Ciara Buckley.

Rathpeacon: Faye Murphy, Mairead Walsh , Sophie O'Connell, Katie McCleverty, Ava Coleman, Isobelle O'Sullivan, Katie O'Rourke, Mia Thornhill, Aisling Rowley, Lucy O'Leary, Aoife Harrington, Alison Fitton, Kate O'Riordan, Jane Daly, Zara Murphy, Ellie Kennedy, Leah Dinneen, Eabha O'Sullivan.

Referee: Trevor Lyons (Douglas).



Glenville's Amelia O'Donovan keeps the sliothar away from Rathpeacon's Katie O'Rourke. Picture: Howard Crowdy



Glenville players Sophie Desmond, Rebecca McCarthy, Aoife Linehan and Abiageal Fenton. Picture: Howard Crowdy



Girls from Carrigtwohill NS, captained by Áine Thornhill, and vice captain Isabelle Kingston celebrate their win over St Patrick's. Picture: Larry Cummins

Molly's late goal seals historic win

SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

Scoil Mhuire Naofa	
Carrigtwohill	1-2
St Patrick's	0-2

IT was an historic day for Scoil Mhuire Naofa school in Carrigtwohill as the girls won their first ever Sciath na Scol final.

A late spectacular goal by Molly Dennis gave Scoil Mhuire Naofa Carrigtwohill their first ever win in a Sciath na Scol final as they overcame St Patrick's at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday.

A low-scoring first half saw the teams level at the break, a point a piece. Dennis opened the scoring with a superb strike from a tight angle.

At the other end Lyla McCarthy did superbly to get her shot off while under pressure.

It was a good battle between the sides with very little between them in terms of possession.

Abbie Rall, Isabelle Kingston, Aine Thornhill, Dennis, and Maggie Fitzgerald were superb for Carrigtwohill while Rachel Browne, Lyla McCarthy, and Ava Heaphy impressed for St Patrick's.

It was St Patrick's first time in the final in more than 30 years while it was Carrigtwohill's first time ever, so it was a great occasion for both schools and huge support was brought by both which added to the occasion for the players.

An exciting second half saw St Patrick's enjoy slightly more possession, however good defending kept scores at bay. It was end to end as both teams chased the winner, but credit must go to each defence who were solid throughout.

It appeared that the game was going into extra-time until the talented Dennis picked up the ball after great work by Rall and hit a long-range strike that just dipped at the perfect time and hit the back of the net much to the delight of their huge support. The final whistle blew and while it was hearbreak for St Patrick's, Carrigtwohill celebrated a historic victory for their school.



Carrigtwohill NS captain Áine Thornhill and vice-captain Isabelle Kingston celebrate. Picture: Larry Cummins

Scorers for Carrigtwohill: M Dennis 1-1, A Rall 0-1.

St Patrick's: L McCarthy 0-2.

CARRIGTWOHILL: Ava Barron Marks, Each Murphy, Lauren Green, Isabelle Kingston, Leah Ribu, Molly Dennis, Aine Thornhill, Abbie Rall, Lola Murray, Hannah Bernard, Kate O'Connor, Maggie Fitzgerald, Molly Kidney, Emily Andrusskiewicz, Alison Guerin, Jimena Puertas Sayalero, Rebekah Lewis, Emilia Markovska, Ruby Kelly, Carly Lynch Casey, Eliza Nsengiyumva, Victoria Kelly Ona.

ST PATRICK'S: Kyra Corcoran, Sophie Kenny, Sadie Parsons, Ava Heaphy, Kim Ahern, Alisha Murray, Rachel Browne, Lyla McCarthy, Indie Hanover, Tori O'Sullivan, Lily Rose O'Brien, Isabelle Murphy, Maddison Crowley, Miley Daly, Dina Morey, Cheyenne Daly, Ava Reville McCarthy.

Referee: M Collins



Joy for the Carrigtwohill team which won their first ever Sciath na Scol final at the expense of St Patrick's. Picture: Larry Cummins



The Rushbrooke team celebrate their win in the Allianz Sciath na Scol C1 finals at Páirc Uí Rinn against Scoil Bhride, Midleton. Picture Chani Anderson

Rushbrooke hold off Midleton rally

SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

Rushbrooke	4-2
Scoil Bhride, Midleton	3-4

AFTER an exciting and close contest, Rusbrooke claimed the Allianz Urban C1 camogie title with the narrowest of wins over Scoil Bhride, Midleton at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday.

Rushbrook opened the scoring when Isabelle Geary hit the net.

However, three consecutive points from Saoirse Morey brought the sides level, 1-0 to 0-3.

It was a great battle between the two, with Isabelle Geary superb for Rushbrook, while Morey was Midleton's key player, with Ali Murphy also a threat up front.

As half-time approached Murphy showed great skill when she turned her marker and struck a shot shot to the roof of the net putting Scoil Bhride in the lead for the first time.

At the other end, Geary added a point for Cobh to make it 1-3 to 1-1 to the Midleton school at the break.

Rushbrook got off to a perfect start when Geary unleashed an unstoppable shot to the net, which was followed by another well-worked goal from Sarah Drumgoole.

Morey pointed for Midleton to close the gap, but a superb goal by Chloe Farrell after great work by Emily O'Connell, Jessica Coveney, and Drumgoole gave the Cobh school a 4-1 to 1-4 lead.

Geary added another point to her tally and at the other end Morey hit a superb strike but was denied by an excellent save from Jessica O'Neill. A minute later, Morey hit the net to make it 4-2 to 2-4.

Morey added another superb goal to make just one point between the sides with two minutes remaining.

It was a frantic few minutes, with the Rushbrook defence under pressure as Penny Murphy and Ali Murphy were a threat but Rusbrook's defence was solid and held out for a well-earned victory.



Rushbrooke captain Emily O'Connell and vice captain Jessica Coveny lift the trophy. Picture Chani Anderson

Scorers for Rushbrooke: I Geary 2-2, S Drumgoole and C Farrell 1-0 each.

Scoil Bhride: S Morey 2-4, A Murphy 1-0.

Rushbrooke: Aoibhe O'Sullivan, Sarah Anderson, Alannah Fox, Maria Frawley, Jessica O'Neill, Grace Doran, Joanna Jakubczak, Harnoor Singh, Roisin Murphy, Elsie O'Shea, Jessica Coveney, Sarah Drumgoole, Danielle O'Shea, Emily O'Connell, Isabelle Geary, Sophie O'Neill, Chloe Farrell, Makayla Sheridan Murphy, Megan Finn.

Scoil Bhride: Mary Ann O'Brien, Sophie Hennessy, Nikita Culbert, Jorja O'Donovan Healy, Rhona Fenton, Penny Murphy, Anna Reid, Lena Jablonska, Ali Murphy, Saoirse Morey, Jolie Crowley, Kate McInerney, Julia O'Connor, Ruby Berto, Lucy Carroll, Temana De Silva, Sakarisa Warren, Lara Dawson Ortiz, Harmen Sukani, Kayleigh Wanjiru, Mia Desmond.

Referee: C O Mhurchu.



Scoil Bhride Midleton line up for their C1 match at the Allianz Sciath na Scol finals at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture Chani Anderson

Manley confident Cork will make long trip worthwhile

BY SEÁN HOLLAND

AFTER Cork got their defence of the O'Duffy Cup off to a winning start, defeating Wexford 1-15 to 1-6, manager Ger Manley is readying his troops for the long trip to face Down in Newry this Saturday (1pm).

The Cork boss spoke to *The Southern Star*, detailing how his side are preparing for their second All-Ireland Group 2 clash.

'We went back training on Monday night, and just did a small bit', he said.

'We did a recovery session on Tuesday night and were training again Wednesday night. Normally, we go Monday, Wednesday, and a game on a Saturday. This week, the game is at 1pm on Saturday which makes it awkward for us. We couldn't go up Saturday morning, so we're heading Friday evening and staying above in a hotel in Newry.'

Looking ahead to Down, Manley and his management team will be looking to freshen up the squad but the Cork boss isn't underestimating the challenge the Ulster side will bring.

'We played them last year and they have lots of good players. It's our third week in a row so we'll make a couple of changes to freshen up a small bit,' he said. 'The important thing is to win. You can't underestimate any team because it's fairly even between the top teams. On any given day, a team could beat you. We're treating Down with the respect they deserve.'

Manley also explained what the week ahead will look like as Cork will face their fourth game in four weeks when the Rebels play Clare on June 8th..

'We'll probably lighten training next week. It's a long trip to Down on the bank holiday weekend, and it will be late Saturday evening when we're at home. We won't train Monday, we'll leave it off,' Manley said.

'We'll probably go for two days next week. We've had a hard couple of weeks where we were in Thurles for the Munster final with Waterford, then at home in Wexford. Now it's Down away and Clare away. It's a fair bit of travelling.'

'Versatile' Rebels reign in the rain

All-Ireland champions overcome Wexford and the elements to start campaign with a victory

CORK	1-15
WEXFORD	1-6

'People might accuse us of being 'summer hurlers' but we showed out there today that we can play in any conditions'

GER McCARTHY REPORTS

CORK got the defence of their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie title off to a winning start by defeating Wexford at a rain-lashed Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday.

Ger Manley's side will travel to Down in search of their second consecutive Group 2 championship victory this weekend. Having overcome Wexford in their All-Ireland series opener, the defending champions will be eager to build momentum, especially ahead of tougher tests against Dublin, Clare and Galway.

Cork made hard work of it against a dogged Wexford team and the torrential rain but were never in danger of losing. The winners racked up 1-15 amid trying weather conditions. On top of that, Cork's improving defence held the entire Wexford forward-line scoreless.

'Conditions were horrendous even though the Páirc Uí Rinn pitch was perfect and they have a great job made of it,' Manley told *The Southern Star*.

'We were very comfortable all through and there was never a doubt (we would win.)

'There were times our scoring rate wasn't great but you have to take the conditions into account. Winning 1-15 to 1-6? We'll take it.'

Cork captain Méabh Cahalane added: 'It was really tough out there and they were tough conditions for both sides. Wexford really went direct with their play. I thought we did really well in the first 15 minutes but then we lost a bit of a hold on the game. I suppose that was due to Wexford and the intensity they were putting on the ball.'

Wexford travelled to Leeside off the back of a positive league campaign that ended with a two-point Division 1B final defeat to Dublin. Colin Sunderland's side were never overawed facing the reigning All-Ireland champions and matched their opponents physicality throughout.

Amy O'Connor opened the scoring from an early free. Playing into a changeable wind and driving rain, Cork settled as Katrina Mackey made it 0-2 to 0-0. A scrappy spell preceded a superb long-range Saoirse McCarthy score and a second Mackey effort. Amy O'Connor's second free made it five-point lead after Wexford's Linda Bolger was denied a goal by Amy Lee.

Another excellent O'Connor free pushed the All-Ireland champions further ahead as conditions worsened. Shelley Kehoe finally opened Wexford's account after 17 minutes. Amy O'Connor made it 0-7 to 0-1 but Ciara O'Connor swiftly answered with a Wexford free. A superb Cork move ended with Katrina Mackey sending Cork in 0-8 to 0-2 ahead at the break.

O'Connor got Cork off the mark in the second period via a free. The same player extended the Rebels' advantage from a tight angle. Wexford kept battling and were handed a lifeline with the award of a debatable penalty after 41 minutes. Ciara O'Connor found the bottom corner to make it 0-10 to 1-2 heading into the final quarter.

Saoirse McCarthy's long-range free settled Cork nerves prior to Ciara O'Connor cutting in and scoring a fine point at the opposite end. Another converted Amy O'Connor free made it 0-12 to 1-3 with eight minutes left. Cork finished strongly with Cliona Healy splitting the posts despite a Ciara O'Connor free keeping Wexford in touch. Hannah Looney responded with a hard-earned point before, once again, a dogged Wexford answered with Shelley Kehoe scoring.

Katrina Mackey turned in front of goal and fired over Cork's 15th point. Six minutes of injury time had elapsed when substitute Clodagh Finn finished to the net and confirmed her side's merited 1-15 to 1-6 win.

'It was definitely different weather conditions to what we played Waterford in the previous Sunday,' Cork's Laura Hayes concluded.

'It is important that we are versatile and that the conditions don't affect our performance(s). It was definitely something that was said before the (Wexford) game. People might accuse us of being 'summer hurlers' but we showed out there today that we can play in any conditions. Look, there are definitely learnings to take from it but, in the first round of the championship, that was a good enough result.

'I think it is no secret how much we value our whole squad and how much we value the players coming on. It is important that everyone gets as much game time as possible going into the knockout rounds. The players that came on made a huge impact again so we have to be delighted with that.'

ALL-IRELAND GROUP 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS
Cork	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**18**	**9**	**3**
Clare	1	1	0	0	17	8	3
Galway	1	1	0	0	17	14	3
Dublin	1	0	1	0	14	17	0
Wexford	1	0	1	0	9	18	0
Down	1	0	1	0	8	17	0



Cork's Aoife Healy gets the ball away under pressure from Wexford's Anais Curran during the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship opener at Páirc Uí Rinn. (Photo: George Hatchell)

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Our Star: Plenty of contenders including Méabh Cahalane, Laura Hayes, Saoirse McCarthy and Katrina Mackey but for sheer resilience, Ashling Thompson was critical to Cork's win.

Star moment: Clodagh Finn's injury-time goal arrived very late in the game and underlined Cork's quality off the bench.

Talking point: Poor weather notwithstanding, there were too many debatable refereeing decisions highlighted by Wexford's penalty award.

What's next? Cork travel to Down in round two this Saturday.

Scorers

Cork: Amy O'Connor 0-7 (5f); Katrina Mackey 0-4; Clodagh Finn 1-0; Saoirse McCarthy 0-2 (1f); Cliona Healy, Hannah Looney 0-1 each.

Wexford: Ciara O'Connor (1-4, 1-0 pen, 0-3 frees), Shelley Kehoe (0-2).

Cork: Amy Lee; Méabh Murphy, Méabh Cahalane, Pamela Mackey; Izzy O'Regan, Laura Hayes, Niamh O'Callaghan; Ashling Thompson, Aoife Healy; Sorcha McCartan, Fiona Keating, Saoirse McCarthy; Amy O'Connor, Katrina Mackey, Orlaith Cahalane.

Subs: Cliona Healy for O Cahalane (38), Hannah Looney for S McCartan (47), Clodagh Finn for N O'Callaghan (47), Orlaith Mullins for A O'Connor (52, inj).

Wexford: Laura Brennan; Karen Tomkins, Ciara Storey, Miriam O'Dowd; Laura Dempsey, Sarah O'Connor, Roisin Cooney; Shelley Kehoe, Ciara O'Connor; Anais Curran, Chloe Foxe, Kate Kirwan; Emma Tomkins, Joanne Dillon, Linda Bolger.

Subs: Emma Dempsey for A Curran (45), Orla Sinnott for L Bolger (45), Clodagh Jackman for K Tomkins (55), Ailish Neville for R Cooney (55).

Referee: Aaron Hogg (Clare).

Gardaí host



The Aghabullogue team pictured with Gardaí Shane Fitzgerald and Allison O'Flynn at the recent Cork Garda Camogie blitz which took place at Brian Dillons GAA Club. Pictures: Chani Anderson



Supt Declan O'Sullivan, Garda Shane Fitzgerald, Eileen Foster, Assistant Commissioner Southern Region; Chief Supt Tom Myers; garda Alison O'Flynn, garda Clodagh Fitzgerald, Supt Netta Brown; Sgt Mick O'Connell, crime prevention officer Cork city and John O'Driscoll, JLO, at the garda camogie blitz which took place at Brian Dillon's GAA club. Picture: Chani Anderson



The Brian Dillons team pictured with Gardaí Shane Fitzgerald and Allison O'Flynn at the recent Cork Garda Camogie blitz.

CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

On a very wet Saturday, the spirit of camogie players from across Cork wasn't dampened as they took part in the annual Cork City Garda Camogie Blitz at Brian Dillons GAA Club.

Eleven sides took part in this annual competition that has now been running for several years.

All sides get to play a number of group games before the top two go onto the semi-finals.

Aghabullogue and Carrigaline emerged from Group 1, with Sarsfields and Inniscarra from Group 2.

Inniscarra played Aghabullogue in the first semi, as Carrigaline took on Sars in the other.

After two well-contested games, Sars and Inniscarra emerged victorious and were set to meet again in the final, having drawn their game in the group stages.

In a fantastic final, in very trying conditions, Inniscarra won their first Cork Garda Camogie Cup by beating Sars, who were going for the treble by 3-1 to 0-1.

Chief Supt Tom Myers presented the cup to the winning Inniscarra captain as he congratulated all sides for playing excellent camogie across the day.

MVP of the Tournament went to Rebecca Dwane of Sars who was excellent all day for her club.



The Fermoy team pictured at the recent Cork Garda Camogie blitz.



Marking: EE Rory Noonan: 25/05/24: The Inniscarra team pictured with Kate O'Sullivan at the recent Cork Garda Camogie blitz which took place in Brian Dillon's GAA Club, Montenotte.



The Nemo Rangers team pictured with Garda Kate O'Sullivan at the recent Cork Garda Camogie blitz .



The Sarsfields team pictured at Brian Dillons GAA Club, Montenotte.

annual camogie blitz



The St Finbarr's team with Gardaí Shane Fitzgerald and Allison O'Flynn at the recent Cork Garda Camogie blitz which took place at Brian Dillons GAA Club, Montenotte. Pictures: Chani Anderson



The Kilworth team with Garda Kate O'Sullivan at the recent Cork Garda Camogie blitz which took place at Brian Dillons GAA Club, Montenotte.



The Blackrock team pictured with Gardaí Shane Fitzgerald and Allison O'Flynn at the blitz.



The Douglas team pictured with Garda Kate O'Sullivan at the recent Cork Garda Camogie blitz which took place at Brian Dillons GAA Club, Montenotte.



The Carrigaline team pictured with Gardaí Shane Fitzgerald and Allison O'Flynn at the recent camogie blitz.



Olivia McAllen getting her pass away under pressure from Kilkenny players Rachel Dowling and Aoife Cantwell. Picture: Dan Linehan

Westmeath will offer a stiff test to the Cork intermediate ladies

SATURDAY
Glen Dimplex Intermediate Championship: Westmeath v Cork, TEG Cusack Park, Mullingar, 12.30pm.

CORK get their intermediate championship campaign off to a start when they travel to take on Westmeath on Saturday with an early throw-in.

Having participated in the 2B League where they met all second teams, Cork will meet several first teams here, like they do tomorrow.

Westmeath will provide stiff opposition. Last season they made it to the quarter-final where they went out to a Meath side that made it to the final where they lost in a replay to Derry.

Westmeath had a hugely successful league campaign in Division 2A they overcame Derry in the league final to win promotion to Division 1 next season for the first time ever. Given that Derry are in the senior championship this was a huge result for Westmeath.

Manager Padraig Connaughton looking ahead to the championship campaign said: "The target is to win it, my target is to win every game we play in, it's a tough group with some excellent teams in it but we look forward to giving a good account of our selves."

They have a strong panel with goal-poachers Sheila McGrath and Megan Dowdall hugely impressive all through their league campaign. A strong defence includes Emily McCabe, Julie McLoughlin and Jade McKeogh. It was their backs who stood tall when Derry asked the hard questions in Croke Park in a thrilling league final.

Cork retained the 2B title with an impressive league campaign where they had victories over Clare, Kilkenny,

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Galway and Tipperary losing just one game to Wexford they topped the group to advance to a final meeting with Tipperary where they took the title on a 0-13 to 0-10 scoreline in a game that saw Lauren Homan on target with eight points while Lucy Allen, Finola Nelligan and Emma Flanagan also scored.

Ciara O'Sullivan, who featured through the league campaign, has since joined the senior panel, on the plus side Olivia McAllen, Eimear Duignan and Aoife Barrett are all now part of the Intermediate championship panel having spent some time with the senior squad through the league campaign.

A concern for Donie Daly is that long-serving and reliable defender Grainne Hannon is out for this game due to a concussion. Lucy Allen is also an injury doubt and is unlikely to be involved for a few weeks as she continues to rehab.

Daly knows that Westmeath will pose a strong threat and he has been observing them at close quarters;

"I saw them in the league final against Derry and they were good, they were defeated by Kilkenny in the Leinster senior championship but to be fair they played well, We know they will provide a stern test to us but we have strong panel of players and are looking forward to hopefully getting off to a good start this weekend."

With games to come against Offaly, Clare, Wexford and Galway a good start is vital, there are two groups with the top team in each group going straight to semi-finals and the second and third in each group contesting the quarter-finals.



Fiona Nelligan in action for Cork intermediate camogie team recently.



Ashling Thompson in action for Cork against Wexford last Saturday in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland camogie championship round-robin series. They will be hoping for their second win tomorrow against Down as well as better weather conditions than the torrential rain last weekend. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Cork aim for a second win



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

CORK make the trip to Down tomorrow for their second game in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland camogie round-robin series.

Despite the long journey up north the defending champions will be expected to travel back home with the points secure to add to their opening win over Wexford.

The game throws in at 1pm at Ballinacraig Way, Newry, and Cork will remember their last trip up there a few years ago.

For long periods it was tight and very defensive from the home side before Cork's class showed to win well in the end.

They can travel in confident form after their win over Wexford last Saturday, on a day where torrential rain made it difficult for both sides to play any sort of decent camogie.

Cork never looked in trouble against Wexford and controlled the game from start to finish. Considering they had won the Munster championship only six days earlier it was a composed performance from the Rebels and one they can take a lot of positives from.

They had impressive displays all over the pitch and none more so than their defensive unit. They managed to keep the Wexford forwards and the subs that came on up front scoreless for the entire game.

Not too often you come away from a game with a stat like that, with Wexford's scores coming from their two midfielders and at that 1-3 of their 1-6 tally came from frees, the goal from a Harsh penalty.

No doubt manager Ger Manley will make a few changes for the Down game with players now on the road for the last month every week as some picked up knocks last weekend.

He has plenty of options to choose from with the likes of Hayley Ryan, Orlaith Mullins, and Clodagh Finn likely to get



Cork's Saoirse McCarthy takes on Laura Dempsey of Wexford last weekend. McCarthy will be one of the players Cork will look to tomorrow against Down. Picture: Jim Coughlan

run-outs tomorrow.

One thing that Manley wasn't too happy with last weekend was the amount of frees they gave away and he said that's something they will have to work on going forward. He also said that it's championship season now and you have to go out and try to win every game.

"Look we have to win every game and that's the plan, we brought on four or five against Wexford and we will probably have to make a few changes for tomorrow," said Ger.

"Pamela Mackey got a head injury there and a few others like Amy O'Connor picked up knocks as well so we will see how they all are before we decide who starts.

"The pitch (at Páirc Ui Rinn) was in great condition but it was greasy due to the heavy rain so players were slipping and sliding and that led to a few strains here and there.

"We will head up to Down knowing we have another tough challenge ahead of us and had to work on a few things in training during the week. We seem to be giving away a lot of frees and that's something we can't afford to be doing as the championship progresses," concluded Ger.

In their opening game Down made a bright start against Clare at Cusack Park, leading by four points thanks to a goal from Ciara Fitzsimmons after 22 minutes. They were well in the running up to half-time, but faded after the break before the Banner side won by 1-14 to 1-5 winners, a similar margin to Cork's win over Wexford.

The Rebels will need to keep a close eye on Fitzsimmons and well as the likes of Aoife McDowell and Isabella O'Hare in attack. Defensively Down will be led by Beth Fitzpatrick and Dearbhla Coleman, who will have the tough task of trying to keep the Cork forwards at bay.

The Rebels have a very strong panel with leaders all over the pitch. Expect the likes of Meabh Cahalane, Ashling Thompson, Laura Hayes, Saoirse McCarthy, Fiona Keating, amongst others, to lead by example.

It will be a long journey home tomorrow evening for Cork, but it should be made all the more pleasant with a second win under their belts.



Goalscorer Cliona O'Callaghan taking on Kildare. Picture: Larry Cummins

Homan in top form as Cork hold off Westmeath rally

Westmeath	2-13
Cork	2-15

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

A NERVOUS finish to a game that looked to be done and dusted before Westmeath battled back to within two points of Cork in the Glen Dimplex Intermediate Championship round one game in TEG Cusack Park, Mullingar on a sun-drenched afternoon. Cork settled quickly and set the pace early with two points without reply from Lauren Homan and Edel Sheehan as Cork went 0-3 to 0-2 in front with Meadhbh McLoughlin and Amelia Shaw responding for the home side.

Getting a grip on proceedings, Cork maintained their lead with Homan keeping the scoreboard ticking over, converting frees to open up a three-point advantage inside 20 minutes. With the Cork defence on top, Westmeath failed to convert free-taking opportunities that would have had them closer at the break.

The sides headed for the dressing room with Cork in a three-point lead, 0-8 to 0-5.

Westmeath narrowed the gap quickly on the resumption and two points without reply had them within a point, but Cork responded superbly. A Cliona O'Callaghan goal gave them breathing space again.

Homan extended the lead to six with a free and another that was deflected over, 1-10 to 0-7 at the end of the third quarter.

As Westmeath battled to get back into the game, they hit two points in a row. Again Cork were able for the task as a Cliona Dooley goal was followed by another free from Homan. With Niamh O'Regan pointing Cork were in the driving seat but back came Westmeath.

A Megan Dowdall goal was quickly followed by a point from Maedhbh Scally, twice the sides traded points; Fiona Nelligan and Dowdall on target before Homan struck an excellent.

As the game entered additional time six points separated the sides, but Westmeath won a penalty which the excellent Dowdall converted.

Applying pressure from the puck-out, they won a free which Dowdall slotted over and Cork were relieved to hear the sound of the full-time whistle.

Scorers for Westmeath: M Dowdall 2-6 (1-0 pen, 0-4 f, 0-1 45), M McLoughlin 0-2, A Shaw 0-2 f, C McCrossan, S McGrath, M Scally 0-1 each.

Cork: L Homan 0-10 (0-5 f, 0-1 45), C O'Callaghan, C Dooley 1-0 each, N O'Regan 0-2, E Sheehan, E Duignan, F Nelligan 0-1each.

WESTMEATH: A Weir; E McCabe, J McLoughlin, L Doherty; M Kelly, M Scally, A Newman, A O Malley; C McCrossan, M McLoughlin, A Shaw, S McGrath, H Dowdall, H Core, M Dowdall.

Subs: C McCormack for H Dowdall, M Scally for A Shaw (29) A Balfe for H Core (30, A Egerton for M Scally (43).

CORK: C Buckley; A Barrett, N O'Leary, E Flanagan; L Doyle, O McAllen, M Ring; T McCarthy, L Buttimer; E Duignan, L Homan, E Sheehan; K Walsh, C O'Callaghan, C Dooley.

Subs: F Nelligan for E Duignan (h-t), N O' Regan for K Walsh (42), A Cashman for T McCarthy (48) E Curtain for E Sheehan (50).



Cork's Lauren Homan is strongly challenged by Clare's Rebecca Crowe, during their National League Division 2B clash. Picture: David Keane



Cork's Aoife Healy sets up another attack as Down's Aoife McDowell moves in to challenge her during their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland round robin championship clash at Páirc Esler in Newry.

Cork make it two from two



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

Down	1-7
Cork	4-21

CORK made it two from two in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship after their win over Down at Páirc Esler in Newry.

The defending champions were hot favourites to win this game and it will made the long journey home that little bit sweeter to secure the points and move on to next week's clash with Clare.

Manager Ger Manley made five changes to the team that started against Wexford, with Grainne Cahalane, Hayley Ryan, Cliona Healy, Clodagh Finn and Emma Murphy all starting.

By half-time this game was over as a contest as Cork led by 2-13 to 1-5, with Katriona Mackey and Fiona Keating getting their goals.

Two more in the second half from Sorcha McCartan and Clare Mullins saw Cork run out worthy winners.

Mackey was one of several impressive performers for Cork as she finished with 1-8, with McCartan and Keating also impressing in attack.

Defensively, Laura Hayes led the line, with Cahalane impressing on her championship debut for the Rebels. Others who showed that they are more than capable of doing a job for Cork include the likes of Murphy, Ryan, and Mullins, when she came on.

Manley was delighted with the win and the chance to give a few more players games, with Millie Condon, Rachel Harty, Clare, and Orlaith Mullins all coming on.



Cork's Cliona Healy challeges Down's Rhea Smyth during their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland camogie championship clash at Páirc Esler, Newry.

"It was important to win, coming up we didn't know what they would be about and we treated them with the respect they deserved," Manley said.

"We had a really good performance and got a couple of good goals in the first half which set us up for the win. In fairness, their keeper made a couple of good saves in that half as well and we could have had a few more.

"But our touch at times could have been better in front of goal. We scored 2-13 in the first half which was a great return against the wind, and I couldn't have asked for much more really.

"Two more in the second half set us up nicely for the win and that was the most important thing, to pick up the points and make it two from two.

"Games like this are important as it gave us the opportunity to make a few changes and get game-time into players that we need to do. We have Clare next week and we will probably make a few more changes for that one as well.

"You can't beat games and some players played very well today. Laura Hayes was outstanding, Grainne Cahalane did well as did Emma Murphy in midfield.

"The forwards did well, with others like Rachel Harty coming on who all played their part. So it was a good win and it sets us up now nicely for another tough away game against Clare next Saturday."

Scorers for Cork: K Mackey 1-8, S McCartan 1-2, F Keating 1-1, C Mullins 1-0, C Finn 0-3, C Healy, E Murphy, R Harty 0-2 each, H Ryan 0-1.

DOWN: A Sherry; O McCusker, D Coleman, E Fitzpatrick; C McGilligan, B Fitzpatrick, R Smith; I O'Hare, C Cowan; S Sands, C Fitzsimmons, D Magee; S McGrath, A McDowell, C Byrne.

CORK: A Lee; G Cahalane, P Mackey, N O'Callaghan; I O'Regan, A Healy, L Hayes; A Thompson, E Murphy; K Mackey, F Keating, C Healy; H Ryan, S McCartan, C Finn.

Subs: H Looney, O Mullins, M Condon, R Harty and C Mullins.

Referee: Justin Heffernan, Wexford.

PLUCK OF THE DRAW

Curran's late free takes fighting Wexford level with Galway

By **Daragh Ó Conchúir**



AT THE DOUBLE: Kilkenny's Julieann Malone (l) makes a break

A POINTED free by Anais Curran in the fourth minute of injury time grabbed a deserved share of the spoils for Wexford against Galway at Bellefield GAA in Enniscorthy.

Colin Sunderland's crew tore into their more fancied rivals from the throw-in of this second-round tie and an 18th-minute goal by Curran, who would finish with 1-8, nudged them ahead. Mairéad Dillon breached their defences just before the break, however, and Galway led by 1-8 to 1-6 at half-time.

It was nip and tuck through the second half, and perhaps the key passages of play came at the beginning of the fourth quarter.

Aoife Donohue gave Galway a modicum of breathing space for the first time with a 49th-minute goal to put four points between them but, from the puckout, Chloe Foxe reduced that to one again.

A couple of Donohue points opened the gap to three for Cathal Murray's charges, but the Yellowbellies landed four of the last five points scored from the 57th minute, Curran landing the last two to secure a 2-15 apiece result.

Kilkenny made it two away wins on the spin without any drama, recording a 6-15 to 0-9 success against Antrim at Corrigan Park.

Julieann Malone and Asha McHardy grabbed a brace of goals each, while Katie Nolan and Sarah Barcoe also raised green flags as the traffic was all one-way. Antrim did cause the Cats some problems, and Róisín McCormick registered five first-half points, but it was the ruthlessness of Peter Cleere's side that was notable.

Malone, Nolan and McHardy had goals inside 13 minutes. Malone added her second in the 26th minute, and four points from captain Aoife Prendergast made it 4-7 to 0-6 at the interval.

It was a stroll from there to the finish, Barcoe and McHardy shaking the rigging.

Tipperary also retained their 100% record with ease, courtesy of a 5-22 to 0-13 win at the Derry GAA Centre of Excellence.

Goals from Eimear McGrath and Róisín Howard, along with some excellent shooting from distance by the former that included a two-point sideline, established a 2-17 to 0-6 lead at half-time. Howard nabbed a second goal after the resumption, and further majors from Eimear Heffernan and the energetic Clodagh McIntyre made it a comfortable outing.

Derry had won their opener against Antrim and battled to the end, points from the experienced duo Aoife Ni Chaiside and Áine Barton giving the home supporters something to cheer about.

Waterford's increasing depth was on display in their 5-15 to 0-9 defeat of Limerick at Walsh Park, with senior debutant Maggie Gostl grabbing the first goal.

Mairéad O'Brien repeated her two-goal feat in the defeat to Tipperary seven days earlier, while Orla Hickey and Annie Fitzgerald also found the net.

It was 2-11 to 0-2 at the interval and, although though Caoimhe Costelloe and Rebecca Delee improved the scoring situation for the visitors, last year's All-Ireland finalists continued to go for the jugular to keep their prospects of being involved in the business part of the season alive.

The team that beat them in the All-Ireland final, Cork, have been going about things very professionally, and a much-changed outfit from last weekend's defeat of Wexford made light work of Down by 4-21 to 1-7 at Páirc Esler.

Katrina Mackey and Fiona Keating struck goals to put the Rebels 2-13 to 1-5 in front at half-time. Sorcha McCartan, playing against her native county, grabbed a third and Clare Mullins followed up, with Mackey finishing on 1-8.

Dublin secured their first points of the campaign, having pushed Galway to three points in the first round, inflicting a first defeat on Clare by 0-18 to 0-9 at St Peregrine's.

Aisling Maher, Áine Gannon, Kerrie Finnegan and Sinéad Nolan all split the posts impressively, as Clare struggled to make inroads at the other end, Áine O'Loughlin and Róisin Begley providing most of their scores.



MARVELLOUS MAEDHBH: College principal Sean Twomey presenting the Sports Player of the Year award to Maedhbh de Burca, at the sixth year graduation day of St Aloysius' College, Carrigtwohill. PHOTO: DAVID KEANE

Cork's women in action against Clare



Finbarr Mc Carthy

Camogie and ladies football take centre stage this weekend, while there is a very important minor football game on Saturday.

Given the intense activity of the last few weeks, the coming few days are somewhat quiet for the men, before it all kicks off again with big games for the hurlers and footballers.

The divisional and colleges section of the county championship also starts this week somewhat diluted by the withdrawal of 3 divisions: Beara and Imokilly in football and Carrigdhoun in hurling.

Glen Dimplex Senior Camogie Championship

Cork v Clare on Saturday in Cusack Park Ennis at 2pm

With 2 wins from 2, champions Cork are well on course for qualification to the knockout stages of the championship and with their main rivals in the group, Galway only drawing with Wexford, Ger Manley's side look set to go direct to the semi-final.

They were comfortable winners over Down last Saturday despite making 5 changes, some enforced owing to injury, while it also afforded the management an opportunity to get valuable game time into players.

Ger was pleased. "It was a good win, especially after the long journey, 2-13 against the wind was impressive enough."

There are still though areas to work on: "All the time and we will review that performance and work away on what needs to be done."

Injuries are still a factor, "Laura (Tracey) might be back this weekend and Amy (O'Connor) picked up a slight knock so we left her off, but apart from Libby (Coppinger) who is out long term, everyone else is good."

Clare are next up and Ger while confident is cautious. "We will take nothing for granted especially in Ennis. We will approach it like every other game, we want to win."

It will actually be the 3rd meeting between the teams this year and Cork have won the previous 2, comfortably it must be said, the most recent in the semi-final of the Munster Championship in Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

In their games to date, Clare beat Down in Ennis, but lost away to Dublin last week and will still feel they can make it out of the group and will relish the visit of the champions to their home patch.

Abby Walsh, Niamh Mulqueen, Grace Carmody, Aine O'Loughlin, Aoife Anderson and Caoimhe Cahill are among their better known players.

Cork though have depth and quality all over the field. Laura Hayes and Saoirse McCarthy have tremendous pace, while Ashling Thompson, Catriona Mackey, Amy O'Connor and Aoife Healy will give them a huge edge.

Cork to win and maybe even with a bit to spare.

Glen Dimplex Intermediate Camogie Championship

Cork v Offaly on Saturday at Castle Road at 2pm

The unexpected but deserved win on the road to a highly rated Westmeath side last week will certainly boost confidence ahead of the visit of Offaly in round 2.

Offaly were D1 last year and just like Cork opened with a win 1-18 to 1-8, admittedly against Clare's 2nd team.

Grace Teehan, Cathy Fogarty, Clodagh Leahy and Leah Gallagher impressed in that win.

Lauren Homan was central to Cork's win with a contribution of 0-10 from play and placed balls while Cliona Dooley and Cliona O'Callaghan chipped in vital goals with Katie Walsh and Niamh O'Leary also making important contributions.

Playing at home will help and they are well capable of getting another win.



■ 8. Senior cycle Sportswoman of the Year, Ciara Morrison. Ciara has played for school, club, and county.

Cats underline bench strength

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Kilkenny might be without Denise Gaule, who is in Australia, and retired long-serving defender Claire Phelan, but Julianne Malone is delighted with the current strength of the Cats' panel.

Malone was player of the match as the Cats cut through Antrim by 6-15 to 0-9 at Corrigan Park on Saturday, grabbing two goals, as did Asha McHardy. Katie Nolan and Sarah Barcoe also shook the rigging and though Róisín McCormick, Caitrin Dobbin, and Maeve Kelly split the posts for a gritty Antrim, they could not withstand the visitors' goal rush.

There were six changes from the side that accounted for Limerick by 18 points seven days previously, with five players making their senior championship debuts, but that there was no drop-off in standard will have delighted manager Peter Cleere. It certainly left Malone buoyed.

"We came up to do a job, get a win, get two points, so we're very happy," said Malone. "Antrim put it up to us but we're building on our own performance. Our team is very competitive. There's places up for grabs every week so for us it was about a team performance and I feel like everyone put in a great effort there today. It was great to see girls coming off the bench and getting their names on the scoreboard too."

Last year's All-Ireland finalists Waterford waltzed to a 5-15 to 0-9 success over Limerick at Walsh Park. Mairéad O'Brien bagged her second brace of goals in a week, and Orla Hickey and Annie Fitzgerald raised green flags, but what stood out most was the goal of minor star Maggie Gostl on her senior debut.

"Fantastic and she's a very down-to-earth player as well," said Déise skipper Lorraine Bray of the De La Salle tyro. "We're delighted to have a few young girls coming in from the minor panel."

All-Ireland champions Cork also registered an easy win, coming away from Páirc Esler with a 4-21 to 1-7 verdict. Katrina Mackey top-scored with 1-8 while Fiona Keating, former Down star Sorcha McCartan, and Clare Mullins also found the net for the Rebels.

Ger Manley made five changes from the side that beat Wexford in the opening round. "We had a really good performance and got a couple of good goals in the first half that set us up for the win," said Manley. "But our touch at times could have been better in front of goal. We scored 2-13 in the first half, which was a great return against the wind, and I couldn't have asked for much more really."

The day's most notable result was Wexford's draw with Galway, Anais Curran landing the last two points, including an injury-time equaliser, to end it on 2-15 apiece.

Colin Sunderland's charges were in contention throughout and Chloe Foxe's goal directly from the puckout, after Aoife Donohue's 49th-minute major, was indicative of their character. Curran, who finished with 1-8, had a first-half goal for the home team, with Galway replying through Mairéad Dillon to set up a dramatic conclusion.

Tipperary made it two wins from two by beating Derry 5-22 to 0-13 at Derry GAA Centre of Excellence. Róisín Howard had two goals for Denis Kelly's side, with Eimear McGrath, Eimear Heffernan, and Clodagh McIntyre also netting and McGrath exhibiting her skills with a two-point sideline.

Aisling Maher, Áine Gannon, Kerrie Finnegan, and Sinéad Nolan were the main scoring contributors as Dublin got off the mark with a 0-18 to 0-9 win over Clare.



Cork's Niamh O'Regan gets away from the Westmeath defence chasing in numbers during Saturday's encounter. Pictures: Bob Morrison

Cork intermediate team face a tough battle against Offaly

HURLING

Mary Newman

ROUND two of the Glen Dimplex Intermediate championship will see Offaly make the trip to Castle Road to meet Cork tomorrow. Both sides got their campaigns off to winning starts with victories last weekend.

Cork had a superb win over a fancied Westmeath side, whilst Offaly overcame last season's Junior All-Ireland champions Clare 1-18 to 1-8, to get their campaign off to the perfect start. In the remaining game in group one, Galway had a 0-21 to 1-6 win over Wexford.

In group 2, Kerry had a 2-12 to 0-13 win over Dublin, Kildare overcame Antrim and Meath accounted for Carlow.

Offaly are participating in the intermediate championship this year having lost out in a relegation battle with Down to hold onto their senior status.

This was a game that came at the end of a tough 2023 season and they lost out 1-12 to 0-6 in a year when they finished bottom in Division 1B of the league and in their championship group.

This season, David Sullivan replaced Noelle Kennedy as manager and their league campaign in division 2A saw them finishing in fourth place, behind Derry, Westmeath and Meath. David Sullivan knows his side are in a tough group, something he acknowledged before the campaign got underway.

"This is a very competitive, tough group and any three of the six teams can progress from the group.

"Wexford are Leinster intermediate champions, Cork won the division 2B league and Westmeath won the 2A league and promotion for next season.

"Clare were last year's junior All-Ireland winners, so it will be a dog fight to get out of this section." Sullivan said.

Looking back at his side's league campaign and the work put in since Sullivan is pleased at their progress.

"We have gained momentum since the league. Pitches are now in better condition and preparations are way better. Getting back onto the pitches was a big plus after training on astro and all-weather pitches and there is big improvement.

"Everything is set up for [the] season, the hard work is done and we are determined to give a good account of ourselves."

Last weekend they got off to a great start defeating Clare with nine points to spare.

In that outing, Becky Bryant was hugely impressive up front as she notched up 1-4 of the Offaly tally.

Mairead Jennings hit 0-5 again showing huge accuracy from frees, whilst Grace Teehan, Faye Mulrooney and Clodagh Leahy were very much to the fore for an experienced Offaly side, who will no doubt have benefited from playing at a higher level last season.

Cork looked to be comfortable as they opened up a six point lead as the game entered injury time and with four minutes signalled, Cork looked as if they were safe, but all credit to Westmeath, they battled back to get themselves back in the game.

Megan Dowdall dispatched a penalty to the net before pointing a free and it was a relieved Cork that heard the full time whistle sound.

Whilst Donie Daly will be relieved to have got over the line, the quick conceding of 1-1 in such a short space of time will be something he will be of concern, particularly as both scorers came from the concession of frees.

On the plus side, 2-15 was an excellent score to notch up against a strong Westmeath side and he will be looking for more of the same tomorrow.



The midfield was dominated by Lauren Homan, Cork, who took control of the pitch at Cusack Park, Mullingar.



Cork's Amy O'Connor takes on Wexford's Miria O'Dowd during their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship clash at Páirc Uí Rinn. O'Connor will be expected to return to the starting side for the Clare game tomorrow. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Cork to make it three from three against Banner

CAMOGIE



Rory Noonan

THE Cork senior camogie team are on the road again tomorrow when they travel to Ennis to face Clare in round three of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Championship (2pm).

A win over the hosts should be enough to secure passage to the knockout stages as they would be top of their group before a well-earned rest the following weekend.

After that, they have home ties against Dublin and Galway but for now, manager Ger Manley and his side will be fully focused on the Clare game.

They made the long trip to Down last weekend and came away with an expected win; the bonus of adding to their scoring difference with a return of 4-21 puts them well ahead of the rest should it matter after the final ties in the group games on June 29.

Cork top the table on six points from two games, with Galway just behind on four, followed by Dublin, Clare, Wexford, and Down in that order.

Who tops this group is likely to come down to the last round where Cork will face Galway at home.

For now, Cork's task is to keep their winning run going tomorrow, and they will be expected to do so as they continue in their drive to retain the All-Ireland Championship.



Sorcha McCartan, Cork, battles with Wexford's Karen Tomkins during their championship clash. McCartan will be one of the players Cork will look to against Clare. Picture: Jim Coughlan

These two met several weeks ago in the Munster semi-final; Cork winning by 1-17 to 1-9 in a game that they never looked in trouble.

Since then Cork have won Munster and had wins over Wexford and Down in the All-Ireland series.

Step

They will know that Clare will be another step up from their last two games and will be determined to gain some revenge for their Munster loss.

The Banner will have been disappointed with last weekend's showing last away to Dublin, and they know that this is a game they must win to stay in contention to come out of the group.

They will look to the likes of Áine O'Loughlin and Roisin Begley to lead their challenge.

That said it is difficult to see anything but another win for Cork, who have been improving with every game.

Manley made five changes to the starting line-up against Down and it didn't weaken his side in any way.

Since the beginning of the season, he has been highlighting the importance of building a strong squad which they now have, and with Laura Treacy expected back from injury in the next few weeks it's only going to get stronger.

Such is their depth, they now have two players for nearly every position and that is what Manley wants as it keeps all of the players on their toes.

Among those who impressed when they got the chance to start were Cliona Healy, Clodagh Finn, and Emma Murphy, with Clare Mullins getting in on the scoring act when she was sprung from the bench.

Add in Saoirse McCarthy, Meabh Cahalane, Sorche McCartan, and Amy O'Connor, who didn't feature against Down, and Cork will travel confident of making it three from three.

They won't take the Clare challenge lightly and will look to the aforementioned players, along with Laura Hayes, probably their best player so far this season, Ashling Thompson, and Izzy O'Regan to lead by example.

So expect Cork to make it three from three before a break for a week ahead of their home games.

Rebels want to keep building momentum

All-Ireland champions are away to Clare this Saturday

ALL-IRELAND GROUP 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Cork	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**51**	**19**	**6**
Galway	2	1	0	1	38	35	4
Dublin	2	1	1	0	32	26	3
Clare	2	1	1	0	26	26	3
Wexford	2	0	1	1	30	39	1
Down	2	0	2	0	18	50	0

BY SEÁN HOLLAND

CORK continued their perfect start to the defence of the O'Duffy Cup with a 4-21 to 1-7 win over Down at Páirc Esler in Newry.

The victory makes it two wins from two for the Rebels, who are the only side boasting a 100 percent record in Group 2 of the All-Ireland senior camogie championship.

Manager Ger Manley informed The Southern Star last week that he intended to freshen up his squad for this game, and he did exactly that, making five changes to the team that started against Wexford the previous weekend.

The changes helped keep the energy high in the starting 15 and Cork flew out of the blocks to lead 2-13 to 1-5 at the short whistle. Katriona Mackey and Courcey Rovers star Fiona Keating found the net in the first half. Sorcha McCartan and Clare Mullins also raised green flags in the second half to help the Rebels come away with a comprehensive win.

'We had a really good performance and got a couple of good goals in the first half that set us up for the win. In fairness, their goalkeeper made a couple of good saves in that half as well and we could have had a few more,' Cork boss Manley said.

'Our touch at times could have been better in front of goal. We scored 2-13 in the first half which was a great return against the wind and I couldn't have asked for much more really. Two more in the second half set us up nicely for the win and that was the most important thing, to pick up the points and make it two from two.'

Cork will face Clare this Saturday, June 8th, in Cusack Park, Ennis (2.30pm), in their third group fixture and Manley plans to try a few new faces once more as the team faces its fourth game in as many weeks, and second successive away game.

'Games like this (against Down) are important as it gave us the opportunity to make a few changes and get game time into players that we need to do. We have Clare now next and we will probably make a few more changes for that one as well,' Manley explained.

'You can't beat games and some players played very well today. Laura Hayes was outstanding, Grainne Cahalane did well as did Emma Murphy in midfield. The forwards did well, with others like Rachel Harty coming on who all played their part. It was a good win and it sets us up nicely for another tough away game against Clare on Saturday.'

Scorers

Cork: K Mackey 1-8; S McCartan 1-2; F Keating 1-1; C Mullins 1-0; C Finn 0-3; C Healy, E Murphy, R Harty 0-2 each; H Ryan 0-1.

Down: A Sherry; O McCusker, D Coleman, E Fitzpatrick; C McGilligan, B Fitzpatrick, R Smith; I O'Hare, C Cowan; S Sands, C Fitzsimmons, D Magee; S McGrath, A McDowell, C Byrne.

Cork: A Lee; G Cahalane, P Mackey, N O'Callaghan; I O'Regan, A Healy, L Hayes; A Thompson, E Murphy; K Mackey, F Keating, C Healy; H Ryan, S McCartan, C Finn.

Subs: H Looney, O Mullins, M Condon, R Harty, C Mullins.



Clare's Aine O'Loughlin and Cork's Molly Lynch will be in opposition in Cusack Park this Saturday in the All-Ireland series. (Photo: Tom Maher/INPHO)

Former Down star Mallon a huge asset for Galway

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Galway manager Cathal Murray has labelled new recruit, Niamh Mallon "a huge asset," after the former Down star earned player of the match honours in Galway's 3-19 to 0-7 victory over Clare at Kenny Park, Athenry on Saturday.

The result confirmed the westerners' qualification to the knockout stages of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship.

Mallon transferred to All-Ireland club champions Sarsfields midway through the Very League, having found it untenable to continue the commute she had been making to play for Down and Portaferry over the years since work took her Corribside.

Alongside her groundbreaking efforts as a research scientist in the area of bio-analytics for elite female sports performance at Orreco, the 29-year-old's added qualifications in the sport, exercise and nutrition sector earned her a role as part of the backroom team with Galway's senior footballers.

Although yet to win an All-Star, Mallon has long been recognised as one of the best in the business over the past decade and her impact has come as no surprise.

The supreme finisher scored 1-4 from play in the first half against Clare and added another goal early in the second to be named player of the match. She was not on hand to accept the award, however, having left for Pearse Stadium after her substitution to link up with Pádraic Joyce's men in maroon prior to their championship victory over Monaghan.

"She's a huge asset," said Murray of Mallon. "The two goals were really good to get. Niamh Kilkenny did brilliant to set up the one in the first half and Ailish (O'Reilly) did brilliant to set up one in the second.

"She's a brilliant, brilliant player. We're obviously really lucky to have her. She's in Galway for six years at this stage, even longer. With the job with Galway footballers and her job with Orreco, it's not possible for her to get back to Down. It's a huge loss to them but a huge asset to us. She's a really great player.

"I thought the forwards as a unit were good, they used the ball well in the first half. We got 15 shots off in the first half and scored with 13 of them so that's really good. It's building but we've a massive challenge coming up and we'll know how good we are playing Cork next week in Páirc Uí Chaoimh."



Cork's Hannah Looney shoots from Dublin's Niamh Gannon during the All-Ireland Camogie SC game at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Madeleine Keane, Bláithín Cunniffe, Rachel Morrison, Sophie Gunn and Stephanie Dwyer at the launch of the Cork Camogie Development Pathway Programme that was held in the Squad Gym at the Mardyke Arena,



Coaches Rickey O'Callaghan, Michelle Finnerty, Karen Lynch, Karen O'Callaghan, Mairéad Lynch, Anne Kearney and Tom Lenihan at the launch of the Cork Camogie Development Pathway Programme that was held in the Squad Gym at the Mardyke Arena, Cork. Pictures: David Creedon

Cork camogie and Mardyke Arena launch player pathway programme

CAMOGIE



Rory Noonan

THE Mardyke Arena UCC and Cork camogie officially launched the Cork Camogie Development Pathway Programme, at the Mardyke Performance Centre.

This milestone event heralds the beginning of an exclusive partnership designed to maximise athletic and personal development for the Cork camogie development pathways.

This strategic alliance positions Mardyke Arena UCC at the forefront of athlete development, offering the highest level of support to the Cork camogie pathways through its state-of-the-art performance facilities.

The partnership underscores a long-term commitment to nurturing athletic excellence and holistic growth for Cork camogie's rising stars.

"Our partnership with Cork camogie signifies a transformative moment for sports development within Cork," said Christine Moloney, CEO Mardyke Arena UCC.

"We are dedicated to providing top-tier facilities, expert coaching, and cutting-edge training methodologies that empower athletes to achieve their highest potential.



Aidan O'Connell, high performance manager Cork GAA; Kaitlyn O'Callaghan, strength and conditioning coach, Mardyke Arena; Mairéad Lynch, Development Officer Cork Camogie; Mairéad O'Donovan, chair of Cork Camogie, and Damien O'Donoghue, performance manages Mardyke Arena at the launch of the Cork Camogie Development Pathway Programme. Picture: David Creedon

"This initiative is a testament to our unwavering commitment to inspire excellence."

The comprehensive program supports the athletic development and personal growth of Cork camogie U14, U15, U16, and U17 squads. It features stage-specific physical development plans and a holistic workshop series covering vital aspects such as wellness, nutrition, sleep, recovery, and mental skills. This robust framework ensures that each player receives the education and support necessary to excel both on and off the Field.

Key highlights of the program include:

Athletic Development: Tailored training programmes and curriculums that align with each stage of the player pathway model.

Holistic Workshops: In-depth sessions on wellness, nutrition, mental skills, and more, fostering well-rounded athlete development.

Expert Coaching: Access to top-tier coaches and sports professionals committed to nurturing talent.

State-of-the-Art Facilities: Utilisation of Mardyke Arena UCC's performance facilities, designed to support high-level athletic performance and development.

The programme was designed by Damien O'Donoghue, Athletic Performance Manager Mardyke Arena UCC, along with his team of S&C coaches.

The team consists of Baptiste Verge (lead on this programme), Dave O'Connell, Darren Dineen and Kaitlyn O'Callaghan, ensure each athlete receives the appropriate support and programme required to optimise their development.

Nora Aherne, customer experience manager, works behind the scenes to ensure all logistical matters and the athlete experiences are of the highest standards.

The programme is one of many new initiatives that Mardyke Arena UCC are currently involved with, continuing their commitment to develop talent-identified and high-performance athletes from the Cork and surrounding Regional.

For more information about Mardyke performance facilities, athletic performance programmes and the Cork Camogie Player Development Pathway, contact Damien O'Donoghue at dodonoghue@ucc.ie.



Lauren O'Connor, Órla Troy, Faye Ronan and Emer Hallihan at the launch. Picture: David Creedon



A representation of the U15 and U17 squads at the launch of the Cork Camogie Development Pathway Programme that was held in the Squad Gym at the Mardyke Arena. Picture: David Creedon

Dublin plant one foot in knockout stages



Flanagan's goal proves to be crucial as Gerry McQuaid's side show their quality

FOCUS: Dublin's Aoife McKearney of Dublin gets her shot away yesterday

By **Daragh Ó Conchúir**

DUBLIN came out on top of a crunch tie with Wexford at Parnell Park to place one foot in the quarter-finals of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship.

Gerry McQuaid's crew had snatched the Very Division 1B title from the grasp of the Yellowbellies thanks to an injury time goal by Grace O'Shea but they made sure far earlier on this occasion, though their ability to record three-pointers remained crucial in the 4-13 to 1-10 triumph.

Wexford felt the loss of injured skipper, Ciara O'Connor keenly, though they had the dream start when Chloe Foxed goaled after just 67 seconds. Points from Aoife Gannon and Aisling Maher settled Dublin and Elyse Jamieson billowed the Wexford net in the 13th minute to give them the lead.

Emma Flanagan grabbed a goal just before the break and that was probably the crucial score, as the hosts began to impose themselves on proceedings.

They led by 2-7 to 1-5 at half-time

THEY LED BY A HEALTHY 2-7 TO 1-5 SCORE AT HALFTIME

and extended that with goals by League final hero O'Shea and Aisling Gannon, to open up a 15-point advantage at the three-quarter mark, with Wexford yet to score in the second half.

Colin Sunderland's side showed plenty of pride from that juncture, points coming from Foxe, Anais Curran, Joanne Dillon and the outstanding Sarah O'Connor but Dublin had done more than enough to see out the game.

Neighbours Kilkenny and Waterford played out a thrilling draw at UPMC Nowlan Park, Mairéad O'Brien coming up with an equalising point in the fourth minute of injury time to secure a share of the spoils for last year's All-Ireland finalists.

O'Brien has added significant scoring power to her renowned industry during this year's Glen Dimplex Championship, and her goal on the half-hour that gave Jerry Wallace's squad a 1-7 to 1-5 interval lead, was her fifth in three outings.

Waterford already had suffered one loss, to Tipperary, and while another would not have been catastrophic, it would not have done much for confidence as they attempt to go one step further than last year.

As for Kilkenny, while they will undoubtedly be disappointed not to have maintained their 100% record having led so late on, Peter Cleere will be pleased with how his charges performed and battled in their first major test after two easy wins on the road.

This was a game that ebbed and flowed throughout. Waterford's top scorer, Beth Carton had the first pair of her nine points either side of a Lorraine Bray minor to give the visitors a good start but Katie Nolan and Katie Power settled the Stripeywomen and when Aoife Doyle goaled in the 30th minute, the teams were level.

O'Brien struck from the puckout however and while there was still time for Nolan to point for Kilkenny before the short whistle, it was Waterford with their noses in front.

The Noresiders resumed in determined fashion and had five more points on the board in 12 minutes of action to turn that deficit into a two-point lead. Aoife Prendergast, Miriam Walsh, Nolan, Julianne Malone and Doyle split the posts for the Cats, with Carton managing the sole score at the other end in that period.

Back came Waterford, however, Carton slotting three points and Niamh Rockett another. But they could not shake off the home team, who edged ahead thanks to scores from Walsh, Sarah Barcoe and Sophie O'Dwyer before O'Brien had the final say.

Derry cemented their senior status with a 0-19 to 0-13 victory in Owenbeg against Limerick, who are now in serious relegation trouble. Indeed the win by last year's intermediate champions keeps them in contention for a place in the last six, with the last round game in Waterford on June 29 likely to decide the third qualifying spot from Group 1.

That is putting PJ O'Mullan's women in bonus territory however, given it is their first season back in the big time. All six of their starting forwards scored and while it was no surprise that Áine Barton was a primary contributor with five points, it was a tally matched by Aoife Shaw, while Bríd Rogers and Aimee Lennon were other multiple scorers. In all the Oak Leafers had eight different players getting on the scoresheet.

In contrast, Limerick were heavily reliant on Caoimhe Costelloe. Yet Joe Quaid's outfit were more than competitive and when Costelloe slotted her sixth point in the 42nd minute, it put them two in front. But they wouldn't score again while their opponents shot the lights out, with eight points on the trot to record a very significant win.

It was a third straight loss for Limerick and with Antrim in the same position after falling to high-flying Tipperary by 1-17 to 0-6 at The Ragg, their clash will decide who drops to intermediate next year. The Saffrons hit some late points from Róisín McCormick and Maeve Kelly that could prove critical if score difference comes into play but the verdict was never in doubt.

Denis Kelly's unit won the Division 1A League title without Cáit Devane. The All-Star forward, who got married earlier this year, returned for the championship and marked her first start of the year with nine points for the Premiers.

Jean Kelly also made her first start of the campaign and capitalised with a 24th minute goal, as Tipp moved cemented their qualification, with the last round outing against Kilkenny likely to determine who will go straight to the semi-finals as group winner.

There were easy wins too for Cork and Galway in Group 2, the

KILKENNY AND WATERFORD PLAY OUT A THRILLING DRAW

All-Ireland champions beating Clare by 2-19 to 1-4 in Cusack Park and the Maroons blitzing Down by 6-27 to 0-4.

Amy O'Connor and Orlaith Cahalane scored 1-5 and 1-4 respectively for Cork, and Clare could thank Rachel Daly that the scoreline didn't have a worse look to it, as the netminder made four outstanding saves. The sight of Laura Treacy coming on as a sub at the three-quarter mark after an absence due to a hamstring injury was probably the highlight of the day for the Rebels, who are assured of qualification now.

It was far too easy for Galway at Pearse Stadium. Their goals came from Niamh Niland (two), Sabina Rabbitte (two), Ailish O'Reilly and Orlaith McGrath and they look destined for a last round clash with Cork to decide who progresses directly to the last four as group winners.



TUSSLE: Dublin's Emma Flanagan takes on Ciara Storey and Miria O'Dowd of Wexford

CAMOGIE

All-Ireland Senior Championship: Kilkenny 1-13 Waterford 1-13, Derry 0-19 Limerick 0-13, Tipperary 1-17 Antrim 0-6, Dublin 4-13 Wexford 1-10, Galway 6-27 Down 0-4; **Intermediate:** Galway 0-10 Clare 2-7, Wexford 2-8 Westmeath 1-16, Cork 0-15 Offaly 1-11, Carlow 2-8 Dublin 2-7, Kildare 0-4 Kerry 0-15, Kilkenny 5-30 Antrim 0-3.

Weather and fixtures setbacks were hurdled with great season climax

SINCE the first week of April, adult and minor camogie league games have been going non-stop.

Weather played havoc with a lot of game with continuous rain seeing almost three full weeks of games wiped out, but all credit to the clubs, who dug in and got their programme of games completed.

A huge achievement considering a lot of players would be involved in more than one team in a club and it was a huge task to catch up, but it was achieved and over the last two weeks, league finals have been taking place.



Mairead Donovan, chairperson Cork camogie board presents the Senior camogie league cup to St Finbarr's captain Stephanie Punch.

SENIOR

St Finbarr's took the senior league title as they overcame Sarsfields on a 4-15 to 1-12 scoreline.

They lead at the interval 2-12 to 0-5.

St Finbarr's continued to hold the upper hand through out the second half.

Two Meg Twomey goals, and one each from Nicole Olden and Orlaith Cahalane, were added to by Aoife Byrne-O'Riordan with six points.

Orlaith Cahalane added five points from play with Nicole Olden with three more and Hannah O'Leary with one, were all on the score sheet as their side ran out winners.

PREMIER INTERMEDIATE

Ballyhea were crowned Premier Intermediate camogie league winners as they overcame Ballinora 3-10 to 0-11 with Rachel Harty in scoring form slotting over eight pointed frees and adding a goal and a point to bring her tally to 1-10.

Ciara Harty grabbed the winner's opening goal and with Jane Foley adding a second Ballyhea were on the road to victory.

INTERMEDIATE

In the Intermediate league final, Charleville had four points to spare over Newtownshandrum winning 1-8 to 0-7 to take the title.

Kate Liddy with a goal and four points and Fiona Nelligan with four points were on target for the winners.

PREMIER JUNIOR

Ballinascarthy and Midleton have qualified for the Premier junior final which was to be played earlier this week.

JUNIOR A

Youghal took the junior A title as



Laura Dundon, Ballyhea captain is presented with the Premier Intermediate camogie trophy by Mairead Donovan, chairperson Cork camogie board.

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

they overcame Erin's own 3-8 to 0-4, three first half goals two from Sam Swaine and one form Aoibhe Daly gave Youghal a half time lead of 3-4 to 0-2 and it was the foundations for victory as they held on for victory despite a strong Erin's Own second half display.

JUNIOR B

St Fanahan's took the Junior B title as they overcame Kilworth on a 1-11 to 1-5 score line.

JUNIOR C

Nemo Rangers proved far too strong as they defeated St Colm's to win the Junior C league title

JUNIOR B 2

In the Junior B2 league final for clubs with second teams Sarsfields and Éire Óg played out an exciting game with two points separated the teams in an entertaining and exciting contest that went right down to the wire.

Two goals from Eilis Hegarty, one in each half helped get Sarsfields over the line with Maeve McCarthy, Ella Woods, Kathlyn Sheehan, Deirdre McCarthy and Aoife Mullins all on the score sheet as the title was secured.

LILLIE O'SULLIVAN JUNIOR LEAGUE

In the Junior Lillie O'Sullivan league final for clubs with second or third teams, Sarsfields and Glen Rovers were down to meet late this this week to decide the destination of the title.

LILLIE GRANT JUNIOR LEAGUE

In the Junior Lillie Grant league final for clubs with second teams Courcey Rovers and Midleton were down to meet last night in the final.

PREMIER MINOR

In premier Minor camgoie Éire Óg got the upper hand on Sarsfields as they ran out winners on a after a close contest with five points to space on a 1-12 to 0-10 score line.

MINOR

It will be an all-city Minor A league final when Douglas and Glen Rovers meet, this game is scheduled for June 27 after the state exams are completed.

MINOR B AND MINOR C

The Minor B and C leagues are still at semi-final stage.



Cork's Eimear Duignan gets away from Offaly's Grace Teehan to score a superb point from distance, during their Intermediate Camogie Championship clash, at Castle Road. Picture: David Keane

Cork edge out Offaly at Castle Road in the intermediate camogie

Cork	**0-15**
Offaly	**1-11**

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

IN A game that was level on no fewer than seven occasions Cork had to work hard to grind out a narrow win in an entertaining Glen Dimplex Intermediate Championship clash in Castle Road.

A Cliona O'Callaghan point three minutes into injury time helped the home side to just about get over the line.

Despite playing with the aid of a strong wind in the opening half Offaly elected to play with a sweeper but it was Cork who handled it better as they used possession well and went 0-6 to 0-1 in front after 13 minutes. Offaly regrouped and went one-on-one. The second quarter belonged to them as they slowly reeled Cork in hitting 1-5 without reply to lead at the break 1-6 to 0-6.

Mairead Jennings had opened the Offaly account with a point but with Cork ran at the Offaly defence and Lauren Homan slotted over the frees they won. Eimear Duignan and Homan from play made it 0-6 to 0-1 before Offaly clawed their way back, including a Faye Mulroney effort that ended up in the net.

Aided by the wind Cork were back level inside 10 minutes of the restart thanks to two Homan frees and one from play. From there it was nip and tuck as two strong defences worked hard.

Mairead Jennings edged Offaly in front but Homan responded from a free. It continued score for score through Becky Bryant, Niamh O'Regan, Faye Mulrooney and Claire Dooley.

As the game entered injury time the sides were deadlocked 0-14 to 1-11 before Cliona O'Callaghan struck.

Offaly pushed forward winning a long-range free but the Cork defence stood firm. Again Offaly came in search of the equaliser however Bryant's attempt from play went narrowly wide to the sound of the full time whistle.

A hard-fought victory for Cork as they move onto round three and meeting with Wexford in two weeks.

Scorers for Cork: L Homan 0-10 (0-6 f, 0-1 45), N O'Regan 0-2, C Dooley, E Duignan, C O'Callaghan 0-1 each.

Offaly: M Jennings 0-8 (0-6 f), F Mulrooney 1-1, B Bryant, C Ryan 0-1 each.

CORK: C Hurley (St Finbarr's); A Barrett (Aghabullogue), N O'Leary (Brian Dillon's), E Flanagan (Aghabullogue); L Doyle (Charleville), O McAllen (Sarsfields), M Ring (Aghabullogue); T McCarthy (Glen Rovers), L Buttimer (Cloughduv); E Duignan (Mallow), L Homan (Brian Dillon's), E Sheehan(Éire Óg); N O'Regan (St Catherine's) , C O' Callaghan (Blackrock), C Dooley (Ballinora).

Subs: F Nelligan (Charleville) for E Duignan (25), H O'Leary (St Finbarr's) for E Sheehan(32), O Keating (Ballincollig) for L Buttimer(32), A Cashman (Youghal) for T McCarthy (45), E O'Donoghue (Bishopstown) for F Nelligan (inj 48).

OFFALY: L Gallagher; D Cashen, C Fogarty, O Gorman; S Shannahan, A Byrne, K Kennedy; F Mulrooney, G Teehan; C Leahy, C Ryan, M Jennings; F Dooley, A O'Connor, B Bryant.

Subs: A Roddy for A Byrne (inj 8), H Feenane for D Cashen (25).

Referee: Mike Ryan (Tipperary).



Cork's Edel Sheehan races away from Offaly's Grace Teehan.



The Cahalane sisters, from left, Orlaith, Gráinne and Meabh, who all started for Cork in their win over Clare in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship.

Cahalane sisters start senior championship game together for first time

CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

BOTH Cork camogie teams are in prime position to qualify for the knock-out stages of the senior and intermediate All-Ireland championships.

With two games played the intermediate side have six points and one more win should see them qualify from the group.

The senior side have won their three opening games and with two to go are already guaranteed a quarter-final spot. If they top the group they should go straight to the semi-final.

One of the key players this season is Meabh Cahalane, who has taken over the full-back spot from the injured Libby Coppinger.

Libby was injured a few weeks ago, just before the championship started, and Meabh moved from the corner to full-back and has slotted in seamlessly.

She was a key player again in their win over Clare, as she played her part in keeping their opponents to just 1-4 over the hour, with three of those points from frees.

Alongside Meabh was her sister Gráinne and in attack was another of the Cahalane family, Orlaith.

It was the first time that the three sisters started a senior camogie game for Cork together. It was the first time in some time that three sisters all started for Cork and it was something that Meabh said they were delighted to do, but more importantly happy to get the points and stay top of the table.

"I think the most important thing was getting the result. I suppose we wanted to go after our performance as well after such a such a good one against Down. I think we played really well for spells, especially in the first half and," said Meabh.

"We brought in a few guys then in the second-half and they injected a bit of energy into our play again." Speaking on starting with two of her sisters for the first time Meabh added: "We didn't think about it too much going into the game because we're just so focused on the game. But you know it's lovely to get the chance to play with the two of them and hopefully we will have many more days to come playing together."

Meanwhile the Camogie Association unveiled its 120th anniversary commemorative jerseys at Croke Park.

Unveiling the jerseys to coincide with the association's 120 year anniversary was Brian Molloy, president of the Camogie Association.

This launch kicks off an exciting period of celebration for the association which will see further activity at the All-Ireland finals in August, a gala dinner this summer as well as club camogie celebration days later in the year.

Speaking at the launch, Mr Molloy said: "Our UNESCO recognised national sport of camogie has been played in Ireland back through the mists of time but 2024 is a particularly big year for the association as we celebrate 120 years since our formation as a national governing body.

The jersey prices start from €35 for children and €75 for adults. The jerseys, in two bespoke designs, are manufactured by O'Neill's, and are available to purchase now from this link: https://www.oneills.com/shop-by-team/gaa-county/camogie.html.



Kerrie Finnegan from Faughs Celtic Camogie Club, and Emma O'Byrne, Good Counsel Liffey Gaels GAA and Camogie Club, wearing the Camogie Association's 120th anniversary commemorative jerseys at the launch at Croke Park. Picture: INPHO/Ben Brady



Cork's Izzy O'Regan and Laura Hayes put pressure on Clare's Caoimhe Carmody. Picture: Eamon Ward



Cork's Aishling Thompson breaks the tackle against Clare. Picture: Eamon Ward

Manley: 'The victory secures our spot in quarter-finals'

IT WAS simply a comprehensive win for Cork over Galway in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship at Cusack Park.

Right from the throw-in Cork were on the front foot and never stopped until the final whistle. The Rebels were always expected to win this game, and manager Ger Manley said they travelled up with that in mind as they knew what was at stake.

"We said to the girls before the game that this was all about qualifying and that was the main objective," said Ger, "the win means we are through to the quarter-finals of the championship and that was the most important thing out of today.

"We have three matches won and that qualifies us. I thought we started very well, we lost the toss and had to play with the wind and we got a good start.

"We took some of our chances in that half, but it's one thing we will probably

REACTION

Rory Noonan

have to improve on a bit more, taking our chances against the better sides in the games ahead.

"We created a lot of goal chances and we just didn't take them. When you're playing the better teams and no disrespect to Clare, they worked hard all through the game, but we were well on top. The second half was a non-event really."

Defensively Cork were superb and laid down the foundation for their win and Ger was quick to praise them for their efforts.

"We've a super half-back line and Laura Tracy came back as well, which is a huge plus. But Aoife Healy, Izzy O'Regan and Laura Hayes have been outstanding for us and it's making competition for places, which is what we want. Pamela Mackey was sick so Grainne Cahalane came in and did well as did Meabh Murphy and Cahalane.

"Outside them I though Ashling Thompson did very well in the first half as did Hannah Looney, and we need to get a bit of game time into Hannah with the matches coming up.

"They went short with their puck-outs and we pressed them in and our full forward line lead that. Amy O'Connor has been around for a while so she knew when to press and Katrina Mackey and Orlaith Cahalane did the same and made it difficult for them to clear when they went short."

Cork have a break next weekend before they face Dublin at home, a rest they need having had five games in six weeks.

"We'll train during the week and turn our attentions to Dublin then and we know that will be a difficult game as they have been going well. Hopefully the two weeks will give some of the players with small niggles a chance to recover and drive on from there," concluded Ger.



Cork manager Ger Manley. Picture: INPHO/Laszlo Geczo

Cork take big win in Ennis

Clare	1-4
Cork	2-19

CORK made it three from three in the group stages of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie championship after their win over Clare at Cusack Park.

CAMOGIE



Rory Noonan

By half time it was a case of what Cork were going to win by, rather than if, as they led by 2-11 to 0-1 as they were simply for too strong for the home side.

Cork took the lead in the second minute when Ashling Thompson and Saoirse McCarthy combined to set up Orlaith Cahalane to point.

With seven minutes gone Cork took a firm grip on the game when Cahalane and Pamela Mackey combined to put Amy O'Connor through and she gave Rachael Daly no chance of saving.

From the restart McCarthy added a point to make it 1-2 to no score. Two minutes later and Cork went further in front when Fiona Keating split the posts . Keating added her second to push Cork further ahead. It was all one way traffic at this stage as Cliona Healy made it 1-5 to no score after 16 minutes. It could have been worse only for a brilliant save from Daly to deny Keating what looked like a certain second goal for the Rebels.

Amy O'Connor pointed from a free after 21 minutes as Clare were yet to threaten the Cork goal, as the visitors led by 1-6 to no score. Mackey and O'Connor were among the point scorers for Cork as they led 1-11 to no score after 29 minutes. A minute later and Cahalane scored Cork's second goal, after a mix-up in the Clare defence, to more or less end this game as a contest. It took until two minutes into injury-time for Clare to register their first point when Caoimhe Carmody scored as Cork led by 2-11 to 0-1 at half time.

Healy got the first point of the second half as Cork continued to dominate, despite now playing against the strong wind.

Hannah Looney got in on the scoring act to further increase Cork's lead to 2-14 to 0-1 after 40 minutes. Two minutes later and it was a huge boost for Cork as Laura Tracey returned to action following a long injury layoff. Aine O'Loughlin pulled a point back for Clare from a free for their second point, coming after 47 minutes.

Orlaith Mullins replied for Cork to make it 2-17 to 0-2 with 10 minutes left. O'Loughlin hit two more frees for Clare and they had a late goal from Roisin Begley before Looney replied as Cork ran out comprehensive winners.

Scorers for Clare: R Begley 1-0, A O'Loughlin 0-3 f, C Carmody 0-1.

Cork: A O'Connor 1-5 (0-2 f), O Cahalane 1-4, C Healy 0-3, F Keating, H Looney 0-2 each, S McCarthy, K Mackey, O Mullins 0-1 each.

CLARE: R Daly; S Daly, C Lally, M Scanlan; E Casey, C Grogan, N Mulqueen; C Carmody, G Carmody; L Daly, A O'Loughlin, J Daly; Zi Yan Spillane, R Begley, H May Neylon.

Subs: L Ryan for C Lally (21), C Cahill for H May Neylon (37), L O'Donnell for E Casey (44), A Andersen for G Carmody (55).

CORK: A Lee; M Murphy, M Cahalane, G Cahalane; I O'Regan, A Healy, L Hayes; A Thompson, H Looney; S McCarthy, F Keating, C Healy; A O'Connor, K Mackey, O Cahalane.

Subs: K Mackey for O Mullins, C O'Sullivan for A Thompson (both ht), L Tracey for A Healy (42), S McCartan for C Healy (43), H Ryan for A O'Connor (51).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).



Cork's Hannah Looney on the move at Cusack Park, Ennis on Saturday. Picture: Eamon Ward



Cork's Sorcha McCartan kicks the ball away from Clare's Grace Carmody. Picture: Eamon Ward

Manley buoyed by Treacy return as Cork progress

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

All-Ireland champions Cork booked their qualification for the last six of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship after a third straight comfortable victory in Group 2, this time by 2-19 to 1-4 over Clare at Cusack Park.

Amy O'Connor hit 1-5 and Orlaith Cahalane 1-4 as the Leesiders cantered through. For manager Ger Manley, it was a case of job done for the table toppers. Getting Laura Treacy on after a lengthy absence with a hamstring injury, was the cherry on top.

"It was about qualifying," said Manley. "Once we won today we were qualified for the quarter-final stage with three matches won and that was the target. We started very well I thought. We lost the toss and played with the wind.

"The one thing we will have to improve against the better teams is to take our chances. We created a lot of goal chances and just didn't take them. Clare worked hard all through the game but we were well on top and the second half was a non-event really.

"We've a super half-back line and Laura Treacy came back, is a huge plus. But Aoife Healy, Izzy (O'Regan) and Laura Hayes have been playing outstanding for us and it's making competition for places. Pam (Mackey) was sick, Gráinne Cahalane came in and did OK.

"We need to get a bit of game time into Laura. You can't get challenge matches from now on. We're playing games amongst ourselves but you can't beat a bit of time on the field so 20 minutes will help her.

"She's a phenomenal player, one of the best players for the last 10 years in camogie. It's a huge plus to have her back."

Cork's clash with Galway will determine who goes directly to the semi-finals as group winners, and the league finalists had an even easier win over relegation-threatened Down at Pearse Stadium, 6-27 to 0-4.

Niamh Niland (two), Sabina Rabbitte (two), Ailish O'Reilly, and Orlaith McGrath were the goal scorers for Cathal Murray's squad.

Dublin are on the brink of a spot in the last six after defeating Wexford by 4-13 to 1-10 at Parnell Park. With Claire Gannon excelling, skipper and former All-Star full-forward Aisling Maher continuing to flourish in her new quarterback role, with the goals coming from Elyse Jamieson, Emma Flanagan, Grace O'Shea, and Aisling Gannon.

In Group 1, league champions Tipperary have also booked a return to the last six at least when maintaining their flawless record with a 1-17 to 0-6 defeat of Antrim at The Ragg.

Nine points from Cáit Devane, in her first start of the year, and a goal from Grace O'Brien were the highlights for Denis Kelly's charges and O'Brien made no bones about the desire to earn the automatic semi-final spot as group winners.

"We want to go out and win every game and if you come top of the group, you avoid a quarter-final. Last year, the quarter-finals took a lot out of us. And you're looking at getting a really good quality team in one of those quarter-finals and then having to go play a semi.

"So please God we'll go to Limerick and get a win and then hopefully against Kilkenny. It would be a big boost to ourselves to get that time off between the group stages and a semi-final so we'll be going hell for leather for that."

Kilkenny remain unbeaten as a result of their 1-13 to 1-13 draw with last year's All-Ireland finalists Waterford. Beth Carton shot nine points for the Déise girls while Mairéad O'Brien grabbed the equaliser, having grabbed her fifth goal in three outings just before half-time.

Aoife Doyle goaled for Kilkenny, while Katie Nolan and Miriam Walsh were constant threats and Sarah Barcoe and Sophie O'Dwyer came up with some big scores late on for the Noresiders.

Derry still have a chance of qualifying but it was securing senior status that would have been uppermost in their minds of this season's newcomers and they did that by virtue of a strong closing period in which they outscored Limerick by 0-8 to 0-0 to win by 0-19 to 0-13 at Owenbeg.

Áine Barton and Aoife Shaw shared 10 points between them, while Caoimhe Costelloe had six points for the visitors, who are now in relegation trouble along with Antrim.

Return of 'phenomenal' Treacy huge boost to Cork

All-Ireland champions qualify for knock-out stages with two Group 2 games to spare

BY KIERAN McCARTHY

THE return of All-Star Laura Treacy was one of the huge positives from Cork's latest All-Ireland senior camogie championship Group 2 win.

In a 2-19 to 1-4 rout of Clare in Cusack Park that guaranteed Cork's progression to the knock-out stages with two games to spare, Treacy's comeback from a hamstring injury is a timely boost for the All-Ireland champions.

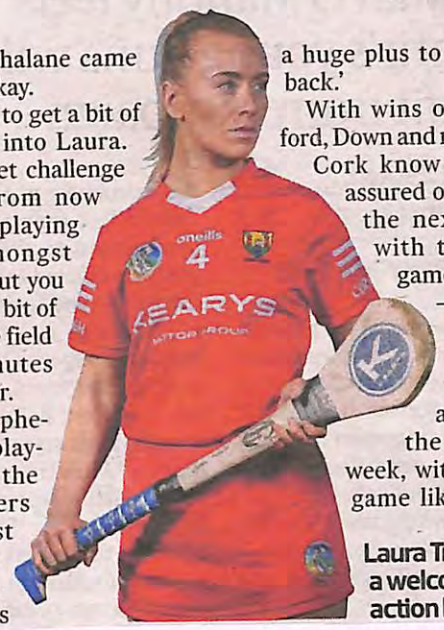
Treacy came on in the second half as Cork blitzed Clare by 18 points, with Amy O'Connor and Orlaith Cahalane hitting 1-5 and 1-4 respectively for the group leaders.

'We've a super half-back line and Laura Treacy came back, which is a huge plus,' Cork boss Ger Manley said.

'Aoife Healy, Izzy (O'Regan) and Laura Hayes have been playing outstanding for us and it's making competition for places. Pam (Mackey) was sick, Gráinne Cahalane came in and did okay.

'We need to get a bit of game time into Laura. You can't get challenge matches from now on. We're playing games amongst ourselves but you can't beat a bit of time on the field so 20 minutes will help her.

'She's a phenomenal player, one of the best players for the last ten years in camogie. It's a huge plus to have her back.'



Laura Treacy made a welcome return to action last weekend.

With wins over Wexford, Down and now Clare, Cork know they are assured of a spot in the next round, with two home games to come – the Rebels play Dublin on June 22nd and Galway the following week, with the last game likely to decide who progresses directly to the last four as group winners.

'It was about qualifying,' Manley said after the all-too-easy win against Clare.

'Once we won today we were qualified for the quarter-final stage with three matches won and that was the target. We started very well, I thought. We lost the toss and played with the wind.

'The one thing we will have to improve against the better teams is to take our chances. We created a lot of goal chances and just didn't take them.

'Clare worked hard all through the game but we were well on top and the second half was a non-event really,' Manley added.

ALL-IRELAND GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Cork	**3**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**76**	**26**	**9**
Galway	3	2	0	1	83	39	7
Dublin	3	2	1	0	57	39	6
Clare	2	1	1	0	33	51	3
Wexford	3	0	2	1	43	64	1
Down	3	0	3	0	22	95	0

'I don't know if any camogie player has done that'

Paul Keane

Enjoying her camogie more than ever and closing in on a landmark achievement which would secure her place in the history books, Niamh Rockett would have taken this.

It's almost half a lifetime ago now but at 16 she was told she could end up in a wheelchair at 30, due to knee trouble that was later diagnosed as arthritis.

She's had a series of knee operations since, has to stick to a rigorous rehab programme, and sometimes experiences "excruciating pain", but, for the most part, the former All-Star has made a mockery of the prognosis.

To the point that if 2023 finalists Waterford win this year's All-Ireland, Rockett will celebrate a remarkable personal triumph.

"My dream would be to get the junior, intermediate and senior All-Irelands," said Rockett at the launch of the GAA's Continental Youth Championships which take place next month in Boston.

"I don't know if any camogie player has done that. I don't think I'd be seen ever again if it happened. I think I'd be gone for a month. You'd need to send out a search party in Waterford for me if I got the three because I think that would be just the pinnacle of my career.

"It wouldn't be any All-Stars or Player of the Match awards, it would be getting three All-Ireland medals in three different grades. Given what happened (the wheelchair prediction) before that, it would be great."

Rockett was pulled from a game in this year's Munster championship as a precaution but has lined out in, and scored in, each of their three All-Ireland group games since. They play Antrim tomorrow, followed by a Round 5 tie against Derry, before a likely All-Ireland quarter-final fixture.

The good news for Rockett, and Waterford is that Vikki Falconer could make her return from a long-term injury against Antrim at the Loughgiel Shamrocks grounds. The All-Star's early exit in last year's All-Ireland final against Cork with a cruciate knee ligament injury was one of a number of horror stories from that day.

Falconer had been earmarked to track Amy O'Connor but injury intervened and O'Connor went on to score 3-7, including a stunning hat-trick early in the second-half.

"She would have known Amy inside out, upside down, and then she does her cruciate and Amy gets Player of the Match," said Rockett.

The Waterford attacker is quick to point out Cork were simply better on the day, no excuses. There is another curious angle to the Falconer injury.

"She told us this just the other day, she actually changed the studs on her boots to longer studs before she went up (for the final) because they said it was slippery, I think somebody had recommended it to her," said Rockett. "She said she looked back on the video again and she said she turned but her body just stayed. She sent me a picture actually, she binned them the other day. She said, 'I don't want to see these boots again'."



Cork's Fiona Nelligan and Cliona O'Callaghan tussle for the ball during their All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship game against Westmeath. Picture: Bob Morrison

Fancied Cork won't take anything for granted in Clare

TOMORROW: Glen Dimplex Intermediate Championship Round Three: Cork v Clare, Tubber, Co Clare, 12.30pm

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

THE Cork intermediate camogie team head into this round-three game of the Glen Dimplex Intermediate Championship against Clare sitting top of group 1 with two wins from two games.

Clare are chasing back-to-back wins after a defeat in round one to an Offaly side that Cork overcame in round two.

A win tomorrow would see Cork nicely positioned with games to come against Wexford and Galway, both of whom have one win to their credit.

Galway suffered their first defeat when they lost to Clare by three points recently and, having had a convincing win over the 2023 Premier Junior All-Ireland champions during the league, it was a disappointing result for Galway.

Clare are intermediate this season following a successful 2023 season that saw them crowded All-Ireland Junior champions, defeating Tipperary for what was an historic premier junior title with their second team.

The sides are no strangers to each other, having met in the last round of the Division 2B National League on March 9 in Cork where the home side recorded an 11-point victory.

That day the pressure was all on Cork. It was a game they had to win to ensure they made it through to the final, having lost to Wexford the previous week.

They had to perform and to their credit they responded well.

After a tight opening half, after which Cork led by three points, their second-half display was excellent and they put the game out of Clare's reach inside six minutes of the resumption with two Emma Flanagan goals.

Cork went on to win the league, while Clare managed to win just one game against Wexford.

We can expect to see a much improved Clare side tomorrow in their clash with Galway.

They trailed early on, but they hit Galway for 1-3 without reply in a six-minute spell with impressive displays from Kate O'Gorman, Ella Cahill, Aisling Cooney and Regan Conway which put them in control.

Goalkeeper Sophie Cullen has been in excellent form for them; Aisling Cooney has been their top scorer and John Carmody and his charges will desperately be seeking a win to keep their hopes of advancing on track.

Cork have been in excellent form, but they have lived dangerously, defeating a fancied Westmeath by two points before edging out a strong Offaly side by a point in round two.

In a game that was level on no fewer than seven occasions, Cork had to work hard to grind out a one-point win.

A Cliona O'Callaghan point three minutes into injury-time helped to just get them over the line.

Lauren Homan is an excellent free-taker and will punish any indiscretions by Clare.

In defence, Cork have been strong with Flanagan, Aoife Barrett, and Niamh O' Leary all playing well.

In each of the games, manager Donie Daly hasn't been slow to make changes and has been introducing substitutes to keep his side fresh and while Cork will be favourites, he won't be taking anything for granted.



Cork's Laura Tracey in action against Waterford's Vicki Falconer. Laura's return from injury is a huge boost as they take on Dublin tomorrow. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork set their sights on Dubs

CORK will be looking to maintain their 100% record in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland camogie championship as face Dublin tomorrow (2pm).



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

They will welcome the Dubs to Páirc Ui Chaoimh safe in the knowledge that they have already reached the knockout stages of the championship.

However, the Rebels now want to drive on and keep their 100% record to avoid a quarter-final and go straight to the semis.

They can only do that by beating Dublin tomorrow and, at the least draw with Galway in their final game.

That's assuming that Galway get their expected win over Clare tomorrow.

But Cork won't be thinking about Galway at this stage, and all of their focus is on Dublin, who are third in the table.

A win for the visitors would put them in with a chance of finishing in the top two so they will be determined to upset the odds and take the points.

Cork vice-captain, Meabh Cahalane is well aware of the danger that Dublin will pose and knows that it's going to be a tough afternoon for the hosts.

"Dublin will be a huge test for us. We knew that the last two games were always going to be our toughest games," Cahalane said.

"Dublin came into the championship, off the back of winning the one Division 1B league and they've proved to be very competitive in this group.

"So we're under no lesions that tomorrow will be a huge test for us. We're delighted that we can bring it down to Páirc Ui Chaoimh, bring them down to our home venue, and hopefully come out with the result.

"Cork County Board have been very good to us and we get the option of playing in the Páirc or at Páirc Ui Rinn, and it's great to play there. I think it suits us, suits our forwards, it's a massive pitch. So hopefully we can work that to our advantage.

"The more girls get exposure to those sorts of stadiums and those types of pitches, the more comfortable you are going into the knockout season."

The win over Clare secured Cork's place in the knockout stages, but Cahalane said they want to drive on and keep their winning run going.

"Once we beat Clare, we knew that we'd qualified, but I think an objective for us this year would be hopefully to go straight to the semi-final.

"We know we have two huge tests ahead, but we can only take it game by game. We have to go out and get a result against Dublin that will get us one step closer to getting to the semi.

"Dublin are a big physical team, they're very athletic. We'll have to match them intensity-wise and physicality, there's no point in saying if we don't match them in those areas that we'll find it easy. We are looking forward to the test and hopefully come out on the right side of the result," concluded Meabh.

While Dublin will be a threat, it would be an upset if Cork were beaten and the Rebels were boosted with the return of Laura Tracey following injury. She came on against the Banner and will be expected to be involved again tomorrow.

Others, like Orlaith Cahalane and Laura Hayes, were outstanding against Clare two weeks ago and they will be two of the players that Cork will look to to keep their winning run going ahead of their final group game against Galway a week later.



Cork's Fiona Nelligan heads for goal against Westmeath. Picture: Bob Morrison



Orlaith Cahalane, Cork, takes on Roisin Black, Galway, during their championship clash last year. Orlaith was outstanding for her side against Clare and will be hoping for more of the same tomorrow. Picture: Ray Ryan



Cork's Laura Hayes is tackled by Clare's Laura McMahon. Laura's displays so far in the championship have been key to Cork's unbeaten run so far. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Championship day a family affair for Derry players

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Championship day can be a tricky one in any household, given the various mental and physical routines and preparation, the planning and the anticipation, the frayed nerves.

Imagine then, what it has been like in the Rogers and Donnelly residences this week and this morning, where wives and husbands each have massive games to play in the coming hours.

Bríd Rogers (née McGourty) and Megan Donnelly (née Kerr) are part of the Derry team making the long trip to Páirc Lachtain in Freshford to take on unbeaten Kilkenny in a vital Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship Group 1 tie (1.30pm).

Unlike their last outing, when they secured senior status with a victory over Limerick at Owenbeg, the husbands won't be in the stands to support them.

Rogers' other half since the end of last year, Brendan, is a current football All-Star and part of the Oak Leaf squad that won the League earlier this year. They face Mayo in a tumultuous knockout clash in Castlebar this evening.

Meanwhile, Donnelly got married in April to Tyrone footballer Mattie, a dual All-Star and former All-Ireland winner with the Red Hands, who cross swords with Roscommon in Omagh. They have a young son into the bargain. Rogers says she has learned much from Brendan but laughs at how different they are too.

"I would ask Brendan how he's feeling but he doesn't give too much away," says Rogers, during a sandwich break in the Cardiac Hub at Altnagelvin Hospital, where she works as a nurse.

"I enjoy talking about my matches but whenever he's playing, it's a different story. I would talk to him more about how I'm feeling rather than him talking to me. As I said, he doesn't give too much away.

"He's helped me in lots of aspects of playing. He would have played full-forward and half-forward himself hurling for Slaughtneil so he tells me a few wee things to be doing to better myself.

"He's very much into keeping the body right, rehab and things like that. I try and follow what he's doing. It's good that way."

She will hope online connectivity holds up on the journey home as she tries to keep tabs on Brendan's clash. She will hope too, that the mood in the bus is celebratory but already, the decision to end a decade's absence form the inter-county scene has paid off.

The 29-year-old has been a regular scoring contributor as Derry have cemented senior status with two rounds still remaining, having only made the step up to the top flight last year as intermediate champions.

She wasn't involved then. Indeed prior to this year, she was a teenager when last playing county camogie, for her native Down. The Ballycran product won an All-Ireland premier junior title alongside her legendary sister Catherine in her final game in the red and black, in 2014. And then life took hold.

"For a few years, with study and things like that, I put camogie on the back burner. Now that I'm settled with the job and I'm able to get to training more often, I thought I may as well go back and play county this year.

"I was still playing away with club but after moving to Slaughtneil two years ago — last year was my first year playing camogie with Slaughtneil — but when I had the time, I thought I'd give it a go.

"It's good to be back playing and when you're playing against the better teams, you're bettering yourself. I didn't want to leave it longer. I thought it was time to get back and after Derry won the intermediate last year, it was a good chance to go back and test yourself at senior level against all those great players."

How Slaughtneil and Derry are glad she ran into Brendan and wound up in their neck of the woods. The athletic sharpshooter scored a goal and three points in the final as the Robert Emmetts won the county championship last year. When their provincial campaign ended at the semi-final stage, PJ O'Mullan was quick to get in touch.

"I'm enjoying it. I knew some of the Slaughtneil players obviously but I'm making good connections now with the rest of the panel. We planned to win the League (Division 2A) and get to Division 1B and potentially Ulster. They didn't go our way but we regrouped, a few changes were made on the pitch and it seemed to better us.

"We beat Antrim in the first round. Tipperary was a hard enough match but I felt our workrate was really good. They're a very experienced team. Then we beat Limerick so we're doing well and hopefully the next two weeks we can get a result as well."

With the primary championship target achieved, Derry are in bonus territory but while the prospect of securing a quarter-final berth might be viewed externally as unlikely, they are in bring-it-on-mode. At present, they sit in third, ahead of last year's All-Ireland finalists Waterford, who they face next weekend.

"We all had a feeling we could do it against Antrim and once we beat them, we were targeting Limerick to try stay senior but now we've done that, we're looking at the next step to try and get to an All-Ireland quarter-final, which would be huge. We just want to go out and play how we've been playing the whole championship. I know the result against Tipperary doesn't look great but our workrate was really good and it's about bringing that out the next two days."



Derry's Bríd Rogers in full flow earlier this year. we're looking at the next step to try and get to an All-Ireland quarter-final, which would be huge Picture: Ryan Byrne/Inpho

Banner bid to bounce back

Previews

Antrim v Waterford, Loughiel Shamrocks, 12.30pm
Waterford are outside the Group 1 qualification places at present, which is not what last year's runners-up would have been hoping for in their first season under Jerry Wallace's stewardship. But they still have their fate in their own hands, however, when they visit Antrim today. With the Saffrons propping up the table after three heavy defeats, anything other than a victory would be a huge shock.

Kilkenny v Derry, Freshford, 1.30pm
Derry have been one of the stories of the Glen Dimplex Championship, cementing their senior status with scalps of Antrim and Limerick. They have a free shot against Kilkenny and a win in Freshford would be their greatest in the modern era.

Limerick v Tipperary, Mick Neville Park Rathkeale, 2pm
A team with no point from three games against the form team in the country. The return of multiple All-Star Cáit Devane after missing out on the first half of the season has added to the depth of Tipp's panel.

Cork v Dublin, Páirc Uí Chaoimh, 2pm
The All-Ireland champions have cruised to three straight wins. But Dublin pushed Kilkenny close in a Leinster final and got to within three points of Galway before accounting for Wexford last week. Cork are without Libby Coppinger until the very latter stages of this competition, at least, but did welcome back Laura Treacy a fortnight ago.

Wexford v Down, New Ross, 2pm
It was always going to be a difficult summer for Down, after losing one of their greatest ever players, Niamh Mallon. Wexford should be too strong, particularly with home advantage, and after losing to Dublin last time out, must take care of business to keep their hopes of progressing to the last six alive.

Galway v Clare, Kenny Park Athenry, 3pm (Live on Official Camogie YouTube)
Galway had just three points in hand of Dublin in the opening round and then drew with Down, but Clare will be a step up. The Banner girls have beaten Down too but lost to Dublin, making their prospects of advancing to the quarter-finals quite slim. A victory here against their neighbours would put them right back in the mix.

Cork can maintain push for semi spot with another win



Cork manager Ger Manley.

DEFENDING champions Cork will look to maintain their 100 percent record in Group 2 of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship when they host Dublin this Saturday at Super Valu Páirc Uí Chaoimh (2pm).

With three wins from three games, Ger Manley's team top the group on nine points, ahead of Galway on seven points while Dublin sit on six followed by Clare (3), Wexford (1) and Down (0). Already assured of their place in the knock-out stages, Cork will want to nail down one of the two semi-final spots on offer to the top team in both Group 1 and Group 2; the semi-finals are on July 27th. The second and third placed teams in each group will advance to the quarter-finals.

A win over Dublin will keep Cork on target for the automatic semi-final place ahead of what looks like a showdown for the Group 2 top spot against Galway the following Saturday (June 29th). Cork beat Clare 2-19 to 1-4 last time out, a game notable also for the comeback of Laura Treacy after a hamstring injury.



Rósí Herlihy of Granagh Ballingarry in action against Holly Ryan of Bennettsbridge during the John West Féile na nGael finals at Wexford GAA Centre of Excellence. *Picture by Harry Murph*

Tribe and Kilkenny show championship strength

● Galway and Kilkenny have joined champions Cork and Very League Division 1A winners Tipperary in the knockout stages of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship as a result of convincing victories yesterday.

The identity of the last pair will not be confirmed until next weekend's final round of group games and though last year's runners-up Waterford and League Division 1B victors Dublin are in pole position, that could easily change.

Clare made the trip to Kenny Park, Athenry to take on their neighbours harbouring their own hopes of emerging from Group 2 but while they remain in contention for a quarter-final berth after their 3-19 to 0-7 loss to the Niamh Mallon-inspired Galway, they are up against it now.

Club mourns young player's passing

Breda Graham

TRIBUTES have been paid to a young Cork camogie player who passed away unexpectedly this week.

Glen Rovers Camogie Club are mourning the loss of their senior star player, Sarah-Kate O'Meara, who turned 18 just last week.

The student recently fell ill before leaving her home to sit one of her Leaving Cert exams. She was rushed to the Mater Hospital in Dublin, before she passed away.

Following her unexpected death, the club shared tributes on social media expressing their heartbreak.

"It is with deep sadness and a heavy heart that we inform you of the death of our beautiful young player, Sarah-Kate O'Meara," the club wrote.

"She was a cherished member of our club. Our hearts are broken, but we will never forget her and her spirit in our camogie family."

As a mark of respect, the club has opened a book of condolence at the club bar. It will be available for those who wish to pay their respects to sign until Saturday.

Glen Rovers Hurling Club joined the camogie club in expressing their condolences to the O'Meara family.

"We join with our camogie club in extending deepest sympathy to the O'Meara family on the passing of Sarah-Kate. To her family, team-mates, and to our camogie club goes our sympathy and support at this difficult time. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam," the club wrote on social media.

Glen Rovers clubman and three-time Cork All-Ireland winner Tomás Mulcahy also expressed his sympathies.

"Tragic news to hear of the unexpected death of Glen Rovers camogie player Sarah-Kate O'Meara. My thoughts and prayers are with the O'Meara family and her Glen camogie girls. May she rest in peace," he said.

Blackpool's St Nicholas Gaelic Football Club also joined in expressing their sympathies to Sarah-Kate's family, club members, and friends.



Sarah-Kate O'Meara, 18, died suddenly earlier this week. Picture: Glen Rovers Camogie Club

Sarah-Kate is sadly missed by her parents Tony and Diann and siblings Emily, Isobel, James, and Grace, extended family, neighbours, and her wide circle of friends.

Funeral arrangements have been announced for this weekend with donations, if desired, to the Irish Heart Foundation.

Reposing at her home today — with visitation from 4pm and prayers at 8pm — the requiem Mass will take place tomorrow at 11am in the Church of the Ascension in Gurranabraher, followed by burial at St Catherine's Cemetery in Kilcully.

Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship
Group 1: Waterford 3-18 Antrim 1-8; Tipperary 7-18 Limerick 0-6; Kilkenny 4-17 Derry 0-7
Group 2: Cork 4-22 Dublin 0-5; Wexford 7-12 Down 0-7; Galway 3-19 Clare 0-7
Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship
Group 1: Cork 6-12 Clare 1-5; Offaly 3-14 Wexford 0-4; Galway 1-17 Westmeath 2-7
Group 2: Kerry 3-13 Carlow 1-10; Kilkenny 2-10 Dublin 1-13; Meath 12-20 Antrim 0-1
Glen Dimplex Premier Junior All-Ireland Championship
Group 1: Armagh 9-18 Wicklow 2-5; Tyrone 4-20 Down 1-6
Group 2: Cavan 2-11 Roscommon 0-15; Laois 9-15 Mayo 1-2

Glen Dimplex Senior Camogie Championship
Cork v Dublin in Super Valu Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Saturday at 2pm

Cork's comfortable win over Clare last time out guaranteed the reigning champions a quarter-final spot with 2 games remaining at the very least and with both of them at home, Ger Manley will be targeting the direct route to the semi-final.

After the Clare game last year's captain Amy O'Connor said: "It was a good enough display but still areas we need to improve on and we can work on them in training as we have a gap until our next game."

The match was effectively over by half-time as Cork had built up a commanding lead and that might have affected a disjointed 2nd half. "Probably did but it's something we will want to get out of our game, deliver a consistent 60 plus minutes display with tougher tests awaiting us."

As for Ger he was pleased, "especially getting game time into the panel and we got 20 minutes from Laura Tracey in her first outing of the championship after her injury and that was important, as was making sure we are into the knockout phase with 2 games to go."

Dublin are next up: "They are improving all the time chasing down probably 3rd place at this stage sot it will make for an interesting game and with it being in Páirc Uí Chaoimh also really looking forward to it."

Of their 3 games Dublin have won 2, beating Clare and Wexford and led Galway for long periods before eventually losing by just 3 points and look in a good position to take that 3rd spot and a place in the quarter-final.

Glen Dimplex Intermediate Camogie Championship
Cork v Clare in Tubber, Co. Clare on Saturday at 12.30pm

Cork like their senior counterparts are unbeaten following victories over 2 of the more fancied teams in the group, Offaly and Westmeath both 1st teams of their counties.

Clare have 1 win from their 2 games - that was away against Galway, but were well beaten by Offaly. They won the All-Ireland Junior Championship have beaten Tipperary in the final and earning promotion to the higher grade.

The sides met in the league and Cork emerged comfortable winners on their way to retaining the title.

Rachel Kelly, Sinead O'Keeffe, Eimear Begley, Ella Cahill and Mary Hanrahan are key players for the Banner girls as they go in search of their 2nd win.

Cork have been impressive in their wins and have shown resilience when games looked like going away from them.

Lauren Homan has been the main scorer, getting excellent back up from Niamh O'Leary, Tara McCarthy, Cliona O'Callaghan, Niamh O'Regan, Laura Doyle and Olivia McCarthy. Cork look better balanced and it will be a surprise if they don't make it 3 wins from 3.

In fact could we have the ultimate result with all 4 Cork teams winning - best of luck to all!



Cork's Niamh O'Regan tries to get away from Offaly's Deirdre Cashen, during their intermediate clash at Castle Road. Picture: David Keane

Underage quarter and semi-finals on horizon as leagues wind down

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

U14 and U16 league games in all sections are coming to concluding stages with all the group games almost completed, and draws were made recently for the quarter, semi and final stages.

PREMIER U16

Four teams have qualified for the semi-finals, Douglas will meet Aghabullogue and Newtownshandrum are drawn to meet Sarsfields 1.

PREMIER 2 U16

The second-placed teams in each group went forward to the Premier 2 semi-finals and here St Catherine's will met Sliabh Rua and Inniscarra take on Ballincollig 1.Semi-finals to be played on or before June 17, final on June 24.

U16 A

In U16 A four teams advanced to the quarter-finals with Cloughduv meeting Kilworth and St Finbarr's taking on Castlemartyr. Ballyhea and Blarney await the quarter-final winners. The quarter finals are to be played on or before June 17 with semi-finals on or before June 24 and finals down for decision on July 1.

U16 B

Four quarter-finals will be played on or before June 17, Milford will play Ballinora, Banteer meet Courcey Rovers, Barryroe will play Ballygarvan, and St Fanahan's meet Newcestown.

St Fanahan's or Newcestown will play Barryroe or Ballygarvan in one semi-final with Milford or Ballinora meeting Banteer or Courcey Rovers. Both semi-finals will be on or before June 24; the final is on July t.

U16 C

There are still games to be played before all the quarter-finalists are known, but Dungourney and Bride Rovers are through, with the games set for June 17 and 19. St Vincent's and Watergrashill are through to the semi-finals, June 24-26, with the final scheduled for July 1.

U16 B2

The U16 B2 is for clubs with second teams and there are still games to be played before all the semi-finalists are known, with Sarsfields 2 and Carrigaline through. The semis will be on or before June 19 with the final down for July 6.

U14 A

There are two quarter-finals, Cloughduv meet Youghal and Nemo Rangers will play Kilbrittain/Timoleague, to be played on or before June 15. Ballyhea and St Fanahan's are through to the semi-final which is to be played on or before June 22, with the final down for decision on June 29.

U14 B

Four quarter-finals in U14 B will be played on or before June 15, with Erin's Own v Fr O'Neill's, Ballygarvan meeting Mallow, Inniscarra will play Fermoy and it's Banteer against Bandon. The winners of Inniscarra-Fermoy will play Ballygarvan-Mallow, with Erin's Own or Fr O'Neill's against the winners of Banteer-Bandon, on or before June 22. The final is fixed for June 30.

U14 C

Quarter-finalists have yet to be decided for two slots, but Kildorrey will meet Enniskeane, and Aghada will play Courcey Rovers. Grenagh and Rockban are through and are awaiting their opponents, on or before June 15.

The final to be played by June 30.



Down's Clara Cowan watches her hurley fly towards Ashling Thompson. Picture: Declan Roughan/Press Eye



The Cork squad line up against Dublin during the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Ger Manley on Cork's demolition of Dublin: 'we were very sharp'

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

The Cork senior camogie team put in another top-class display against Dublin on Saturday as they bid to retain their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland title.

The Rebels were ruthless as they dismantled Dublin to set up a huge game against Galway next Saturday.

The final scoreline of 4-22 to 0-5 tells its own story as Dublin were no match for Cork, despite their impressive performances to date.

Cork manager Ger Manley was happy with his side's performance, but knows tougher tests lie ahead, starting next Saturday against Galway.

Cork would probably have wished for a closer game ahead of their tie with the Tribeswomen as Ger pointed out how well Dublin had done so far.

"Dublin were a test really like, did very well in the league. They won Division 1B and ran Kilkenny close in the Leinster championship," said Ger.

"They played very well against Galway in the first section of the league and they hammered Wexford last week. So we were expecting a very good game and look we got a very good start.

"Amy O'Connor was on fire and so was Katrina Mackey and I think everything just gelled for us early on. I thought girls attitude and application was excellent. We're using our squad well and I thought it was a very good performance.

"We have been getting better as the year has gone on and I always say about Cork hurlers is that they like the summer days, like the hard ground and it's the same with the camogie players, they're exceptionally good hurlers.

"Their skill level is so high and we've been so good in the last couple of weeks in training. I just thought we were very sharp today. But look, there is something to work on every day and Dublin will be disappointed with their own performance, but we can only beat what's in front of us."

Cork kept Dublin scoreless from play for the entire game, something that Ger was very happy with.

"Defensively I thought we were very strong. We lost Meabh Cahalane during the week and Izzy O'Regan had a bit of a strain as well. You saw what came in and both Niamh O'Callaghan and Hannah Looney did very well and I suppose it's the hallmark of a good side that your defence is strong."

On the injuries to the two players Ger added: "Izzy should be ok for next weekend, but Meabh won't be. She has a bit of a hamstring strain and is probably out for three or four weeks.

"We have a very tough match against Galway now next Saturday and we need to focus on that now."



Cork manager Ger Manley was happy with his side's performance against Dublin at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Cork's Amy McCarthy gets away from Galway's Roisin Crowe and Siobhan Carr during their U16 All Ireland Championship game. McCarthy is one of two Cork players named in the team of the year. Picture: Jim Coughlan.

Two Cork players named on minor team of the year

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE sport of camogie was honoured in the last week as Electric Ireland put the spotlight on 15 players from this season's minor championship when the Minor Team of the Year was unveiled.

This season, as in previous ones, saw some exceptional performances across all games.

Cork were bidding for three in a row but lost to Waterford in the semi-final.

Tipperary emerged as champions, claiming the All-Ireland title for the first time since 2016 with a strong Waterford side runners-up having reached their second consecutive final.

Tipperary are well represented in the team of the year, with six players; Waterford have three, while semi-finalists, Kilkenny and Cork are have three and two players respectively, while Galway have one on the team.

The year's Electric Ireland Minor Player of the Year is Tipperary's Sarah Corcoran; the Moycarkey-Borris player captained her side to All-Ireland victory with a string of outstanding performances in the competition.

Corcoran was hugely influential in the Tipperary defence all through the campaign and she shone in the All-Ireland final where she also picked up the Player of the Match award.

One of the players named on the 15 has already gone on to play in this year's senior championship with Waterford's Maggie Gostl announcing her arrival on the senior stage against Limerick, grabbing the first of what is likely to be many goals at this level.

Cork's Amy McCarthy from Clonakilty and Ballinora's Rachel Murphy were worthy recipients; both were outstanding as Cork reached the semi-final and both are players who will, no doubt, go on to greater things.

Speaking at the announcement, Camogie Association president Brian Molloy said: "I would like to extend our congratulations to all who participated in this year's Electric Ireland Camogie Minor Championship, with special mention to the 15 players represented on the team of the year.

"Your performances throughout the season served as a wonderful example of the skill and passion of these championships, and we hope you are proud to be recognised this year. Our thanks to Electric Ireland for their support and promotion of these games and players."

Interim group sponsorship & PR manager at Electric Ireland Máire Scull paid tribute to the young players.

"We are delighted to announce the 2024 Electric Ireland Minor Star Camogie Team of the Year, in our second year of partnership with the Camogie Association. We have so enjoyed supporting these players and watching their incredible performances throughout the year.

"Congratulations to each of the players and counties recognised on this year's Camogie Minor Star Team of the Year."

ELECTRIC IRELAND CAMOGIE MINOR TEAM OF THE YEAR

Katelyn Gardner (Waterford), Paula Quirke (Tipperary), Aoife Mellerick (Tipperary), Rachel Phelan (Kilkenny), Eabha Dolan (Tipperary), Sarah Corcoran (Tipperary), Abbie Burrows (Waterford), Ciara O'Shea (Kilkenny), Amy McCarthy (Cork), Ciara Dunne (Kilkenny), Lucy Purcell (Tipperary), Rachel Murphy (Cork), Caoimhe Kelly (Galway), Caoimhe Stakelum (Tipperary), Maggie Gostl (Waterford).



Cork's Rachel Murphy challenges Galway's Amy Sheppard during their U16 All-Ireland Championship game. Murphy was named on the minor team of the year. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Cork's Lauren Homan scores another goal against Clare in their Intermediate camogie clash at Tubber. Picture: Eamon Ward

Cork hammer Clare with Homan and Dooley in lethal form

Clare	1-5
Cork	6-13

CAMOGIE

Derek Dormer

THE early exchanges of this intermediate camogie contest were as frenetic as one could imagine.

Both sides were putting their bodies on the line in pursuit of glory with hooks, blocks, and tackles the dominant feature of a riveting opening 10 minutes.

Ballinora's Cliona Dooley opened the scoring in the third minute with a fine individual point. Scores were then traded with converted frees from Lauren Homan and Aisling Cooney respectively.

Homan fired a point when Cork wing-back Avril Cashman looked out over the sideline but play continued, which led to heated exchanges between management and officials.

Clare seemed visibly rattled though star forward Cliona Dooley pounced for the opening major when gathering possession out on the touchline before beating two defenders and rifling to the net. Moments later a long delivery caused consternation in the Banner defence and Dooley was on hand once more to blast home.

The game seemed to be heading in one direction only, but Clare regrouped and finished the half strongly raiding for 1-2 with Aisling Cooney grabbing the goal to make it a five-point game at the break with the Rebels leading 2-5 to 1-3.

When play resumed the visiting Cork side had the dream start with corner forward Niamh O'Regan superbly dispatching to the net from close range. The remainder of the contest was entirely played in the Clare half as Cork upped the ante and effortlessly moved through the gears. Moving the sliotar at pace through the lines they created a series of goal chances and the imperious centre-forward Homan most certainly capitalised when raising three green flags.

Some of Homan's finishes were of the highest quality and there is no doubt she has a bright future ahead. For the Banner it was a tough day at the office as they simply had no answer to the pace and precision of the Rebel.

The final quarter saw Cork ease to the finish keeping the scoreboard ticking over with a succession of superb points.

Best for the winners were Lauren Homan, Cliona Dooley, and Cliona O'Callaghan while Sinead O'Keeffe and Jennifer Nicholas tried valiantly for the home team.

Scorers for Clare: A Cooney 1-2 (0-2 f), E Cahill 0-2 f, S O'Keeffe 0-1.

Cork: L Homan 3-3 (0-2 f), C Dooley 2-5, N O'Regan 1-1, C O'Callaghan 0-2, E Curtin, E Duignan 0-1 each.

CLARE: S Cullen, R Crowe, R Kelly, M O'Connor, C Ryan, S O'Keeffe, G McMahon, E Begley, J Nicholas, A Cooney, R Conway, M Millea, A McNamara, M Hanrahan, O Phelan.

Subs: B Wiley Murphy for M O'Connor (29), E Cahill for M Hanrahan (HT), A Moroney for E Begley (42), E McInerney for R Kelly (43), E Rynne for A Cooney (46), M Hanrahan for G McMahon (50).

CORK: C Hurley, A Barrett, N O'Leary, E Flanagan, A Cashman, O McAllen, M Ring, H O'Leary, L Buttimer, E O'Donoghue, L Homan, E Sheehan, N O'Regan, C O'Callaghan, C Dooley.

Subs: E Duignan for H O'Leary (40), E Curtin for N O'Regan (45), O Keating for E Sheehan (50), A Egan for A Barrett (52).

Referee: Patrick Murphy



Cork's Emily O'Donoghue and Clare's Aisling Moloney in action. Picture: Eamon Ward



Cork's Laura Treacy breaks from Dublin's Áine Rafter and Grace O'Shea during their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship game at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Four-goal Cork run riot as they destroy Dublin



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

Cork	4-22
Dublin	0-5

CORK maintained their 100% record in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie championship after their win over Dublin at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

This was always a game the Rebels were supposed to win and three first-half goals, two from Amy O'Connor, ensured there wasn't going to be an upset.

Cork were in control from the start, with their half-back line controlling the game and setting up attack after attack.

Such was Cork's dominance, Dublin failed to score from play for the entire game.

This was another impressive display from the Rebels who are getting better with every game. Defensively they are rock solid as they lay down the foundation for the forwards to run riot.

Before the ball was thrown in there was a minute's silence in memory of Glen Rovers teenager player, Sarah Kate O'Meara, who sadly passed away in recent days.

As well as being an accomplished camogie player she was also a talented runner.

Ashling Maher opened the scoring for Dublin from a free in the first minute, with Fiona Keating replying for Cork.

With four minutes gone the Rebels took the lead when Katrina Mackey set up O'Connor to raise a green flag.



Cork's Saoirse McCarthy goes past Dublin's Aoife McKearney during their championship clash. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

From the restart Saoirse McCarthy added a point as Cork led 1-2 to 0-1 after four minutes.

O'Connor added a point from a free and she was involved in setting up Cliona Healy for Cork's fourth point.

Keating added another before Cork got their second goal.

O'Connor and Healy combined to set up Mackey and she rounded the keeper to make it 2-5 to 0-1 with 13 minutes gone.

Another free, this time from Aoife McKearney, saw Dublin get their second point as they were finding it difficult to break down the Cork defence.

Another Maher free made it 2-6 to 0-3 with 20 minutes gone, before Healy was on target again to keep Cork well ahead.

O'Connor pointed another free as this game was well over as a contest even at this early stage.

That was compounded in the last five minutes of the half as Cork hit 1-5 without reply before the break; two from Healy and three points from O'Connor made it 2-11 to 0-3 just before the half time whistle and with the last shot of the half O'Connor got her second, and Cork's third goal to leave it 3-11 to 0-3.

Two early points, from Keating and Sorcha McCartan, kept the scoreboard ticking over for Cork as they continued to dominate all over the pitch.

O'Connor added another from a free as Cork led by 3-14 to 0-3 after 40 minutes.

Sinead Nolan, not long on as a sub, got Dublin's fourth point from another free.

O'Connor, also from a free, replied for Cork to make it 3-15 to 0-4 after 45 minutes.

Niamh Comerford pointed from a 45 for Dublin as the game hit the 50-minute mark.

Laura Hayes and Ashling Thompson were among the point scorers, along with a goal from Ciara O'Sullivan, as Cork finished strongly to run out comprehensive winners.

They will face Galway next Saturday in their final group game and a win will guarantee Cork go straight to the semi-finals.

Scorers for Cork: A O'Connor 2-7 (5f, 45), K Mackey 1-5 (4f), C O'Sullivan 1-0, F Keating, C Healy 0-3 each, S McCarthy, A Thompson, L Hayes, S McCartan 0-1 each.

Dublin: A Maher 0-2 (2f), A McKearney, S Nolan, 0-1 each (all frees), N Comerford 0-1 (45).

CORK: A Lee; M Murphy, N O'Callaghan, P Mackey; H Looney, L Treacy, L Hayes; A Thompson, A Healy; S McCarthy, F Keating, C Healy; A O'Connor, K Mackey, S McCartan.

Subs: C Finn for S McCartan, C O'Sullivan for S McCarthy, G Cahalane for L Tracey (all 40), R Harty for A Healy (46), O Cahalane for A O'Connor (51).

DUBLIN: A Gorman; A Ryan, E O'Byrne, L Sharkey; C Gannon, K Finnegan, A McKearney; A Rafter, N Gannon; A Heffernan, E Jamieson-Murphy, G O'Shea; H O'Dea, A Maher, A Gannon.

Subs: E Flanagan for A Maher (37), S Nolan for A McKearney (39), N Comerford for G O'Shea (40).

Referee: Donnacha O'Callaghan, Limerick.

Manley: We want direct route to semi-finals

Cork and Galway to fight it out for top spot in Group 2

BY SEÁN HOLLAND

CORK camogie boss Ger Manley is gearing up for a crucial All-Ireland Glen Dimplex Senior Championship Group 2 tie against Galway this Saturday in Páirc Uí Chaoimh (4pm), with a place in the semi-finals at stake.

The importance of the final group game is not lost on Manley, who is well aware that a win or draw would secure All-Ireland champions Cork's progression directly to the semi-finals, and help avoid the quarter-final round the following week.

The Rebels are coming into this game off the back of a 4-22 to 0-5 demolition of Dublin of which Manley was very pleased with.

'We were expecting a big test from Dublin coming down. They did well in the league and had a big win against Wexford so we were expecting a good game, but I thought we played very well in the first 20 minutes where we killed the game off. I think they found it hard to get back into it then,' he explained.

While Cork won the last championship meeting against Galway in 2023, the Tribeswomen defeated the Rebels back in a Division 1 league game in March. Manley knows the threat Galway possess, but is also well aware that he has a squad at his disposal, if they perform to their abilities, are very tough to beat.


Cork camogie manager Ger Manley.

'We're looking to win this and get straight through to the semi-finals,' he explained.

'We've had some great battles with Galway since I've been involved. It was a big game last year when we beat them in the semi-final. They were kind of our Achilles Heel up to that point since I was involved.

'We're expecting a tough battle. Galway have been the consistent team for the last couple of years so we're just hoping that we can perform. If we perform, it will take a good team to beat us,' admitted Manley.

Securing a win against Galway is not just about advancing into the semi-final for Cork, it's about maintaining peak performance and conserving energy for the crucial stages of the championship.

'I think it's a very tough situation where the top two teams in a group have to meet in the last game. Where last year, we met Galway first, we were beaten in the group stage, and then we just built it up gradually after that. Whereas now, if you lose this, you'll be after a tough game, and you'd be out again in the All-Ireland quarter-final the following week. I think it's important to win this, and we're going all out to win on Saturday,' Manley said.

ALL-IRELAND GROUP 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Cork	**4**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**110**	**31**	**12**
Galway	4	3	0	1	111	46	10
Dublin	4	2	2	0	62	73	6
Wexford	4	1	2	1	76	71	4
Clare	4	1	3	0	40	79	3
Down	4	0	4	0	29	128	0

Defending champions Cork close in on All-Ireland semi-final after hammering Dubs

CORK	**4-22**
DUBLIN	**0-5**

GER McCARTHY REPORTS

VICTORY over Dublin means Cork will qualify directly for the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland camogie senior championship semi-finals if they avoid defeat to Galway on Saturday.

Last weekend's facile win sees Cork return to Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Saturday with a shot at reaching the last four of the All-Ireland senior championship.

Amy O'Connor top scored with 2-7, Katrina Mackey added 1-5 and there were encouraging displays from long-term injury absentees Ciara O'Sulliva, who netted a fine goal, and Laura Treacy.

Nine different scorers, keeping Dublin scoreless from open play and delivering a 60-minute performance are what pleased Cork manager Ger Manley the most.

'We got off to a very good start with Amy O'Connor on fire inside with Katrina Mackey,' Manley told *The Southern Star*.

'Everything gelled for us early on. The girls' attitude and application was excellent. We are using our squad well. It was a very good performance.

'I always say about Cork GAA that we like the summer days and the hard ground. It is the same with Cork camogie. They are exceptional players, their skill levels are so high and we have been so good the last couple of weeks in training. I thought we were very sharp today.

Having already secured a knock-out phase spot, Cork were keen to maintain their unblemished championship record. Ger Manley replaced Izzy O'Regan and Orlaith Cahalane with Hannah Looney and Cliona Healy ahead of the throw-in. Méadbh Cahalane was a notable absentee in a Cork team that built a 1-5 to 0-1 lead after ten minutes.

Ashling Maher opened the scoring from a free but Fiona Keating (two), Saoirse McCarthy, Cliona Healy and 1-1 from Amy O'Connor had the Rebels in control. Unable to stem the tide, the visitors fell further behind when Cliona Healy set up Katrina Mackey to side-step Dublin goalkeeper Amy Gorman and fire into an empty net.

Aoife McKearney and Ashling Maher landed frees for a Dublin side that endured a torrid first half. Undeterred, Ger Manley's All-Ireland champions refused to take their foot off the gas. Amy O'Connor took her personal tally to 1-5 before finding the net for a second time. A 3-11 to 0-3 interval lead did not flatter the hosts.

'Everything gelled for us early on. The girls' attitude and application was excellent'

The second period proved equally one-sided with Cork stretching their lead, 3-16 to 0-4, heading into the closing quarter. Katrina Mackey took over the free-taking duties from a substituted Amy O'Connor before another sub, Ciara O'Sullivan, goaled to seal a 4-22 to 0-5 triumph.

O'Sullivan was thrilled to raise a green flag having returned this year from a long-term injury.

'I'm delighted, to be fair,' O'Sullivan beamed.

'It has been a tough road, especially at the start of this year. I had the opportunity to play with the (Cork) intermediates and the opportunity to get asked to play here (seniors). If I have any opportunity to get on this team and score, I'll take it.

'All the work the girls put in, the whole game, scoring four goals was excellent.

'I think any opportunity we get to beat Galway, we go for it. Look, they are a brilliant team. Any time we have come up against them, it has been a great game. Last year, we beat them for the first time in three years so hopefully we can take the confidence from our campaign so far and bring it into next Saturday.'



Cork's Ciara O'Sullivan scores her team's fourth goal during the emphatic championship win against Dublin. (Photo: David Ribeiro)

Scorers

Cork: Amy O'Connor 2-7 (5f, 1 45); Katrina Mackey 1-5 (4f); Ciara O'Sullivan 1-0; Cliona Healy, Fiona Keating 0-3 each; Saoirse McCarthy, Laura Hayes, Ashling Thompson, Sorcha McCartan 0-1 each.

Dublin: Ashling Maher 0-2 (2f); Niamh Comerford (1 45), Aoife McKearney (1f), Sinead Nolan (1f) 0-1 each.

Cork: Amy Lee; Meadbh Murphy, Niamh O'Callaghan, Pamela Mackey; Hannah Looney, Laura Treacy, Laura Hayes; Ashling Thompson, Aoife Healy; Saoirse McCarthy, Fiona Keating, Cliona Healy; Amy O'Connor, Katrina Mackey, Sorcha McCartan.

Subs: Clodagh Finn for S McCartan (40), Ciara O'Sullivan for S McCarthy (40), Grainne Cahalane for L Treacy (40), Rachel Harty for A Healy (46), Orlaith Cahalane for A O'Connor (50).

Dublin: Amy Gorman; Abby Ryan, Emma O'Byrne, Laura Sharkey; Claire Gannon, Kerrie Finnegan, Aoife McKearney; Áine Rafter, Niamh Gannon; Aoife Heffernan, Elyse Jamieson-Murphy, Grace O'Shea; Hannah O'Dea, Ashling Maher (captain), Aisling Gannon.

Subs: Emma Flanagan for A Maher (37), Sinead Nolan for A McKearney (39), Niamh Comerford for G O'Shea (42).

Referee: Donnacha O'Callaghan (Limerick).

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Our Star: Plenty of contenders thanks to Laura Hayes, Amy O'Connor, Cliona Healy and Katrina Mackey's efforts. Defender **Laura Treacy** gets the nod for another all-action display.

Star moment: For sheer nonchalance, Katrina Mackey's side-step before firing into the net was pure class.

Talking point: No Meadbh Cahalane, Libby Coppinger, Izzy O'Regan or Orlaith Cahalane in Cork's starting line-up, yet the Rebels cruised to victory – Ger Manley has built a quality panel.

What's next? Cork meet Galway in their final group fixture in Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Saturday.

Cork camogie teams are chasing semi-final spots



Finbarr Mc Carthy

The focus this week is very much on camogie as the Cork Senior and Intermediate teams bid to maintain their unbeaten runs and in the process secure direct routes to the last four of their respective championships.

Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship
Cork v Galway Saturday SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh 4pm

"Very happy with the win and the overall display we were very sharp all over the field and had the game sewn up well before half-time" Cork senior manager Ger Manley on the emphatic win over Dublin last Saturday.

He kept referring to the depth of the squad being very important as they head into the business end of the season: "Very much so we picked up a few knocks, the most serious is that to Meabh (Cahalane) who is likely be out for a few weeks, which is a pity as she is playing very well, but that's the nature of sport, so that affords another player an opportunity to put her hand up."

Laura Tracey who returned during the Clare game and played the full 60 minutes last week pleased the manager.

He said: "Yeah it's great Laura is a big and experienced player for us and we are delighted that she is back."

The other pleasing aspect is the capacity to run up big scores: "We are delighted with that, even on a very poor day weather wise against Wexford our shooting was spot and we have continued that in all our games and it's brilliant that the forwards are taking the chances we are creating."

Pace is another area in which this team has in abundance and with the firming up of the grounds it is showing, Laura Hayes, Saoirse Mc Carthy and Amy O'Connor are in flying form right now.

Playing in SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh is also very important as Ger explained: "The further you go in the championship the bigger the pitches and I must say the pitch in the Park is in the best condition I have ever seen and all credit to the ground staff it's a pleasure to play and certainly suits our style of play."

Ironically the last time Cork lost was to Saturday's opposition, a defeat that ended Cork's league aspirations and Ger knows this is a team that they have had difficulties with in the past.

"There is no doubt about that, we did beat them in the All-Ireland semi-final last year and even then that was tight, they are a good team with some excellent players," he said.

Even though both sides are assured of progressing Ger makes no secret of the desire within the group to make it directly into the semi-final: "No question we set at the start of the championship to win every game we play and so far we have done that, win on Saturday and we have a month to the semi-final that is our aim, it gives players a chance to recover from any knocks and also to get another good block of work done."

Galway had a minor stutter early on when they drew with Wexford, that coming just after losing the league final to Tipperary, and unlike Cork they had no provincial championship so they might have been a bit ring rusty but they have recovered and shown impressive form in their subsequent games.

Niamh Kilkenny, Ailish O'Reilly, Niamh Mc Peake, Sabina Rabbitte and Orlaith Mc Grath are others who impressed for Galway and they will relish the trip to Leeside and a venue where they have won before.

There is a slight doubt about Carrie Dolan as she picked up a knock in the easy win over Clare last Saturday.

Cork even without Meabh Cahalane are still very strong, Ashling Thompson, the Mackey sisters Catriona and Pamela, Fiona Keating, Orlaith Cahalane, Amy Lee are experienced enough to know what to expect from Galway and will be ready for the challenge.

With a semi-final spot at stake, playing at home and determined to maintain their winning run, Cork look well equipped to take the spoils.

Tipperary look set to get the other semi-final spot, with Kilkenny, Galway, Waterford, Derry and Dublin despite last week's heavy defeat in contention for the quarter-final places, which will be played in Croke Park as curtain-raisers to next week's hurling semi-finals.

Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship
Cork v Wexford Saturday Buffer's Alley 2pm

With 2 games remaining cork sit top of their group with 3 wins from 3 and face a Wexford side who have yet to record a win the championship, but they did beat Cork when the sides met in the league.

Subsequently Cork recovered and went on to win the league and have shown excellent form in the championship to date.

Along the way they have beaten both Offaly and Westmeath who are both fielding their 1st teams and that is commendable, and in those wins they dug them out when it looked like they were going to lose.

In their last game they ran up a big score against Clare with Lauren Homan leading the way with 3-3, while Cliona Dooley chipped in with 2-5.

Defensively they were solid and have been all season the vastly experienced Niamh O'Leary, along with Olivia Mc Allen, Aoife Barrett and Laura Doyle have kept the best in check.

Like their senior counterparts a win will see them into the semi-finals, with a game to spare, Galway at home on Saturday week, and on current form they should achieve that, with a bit to spare.

Finally on camogie, it was a very sad week for Glen Rovers and the O'Mara family with the untimely passing of 18 year old Sarah Kate a valued player with both minor and senior teams.

The support from the camogie clubs in the county and beyond to the family and the Glen Club was incredible showing beyond doubt what a wonderful unit it really is.

The visit by Camogie President Brian Molly to the family home and to Glen Rovers was also a measure of respect and was greatly appreciated.

Our heartfelt sympathy to all Sarah Kate's family Tony, Diann, Emily, Isobel, Grace and James her team mates and club officials in Glen Rovers Camogie Club. Rest in peace.



Laura Hayes of Cork in action against Sarah Lacey of Waterford during the Munster Senior Camogie Championship final match between Cork and Waterford at FBD Semple Stadium in Thurles, Tipperary. PHOTO: BRENDAN MORAN/SPORTSFILE

Our hearts went out to Falconer, recalls Wallace

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Waterford manager Jerry Wallace has recalled how he empathised with Vikki Falconer leaving the field in the opening minutes of last year's Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie final, even as a Corkman supporting the Rebels on the day.

Falconer suffered a torn ACL but did collect an All-Star as the outstanding marker in the country during a campaign that brought the Déise to an All-Ireland decider for the first time since 1945.

"Vikki is one of those players that has given her life to camogie," said Wallace on WLR this week. "What happened her in the All-Ireland final last year, no matter who you were — I was following Cork that day — our hearts went out to her because she is a tremendous player and we were all looking forward to seeing her battle with Amy O'Connor that day.

"Vikki has been meticulous. I remember I met her in December in Dungarvan at the very first training session when we got together. She came over to me, coat on and tracksuit, and she said: 'Jerry, will you keep me in the programme?' I said, there was never any doubt that I was keeping her in the programme and we would assist her in any way to get back."

Falconer got some gametime in the victory over Antrim last Saturday and is likely to see more for tomorrow's clash with Derry at Walsh Park. A draw will be enough to see the Suirsiders through to the quarter-finals, while a Derry win would give the Oak Leafers the prized spot.

Wallace is buoyed by having the strongest panel available to him since his appointment, with the return to fitness of Falconer, Abby Flynn, and Anne Corcoran among others.

Into the bargain, he feels that the squad has answered his plea to take some of the scoring pressure off 2023 Player of the Year, Beth Carton, not least Modeligo powerhouse Mairéad O'Brien, who has scored six goals in four outings.

"It's a winner-takes-all game. We're really looking forward to Derry coming to town. We've great respect for them. They're coming in as the (intermediate) champions of last year so I've no doubt they've got their dreams and aspirations for themselves but we have ours as well and that's to get back into a quarter-final again.

"The challenge I made to the players after the National League... I made it clear to them that I was no longer willing to accept that Beth Carton was to carry Waterford.

"Mairéad is positioned in full-forward. She reminds me of the traditional full-forward, where she's a target for an out-ball. If we can't get our running game, we hit her with the ball as quickly as we can and she has been delivering."



Cork's Orla Keating and Clare's Eabha McInerney in action during the intermediate camogie match between Clare and Cork at Tubber.
Picture : Eamon Ward

Cork face Wexford looking to seal their place in semi-finals

TOMORROW: Glen Dimplex Intermediate Championship, round four, Cork v Wexford, Buffers Alley, Wexford, 12.30pm

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

THE Cork intermediates are off to Wexford for round four of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Championship hoping to maintain their position at the top of group one, with three wins from three games.

Hot on their heels are Galway and Offaly who each have lost one game.

Galway losing, rather surprisingly, to Clare who Cork easily defeated last weekend.

This weekend's game is important for both teams — a win for Cork would rubberstamp their place in the last four with a game to go.

Wexford need to win this game and also win their last game against Clare which might just see them avoid a relegation play-off.

If Clare beat Westmeath this weekend, they will move on to six points and with their last game against Wexford, it would make for a frantic finish to see who would avoid being bottom of group one.

With the top team in each group going straight to the semi-final, and the second and third-placed to the quarter-final, the battle for the third spot could be interesting.

Currently, with two wins from three games, are Offaly and Galway, who are second and third with scoring difference putting Offaly, but they face meet each other this weekend.

A defeat for either will see one of them possibly slip down to fourth and be overtaken for third by Westmeath.

Wexford are the only side to have defeated Cork this year.

When the sides met in round two of the league they recorded a 4-7 to 2-8 victory, but since then Cork have been playing well and have grown in confidence with every game.

They showed huge character to get a result against a strong Offaly team and last weekend they had too much strength for a Clare side that was promoted this season following their All-Ireland Junior Championship success last year.

Wexford suffered a 3-14 to 0-4 defeat at the hands of Offaly last weekend in a game where they failed to register a score in the second half, and while their league victory over Cork will give them confidence, they will not relish the prospect of taking on a Cork side that is chasing a semi-final spot.

SUNDAY: U16A All-Ireland Championship round four, Cork v Dublin, Castle Road, 2pm

The All-Ireland U16A championship resumes after the break for exams with Cork who are currently joint top of the group, with Kilkenny taking on a Dublin side seeking their first win of the competition.

With a game to come against Kilkenny on July 7, Cork are looking good for a place in the last four and if results go as expected it should be a battle for the third and fourth qualification spot between Galway, Tipperary, and Limerick.



Cork's Emily O'Donoghue and Clare'sAisling Moloney in action during the intermediate match.
Picture: Eamon Ward



Cork's Cliona Healy is tackled by Dublin's Claire Gannon during their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship clash at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Healy has impressed for her county in the championship.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Place in semis is up for grabs



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

GALWAY travel to SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh tomorrow to do battle with long-time rivals Cork in their last game in the group stages of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship.

While a draw will do Cork, a win for Cathal Murray's Galway side could see them overtake Cork to top the group and head straight to the All-Ireland semi-final.

A win or a draw will do the home side as they are currently top of the table and the only way Galway can catch them is by winning.

This is not beyond possibility as these sides have enjoyed many a battle over the last few years, with Galway having the upper hand for most of them.

Cork came good last year and beat Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final before going on to lift the O'Duffy Cup.

However, earlier this season, when they met in the league, it was Galway who came out on top again, and they certainly won't heading to the Páirc for their 4pm throw-in lacking in confidence.

Both sides are well aware what's at stake and Cork will go into the game as slight favourites, and it's difficult to back against them.

They won't take Galway lightly and will be well aware that this will be their toughest challenge so far in the championship and an important one to lay down a marker in.

Whatever happens, it would be no great surprise to see these two meet again further down the road, but for now all concentration will be on tomorrow.



Cork's Katrina Mackey shoots from Dublin's Laura Sharkey. Mackey will be one of the players Galway will mark closely tomorrow.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork have been outstanding so far, and last weekend they made light work of Dublin with a top-class team display.

Up front the likes of Saoirse McCarthy, Amy O'Connor, and Katrina Mackey were a constant threat and behind them Ashling Thompson and Aoife Healy controlled midfield.

Defensively Cork were rock solid and kept Dublin scoreless from play for the entire game.

The Dubs scored only five points over the 60 minutes, four frees and a 45, and they had a similar result against Clare recently.

In that game they kept the starting six forwards, and their replacements, scoreless with all the Banner scores coming from their two midfielders.

They know that won't be the case tomorrow, but they will be looking to keep it as close to that as possible.

Manager Ger Manley is aware that it will be a tough challenge but one they are looking forward to.

"It's probably unfortunate that we are meeting at this stage because if you lose then you will be out the following week again in the quarter-final, but it's the same for Galway as us so both sides know what's at stake," Manley said.



Cork's Saoirse McCarthy goes past Dublin's Aoife McKearney at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. McCarthy has the skill and pace to trouble Galway.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare

"But we're trying to improve with every game and this weekend we have to improve again against Galway.

"I thought Wexford gave us a good game a few weeks ago and then last weekend we took on Dublin who had been going well.

"Whether we hit form or they were just a bit off or a bit of both, we played very well in the first half and really the game was over by half-time. If we can get more of the same against Galway I will be happy.

"In our league meeting we didn't take a lot of our chances and we know we will need to be more clinical tomorrow.

"Galway, to give them credit, have been one of the form teams in the championship now for a few years and they beat us early on.

"But we beat them later on and went on to win the final afterwards. We know what they are like and defensively we will have to be very solid and then try convert our chances."

Finnegan mastering the big switch

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

You would not have seen as many double-takes had Aisling Maher rocked up for Dublin's opening Very League outing of the year in Oulart wearing a gorilla suit, tutu and high heels.

The former All-Star full-forward, the Blues' primary attacking option for the best part of a decade, had 14 imprinted on her back but was lining up at centre-back against Wexford.

We know now how well the relocation has worked and should not have been surprised by that, really. A player of Maher's skill, intelligence, craft and vision is always likely to flourish with a blank canvas in front of her. As a quarterback who can read the game, she has the opportunity now to impact games in a more holistic manner than heretofore. Think Anne Dalton or Gemma O'Connor.

It isn't the only switch Bill McCormack and his brains trust made. Indeed there has been a whole lot of alterations and to a large extent, they have worked with the Dubs promoted to Division 1A of the League as Division 1B champions, feeling like they left a Leinster title behind them when leaving it late to take off the shackles against Kilkenny in the final and now putting themselves in a position where they are a win against Group 2 basement dwellers Down away from reaching the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior quarter-final.

Kerrie Finnegan is another poacher-turned-gamekeeper. The third year TU Dublin optometry student is more comfortable with her position at wing-back now, after learning to balance the defensive mindset while still using her attacking instincts to good effect.

"I would never have seen the backs until this year," says Finnegan. "The management decided to do a few positional changes for a couple of players on the team. At the beginning, I was like, 'Oh God,' you know, you forget you've to follow a player. Forwards are a bit more selfish but I've got the hang of it now.

"There's a few of us have come back. Aoife McKearney is a forward. She's playing in defence. Aisling Maher especially, back into defence. And then we had a few who were in defence go up to the forwards so they did a lot of changes. I think we were a bit hesitant at the beginning, but yeah, it seems to be working."

To win the league while undergoing such surgery was no mean feat.

"It's the first bit of silverware most of us would have. The first round of the league would have been against Wexford. It was the first time we really put the plan into action, and we lost by about four points (2-15 to 0-17). I think it wasn't until the Limerick game (a third round 1-14 to 0-9 triumph) that everything kind of started to come together. And then we got win after win," said Finnegan, inset.



"We met Wexford again in the League final and won. I think after that game, we felt that we kind of almost let it go (winning thanks to an injury time goal from Grace O'Shea). So in the championship, we played them, we put up a big score and that gave us great confidence."

That was their performance of the year to date against opponents they have invariably been evenly matched with in recent years. To beat them by 12 points in Parnell Park was a statement, with the half-back line a constant threat on the ball. "I think the idea was, if you have a forward, they're naturally going to want to go forward. So everyone in the half-back line is going forward and attacking. So we've had a lot more scores from our defence.

"In years before, we would have been depending on two forwards at the front, but I think it was the Clare game and we had about 11 or 12 different scores, which is huge. So yeah, we've a licence to go forward and it's something I'm happy to do!"

They go into today's game, at St Malachys pitch in Kilclief, off the back of a dreadful display. For all that things had looked like clicking in previous outings, only scoring five points, all from placed balls, even against opponents as vaunted as All-Ireland champions Cork at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, was awful. Conceding 4-22 along with that suggests they never raised a gallop.

Finnegan acknowledges how bad it was but does offer some mitigation. For all that though, she knows that it wasn't good enough.

"Yeah, look, it was hugely disappointing. It was probably our worst performance of the year. Our main goal was to get the wins against Wexford and Clare, which would set us up nicely to vie for a quarter final against Down this weekend.

"For the Cork game we were able to rest some players that had niggles. Three or four players coming back from injury who wouldn't have had much playing time were able to get 60 minutes under a belt. Of course, we didn't expect a result like it was but I think we could take some kind of benefits from it. Definitely it was the most we'd lost so we have a lot to reflect on."

It absolutely ensures that despite being hot favourites, Dublin will not take their eye off the ball against Down once the sliotar is thrown in at 4pm. "We're gonna go into the game with confidence, but not complacency. We've seen what can happen to teams. "That's not our game at all. We know this is our biggest game of the year, so we're definitely going in with all guns blazing to get the win, to get into a quarter final, which would be absolutely huge."

Waterford should have resolve

Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship
Group 1: Tipperary v Kilkenny, The Ragg 4pm (G. Donegan, Dublin).
Tipperary topped Group 2 ahead of Kilkenny last year and appear stronger this time around. They should be able to do enough to secure their automatic semi-final place.
Verdict: Tipperary.
Limerick v Antrim, Mick Neville Park, Rathkeale 4pm (E. Loughnane, Galway)
A battle to avoid the relegation play-off position. Antrim's graph has been on the slide since last year but they can summon enough to stave off trouble.
Verdict: Antrim.
Waterford v Derry, Walsh Park 4pm (J. Heffernan, Wexford)
Near enough to a straight shoot-out for a quarter-final berth although a draw will do Waterford as well as a win. They should have the resolve to get the job done.
Verdict: Waterford.
Group 2
Cork v Galway, SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh 4pm (L. Dempsey, Kilkenny)
The champions are wearing their crown with ease and have not put a foot wrong in their four games thus far. The McGraths always give Galway a chance but Cork should finish first.
Verdict: Cork.
Clare v Wexford, Cusack Park 4pm (K. Collins, Galway)
Seeing as Dublin will be expected to pick up three points against lowly Down, this is as close as you can get to a dead rubber as neither would then qualify.
Verdict: Wexford.
Down v Dublin, St Malachy's Kilclief 4pm (P. Murphy, Carlow).
Bearing in mind they didn't qualify from a smaller group last year, to be on the cusp of the quarter-finals is real improvement for Dublin. A third win awaits them.
Verdict: Dublin.

Words: John Fogarty



Laura Hayes of Cork in action against Sarah Lacey of Waterford during the Munster Senior Camogie Championship final. Hayes said Cork need to stamp their authority on Galway on Saturday.
Picture: Brendan Moran/Sportsfile

Hayes: We need to stamp our authority on Galway

CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

ONE of Cork's top performers all season had the honour of leading her side out against Dublin last Saturday.

Laura Hayes was the Rebels captain on the day as they took on Dublin in their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland group tie at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

It certainly was a day Hayes will remember after they took Dublin apart to win by 4-22 to 0-5.

Right now, if you had to pick the Player of the Year then Hayes would be up there with the best of them as her performances have been outstanding as she forms part of a half-back line that is driving Cork on in every game.

A key stat for any defender is the fact that the visitors didn't score from play for the entire game, something that Hayes was delighted to hear.

But she is well aware that Saturday's game against Galway at SuperValu Páirc Ui Chaoimh (4pm) will be a far tougher test.

"It's a huge honour, obviously, to be captain of the Cork senior camogie team. But I suppose, it's unfortunate the way poor Meabh got injured that led to it," Hayes said.

"The quicker she gets back and she takes over the role, I'll be delighted to row in behind her. But it's an honour, obviously."

Looking back at the game, and the fact that they kept Dublin scoreless from play was a stat she liked. This came following on from another recent win when they kept the six starting forwards and those that replaced them scoreless as well.

"We'd take that any day the week and to be fair, it's something we kind of pride ourselves on. We want to set the standard at the back and the forwards can feed off that. So we're delighted with and long may it last.

"We're trying to build on our own performance week on week. I know it's a cliche, but I suppose we're just really focusing on ourselves this year. We want to get the best out of ourselves.

"So when Galway come to town, we will be focusing on mainly our own performance. But at the end of the day, we want to top the group, we want to get to the semi-finals, so we'll be looking for a huge performance again on Saturday.

"We've had many battles with Galway in the last few years. Last year we got over them in the championship when it mattered most. I think last year was about kind of getting that monkey off the back, getting that win over Galway. But I don't think we can go in with the same attitude as last year.

"At the end of day, we were the ones who won the All-Ireland, so we'd want to be kind of stamping our authority on them down here in the Páirc as we don't like losing in Cork.

"We'll be doing everything we can to make sure that doesn't happen on Saturday. We know they are going to be a massive challenge as both sides know what's at stake (a place in the All-Ireland semi-final rather than quarter-final) so we will need to be ready for that and will have to up our performance again to try and ensure we come out on top."



Cork's Amy O'Connor is tackled by Dublin's Emma O'Byrne during their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship clash at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. O'Connor will be one of the players the Rebels will look to on Saturday.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Rebels make statement by blowing away Galway

By **Daragh Ó Conchúir**

ALL-IRELAND senior camogie champions Cork appear to be hitting form at the right time on the evidence of a stunning 2-16 to 1-7 victory over previously unbeaten Galway at Páirc Uí Chaoimh yesterday.

The win ensured top spot in Group 2 for Ger Manley's (right) side, who will advance to the semi-final at Nowlan Park on July 27 with a 100 per cent record.

It was a similar story for League victors Tipperary, who finished Group 1 with five successes from five attempts by virtue of inflicting a first defeat of the campaign on Kilkenny in a far more competitive affair at The Ragg that finished 1-15 to 0-15.

With last year's runners-up Waterford and Dublin securing the final qualifying positions thanks to easy wins against Derry (3-15 to 0-6) and Down (4-19 to 0-6) respectively, it means that next weekend's quarter-final pairings are now known.

The games, taking place as double-headers with the All-Ireland hurling semi-finals at Croke Park, will involve the Dubs crossing swords with Kilkenny at 12.30 on Saturday, while Galway and Waterford will clash at 1.30 on Sunday.

Limerick survived a furious fightback by Antrim to retain their senior status by virtue of a 2-17 to 3-12 scoreline at Mick Neville Park in Rathkeale. As bottom team in Group 1, Antrim will be playing intermediate camogie next year, along with Group 2 basement side Down.

It was cagey enough in the first half on the banks of the Lee.

A couple of points from rampaging half-back Laura Hayes gave the hosts the edge and a 23rd-minute goal from Katrina Mackey really sent the Rebels on their way.

Participating in her 16th senior championship, the Douglas dynamo showed foot skills worthy of the European Championships by clipping the sliotar with her left peg to the far corner of the Galway net, following a pass from Saoirse McCarthy that had failed to go to hand.



GROUND WORK: Galway and Cork in action yesterday



REBEL YELL: Clodagh Finn and Cliona Healy celebrate the win

Points from Ashling Thompson and Orlaith Cahalane pushed Cork eight points clear but Carrie Dolan managed to halve that by the interval to 1-9 to 1-5, grabbing a sensational solo goal.

Dolan showed good strength to gather possession and see off the attentions of Méabh Murphy, before rifling a rocket to the net from a tight angle.

Amy O'Connor, who registered 1-5, had the Galway net rippling 19 seconds after the restart, following good work by Aoife Healy, and Galway never recovered.

For much of the encounter between Tipp and Kilkenny, Denis Kelly's charges seemed set fair for a resounding win and, with Beth Carton's 2-8 helping Waterford improve their score difference significantly at Walsh Park, the Cats were in danger of losing second seeding.

The home team shot the first six points, half of them coming from Eimear McGrath. Karin Blair goaled just before the interval and, when Grace O'Brien slotted her third point of the half quickly after, it was 1-10 to 0-3 at half-time.

Kilkenny resumed with six of the next seven points however, Aoife Prendergast supplying four of them, and the deadly Dicksboro sharpshooter concluded with nine points.



Tipp showed plenty of grit into the elements in the closing ten minutes and points from O'Brien, McGrath and Mary Bourke ensured they kept their noses in front.

In the day's other game, a youthful Clare concluded on a high, grabbing their second win of the campaign by 1-15 to 1-11 against Wexford.

In the Premier Junior Championship, the quarter-final pairings involve Armagh v Roscommon, and Tyrone v Cavan, with both taking place next Saturday.

Tipperary and Laois await the winners in the semi-finals. Mayo and Wicklow will contest the Nancy Murray Cup final.

Gaelic Games SCOREBOARD

All-Ireland SFC quarter-finals

Dublin	0-16	Galway	0-17
Armagh	2-12	Roscommon	0-12

All-Ireland MHC final

Kilkenny	3-12	Tipperary	2-17

All-Ireland JFC quarter-final

W'wickshire	1-17	Kilkenny	2-9

Ladies IFC relegation qualifier

Antrim	0-7	Cavan	3-11

All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship

Waterford	3-15	Derry	0-6
Limerick	2-17	Antrim	3-12
Tipperary	1-15	Kilkenny	0-15
Cork	2-16	Galway	1-7
Down	0-6	Dublin	4-19
Clare	1-15	Wexford	1-11



Cork's Edel Sheehan shoots from Wexford's Emma Codd during their All-Ireland Intermediate camogie clash. Picture: Patrick Browne

Cork intermediates cruise into semi-final with a game to spare

Wexford	**1-5**
Cork	**1-14**

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

CORK are through to the Glen Dimplex Intermediate All-Ireland semi-final with a game to spare.

Having lost to Wexford in the league, Cork were wary of their opponents heading into this game, but a strong opening half saw them lay down an early marker.

Two Lauren Homan frees inside the opening five minutes settled Cork and it was 13 minutes in before Wexford struck from Lettie Whelan.

Cork stretched their lead 20 minutes in with a Niamh O'Regan goal.

O'Regan added a point and Homan clipped over a free to move six ahead after 24 minutes.

Clodagh Fitzhenry got Wexford's second point, but the hosts were conceding frees which Homan duly converted.

Fitzhenry knocked over a Wexford free, but the final action of the half was a Cliona O'Callaghan point from play, 1-6 to 0-3 at the break.

Cork started the second half well with two Cliona Dooley points and sub Eimear Duignan announced her arrival with a score as the gap widened.

Wexford were making little headway against a strong, disciplined Cork defence, and at the other end Homan was profiting from Wexford's concession of frees as the margin was out to 10 points.

It was 18 minutes into the second half before Wexford scored again which was a credit to the Cork defence.

Piling on the pressure, Cork continued to find gaps in the Wexford rearguard and opened up a 12-point lead before Wexford grabbed a goal with four minutes left, Leah Furlong finishing to the net.

Orla Redmond split the posts in the 60th minute and the gap was down to eight points before Cork had the last say with a point to round off a job well done and a place in the semi-final secured before they take on Galway next weekend.

Scorers for Wexford: L Furlong 1-0, C Fitzhenry 0-3 (0-1 f), L Whelan, O Redmond 0-1 each.

Cork: L Homan 0-8 (0-6 f), N O'Regan 1-1, C Dooley 0-2, E Duignan, C O' Callaghan, A Barrett 0-1 each.

WEXFORD: Dempsey; C Byrne, A Cahill, L Fortune; KA Dempsey, MC Morrissey, M Fitzpatrick (c); C Fitzhenry, E Codd; L Whelan, E Hunt, L Furlong; G Roche, S Doyle, S Firman.

Subs: O Redmond for L Firman (h-t), S Butler for L Whelan (47), C O'Connor for E Codd (62).

CORK: C Hurley (St Finbarr's); A Barrett (Aghabullogue), N O'Leary (Brian Dillon's), E Flanagan (Aghabullogue); A Cashman (Youghal), O McAllen (Sarsfields), M Ring (Aghabullogue); T McCarthy (Glen Rovers), L Buttimer (Cloughduv); E O'Donoghue (Bishopstown), L Homan (Brian Dillon's, c), E Sheehan (Éire Óg); N O'Regan (St Catherine's), C O'Callaghan (Blackrock), C Dooley (Ballinora).

Subs: E Duignan (Mallow) for E Sheehan (38), E Curtain (Blackrock) for E O'Donoghue (48), A O'Sullivan (Mallow) for E Flanagan (58), M De Burca Carrigtwohill) for M Ring (59).

Referee: Martin Molloy (Wicklow).



Wexford's Muireann Fitzpatrick closes in on Cork's Cliona Dooley. Picture: Patrick Browne



Izzy O'Regan of Cork in action against Carrie Dolan of Galway during their All-Ireland senior camogie clash. Picture: Inpho/Natasha Barton

Cork blast past Galway into and seal semi spot



CAMOGIE

Ger McCarthy

Cork	**2-16**
Galway	**1-7**

CHAMPIONS Cork are through to the last four of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship thanks to a convincing victory over Galway.

SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh hosted the Rebels' final All-Ireland Group 2 fixture in which Ger Manley's side maintained their unblemished record. The added bonus of Saturday's defeat over 2021 All-Ireland champions Galway is that Cork now avoid the quarter-finals and progress directly to the last four.

In a repeat of last year's All-Ireland semi-final, won 0-15 to 2-6 by Cork, Saturday's game began amid light rain. Cliona Healy opened the scoring inside the first minute. Carrie Dolan (free) replied before Fiona Keating split the posts to restore Cork's advantage.

Dolan fired over another free during an early period when neither side shirked a tackle. Chances kept coming as Orlaith Cahalane watched her goalbound effort saved by Sarah Healy to conclude an entertaining opening 10 minutes

A scrappy spell saw both teams waste possession until Amy O'Connor (free) made it 0-3 to 0-2.

Ciara Hickey floated over Galway's first score from play after 16 minutes. Their opponents responded with Laura Hayes bursting forward to raise a white flag. A second O'Connor free handed Cork a two-point cushion soon after.

Hayes' second score extended her team's advantage prior to a major turning point after 22 minutes. Saoirse McCarthy set up Katrina Mackey and the Cork full-forward kicked the sliotar into the net to make it 1-6 to 0-3.



Katrina Mackey of Cork battling Roisin Black of Galway. Picture: Inpho/Natasha Barton

Galway struggled to respond, and Ashling Thompson made them pay with a fine score. Ailish O'Reilly's point was Galway's first in over 10 minutes before O'Connor and Cahalane efforts handed the Rebels a 1-9 to 0-4 lead.

On the stroke of half-time, Galway's Dolan wriggled free and found the net from a tight angle. Another Dolan free left the visitors four points behind at the break.

The second half was barely 20 seconds old when Aoife Healy fed O'Connor and the corner-forward fired into the net for a crucial Cork goal. A Katrina Mackey point and O'Connor free edged the hosts 2-11 to 1-5 clear.

Cliona Healy made it a 10-point game as Galway searched for the first score of the second period.

O'Connor took her total to 1-5 before Niamh Mallon got Galway back on the scoreboard after 50 minutes. Cork's commanding lead afforded the All-Ireland champions a comfortable cushion heading into the closing stages. McCarthy became Cork's eighth scorer as Niamh Hiland added Galway's seventh point.



Cork's Pamela Mackey battles with Galway's Ailish O'Reilly. Picture: Inpho/Natasha Barton

Aoife Healy was rewarded for an all-action display with a deserved point as the game petered out. Hayley Ryan fired over Cork's final score.

The Rebels ran out deserving winners and Ger Manley's side are hitting form at the right time ahead of their trip to Croke Park for an All-Ireland semi-final.

Scorers for Cork: A O'Connor 1-5 (0-4 f), K Mackey 1-1, L Hayes, C Healy 0-2 each, F Keating, A Thompson, O Cahalane, S McCarthy, A Healy, H Ryan 0-1 each.

Galway: C Dolan 1-3 (0-3 f), C Hickey, A O'Reilly, N Mallon, N Hiland 0-1 each.

CORK: A Lee; M Murphy, I O'Regan, P Mackey; H Looney, L Treacy, L Hayes (vice-captain); A Thompson, A Healy; S McCarthy, F Keating, C Healy; A O'Connor, K Mackey, O Cahalane.

Subs: S McCartan for O Cahalane (43), C O'Sullivan for C Healy (46), H Ryan for S McCarthy (53), C Finn for K Mackey (53), N O'Callaghan for M Murphy (56), E Murphy for A O'Connor (63).

GALWAY: S Healy; R Hanniffy, R Black (captain), D Higgins; AM Starr, A Keane, C Hickey; O Rabbitte, N Hanniffy; C Dolan, A Hesnan, S Rabbitte; N Mallon, O McGrath, A O'Reilly.

Subs: N Kilkenny for S Rabbitte (37), N McPeake for N Hanniffy (37), N Hiland for O McGrath (37), A Kelly for R Black (54), K Manning for C Hickey (54).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).

Murray expects different

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Galway manager Cathal Murray has backed his charges to consign Saturday's listless effort against Cork to the dustbin and put their best foot forward against Waterford in next Sunday's Glen Dimplex All-Ireland quarter-final at Croke Park (1.30pm).

Murray is backing knockout competition to bring the best out of his crew but they will have to improve considerably on the 2-16 to 1-7 loss at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh that means they must line out again eight days later, while the champions will have four weeks off before the All-Ireland semi-final double-header at UPMC Nowlan Park on July 27.

Tipperary will play in the other semi as a result of their 1-15 to 0-15 triumph over Kilkenny at The Ragg, while the Cats will play Dublin in the first of the quarter-finals at headquarters on Saturday (12.30pm).

It was the result by the Lee that raised most eyebrows, however and Murray did not attempt to put a gloss on it when speaking to Galway Bay FM. "Hard to put in words," the Sarsfields man admitted. "Cork were the better team by a long, long way. We just weren't at the races. There were a lot of good performances but as a team we were poor and never got out of the blocks.



BATTLING: Cork's Katrina Mackey in action against Roisin Black of Galway at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Natasha Barton/Inpho

"We don't have much time to feel sorry for ourselves. It's going to be a massive task and we're going to have to be an awful lot better or we're in serious trouble.

"We have been dogged by injuries but that's no excuse.

Galway in Croke Park

"We had the majority of our team out there and unfortunately the performance wasn't good enough.

"It's really disappointing but we know we're not as bad as we looked out there. We know what we have in that dressing room. It's about backing them now, them backing each other, backing the team. I'm sure you'll see a different Galway next week. We need to see a better Galway next week but we will."

Not for the first time, Katrina Mackey and Amy O'Connor did most of the attacking damage for Cork, while Galway struggled to cope with the energy and score-taking from the half-back line of stand-in skipper, Laura Hayes.

Aoife Healy earned the player-of-the-match plaudits however, carrying on this year where she left off in a brilliant breakthrough season with her prodigious workrate and clever supply.

Rebels boss, Ger Manley was delighted with his crew but admitted managing the gap to the semi-final will take careful consideration.

"We played Galway down through the years. They're very hard to beat. We got the monkey off the back last year in the semi-final. Cathal Murray has done a super job and they're there every year. Physically, it's the hardest game you'll get. Now we've a break of a month. We haven't had that for a bit so we're just going to sit down now and see how we'll work that out.

"To be All-Ireland champions, you put so much into it. The girls want to win it again, they're a very focused group. You need a bit of luck but as I tell them, the more you put in, the luckier you get. And they do put in a lot. It's seven nights a week now between gym and the pitch. The game is getting more high profile and what we put in, I suppose every other county is putting in but we do have a very good team."

Tipperary had to fight hard to hold off a resolute wind-backed Kilkenny in the second half, having led at the break by ten points, but Karin Blair's first half goal kept the League champions' noses in front.

"Our goal at the start of the year was to get as far as possible and obviously trying our best to get out of the group and top the group if possible, which we did, so we're absolutely delighted with that and we look forward to a semi-final in a few weeks," Nicole Walsh observed.

Beth Carton scored 2-8 as Waterford beat Derry 3-15 to 0-6 and Dublin joined them in the last six when proving far too strong for Down by 4-19 to 0-6. That consigned the Mourne outfit to relegation, which is also the fate of Antrim, after Limerick prevailed in their bottom-of-the-table encounter by 2-17 to 3-12.

Clare secured their second victory of what has been a promising campaign for a youthful side when accounting for Wexford 1-15 to 1-11.



Lauren Homan

Rebels overcome Galway hurdle

Dominant Cork blaze into All-Ireland semi-finals

CORK	2-16
GALWAY	1-7

GER MCCARTHY REPORTS

A POWERFUL third-quarter surge saw Cork secure a Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie championship semi-final berth at the expense of Galway at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

All year, Ger Manley has spoken about the reigning All-Ireland champions delivering a full 60-minute performance. The Cork camogie senior manager got his wish as his side blew away a fellow title contender in confident fashion last Saturday.

Having conceded 1-1 just before the interval, the Rebels emerged in determined mood with Amy O'Connor netting inside 19 seconds of the restart. From there, Cork kept their foot on the accelerator and ran out convincing 12-point winners.

Once again, Cork's defence was the foundation for their latest victory. A full-back line missing injured duo Libby Coppinger and Méabh Cahalane gave little away. The half-back line of Hannah Looney, Laura Treacy, and Laura Hayes were in imperious form, as were midfielders Ashling Thompson and Aoife Healy.

Cork's forward came in for some rough punishment but Amy O'Connor, Katrina Mackey, and Orlaith Cahalane managed to combine for 2-7 against the experienced Galway backline.

Having held Dublin scoreless from open play the previous week, Cork restricted Galway to just two points during the entire second half. Make no mistake, the Rebels are hitting form at the opportune time.

'This is a very focused group of players,' Cork manager Ger Manley told The Southern Star.

'I have seen it over the last few years working with Matthew Twomey. They were determined to get a good start to the second half against Galway. We got a super goal after 20 seconds. Aoife Healy made the run and passed to Amy O'Connor, who is playing out of her skin. The finish was top class.

'You could see the drive and focus in the players the minute they came out for the second half. Now, we just need to focus on the All-Ireland semi-final. That is there to be won. I don't care how good or bad we are once we win it and hopefully, get back to another All-Ireland final.'

Scrappy opening

A scrappy opening period saw Cork lead 0-3 to 0-2 thanks to Cliona Healy, Fiona Keating, and Amy O'Connor (free). Two Carrie Dolan frees kept Galway in touch before goalkeeper Sarah Healy denied Orlaith Cahalane a goal.

Ciara Hickey fired over Galway's first score from play after 16 minutes. The Rebels responded and moved three points clear courtesy of two Laura Hayes efforts and another O'Connor free.

Cork assumed control after 22 minutes and netted a superb goal. Saoirse McCarthy set up Katrina Mackey who kicked the sliotar into the net to make it 1-6 to 0-3.

Now in full flow, Ashling Thompson, Amy O'Connor, and Orlaith Cahalane white flags pushed a rampant Cork eight clear after Ailish O'Reilly scored for Galway. The Connacht side enjoyed their best spell just before the break however, as Carrie Dolan scored 1-1 to leave four points between the teams at the interval.

The Rebels dominated the second period, beginning with Aoife Healy setting up Amy O'Connor for a goal just 19 seconds after the restart.

Katrina Mackey, Amy O'Connor, and Cliona Healy edged Cork further ahead as Galway struggled to respond. O'Connor and Niamh Mallon exchanged points prior to Saoirse McCarthy becoming Cork's eighth different scorer.

Niamh Hiland fired over Galway' second and final score of a torrid second half in which plenty of robust tackles made for a scrappy conclusion. Aoife Healy and Hayley Ryan completed Cork's impressive total of 2-16 to round off one of the Rebels' best performances of the year.

'We were very good today,' Ger Manley admitted. 'I have been saying it the last couple of weeks that we are hitting form. It was very important for us to get straight through to the All-Ireland semi-finals, especially for our dual players, Hannah (Looney) and Aoife (Healy).

'They are out again next week and could be out again two weeks after that. Reaching the All-Ireland (Camogie) semi-finals gives them a bit of a break. We have been out six of the last seven weeks, so our aim was to win today.

'We always have hard games against Galway. It was physical for a lot of it today. I thought we just came out on top.'

Scorers for Cork: A O'Connor 1-5 (0-4 frees), K Mackey 1-1, L Hayes, C Healy 0-2 each, F Keating, A Thompson, O Cahalane, S McCarthy, A Healy, H Ryan 0-1 each.

Galway: C Dolan 1-3 (0-3 frees), C Hickey, A O'Reilly, N Mallon, N Hiland 0-1 each.

CORK: A Lee; M Murphy, I O'Regan, P Mackey; H Looney, L Treacy, L Hayes (vice-captain); A Thompson, A Healy; S McCarthy, F Keating, C Healy; A O'Connor, K Mackey, O Cahalane.

Subs: S McCartan for O Cahalane (43), C O'Sullivan for C Healy (46), H Ryan for S McCarthy (53), C Finn for K Mackey (53), N O'Callaghan for M Murphy (56), E Murphy for A O'Connor (63).

GALWAY: S Healy; R Hanniffy, R Black (captain), D Higgins; AM Starr, A Keane, C Hickey; O Rabbitte, N Hanniffy; C Dolan, A Hesnan, S Rabbitte; N Mallon, O McGrath, A O'Reilly.

Subs: N Kilkenny for S Rabbitte (37), N McPeake for N Hanniffy (37), N Hiland for O McGrath (37), A Kelly for R Black (54), K Manning for C Hickey (54).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).



Cork's Laura Hayes leaps over Galway's Orlaith McGrath at SuperValue Páirc Uí Chaoimh. (Photo: Inpho/Natasha Barton)



Cork's Hannah Looney and Orlaith Caherlane of Cork celebrate after the game.



Cork Manager Ger Manley was delighted with his side's form. (Photo: Inpho/Natasha Barton)

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Our Star: Amy O'Connor and Katrina Mackey were constant threats up front but for sheer work rate and delivery, Aghada's Aoife Healy was Cork's most influential player.

Star Moment: 20 seconds hadn't passed before Aoife Healy set up Amy O'Connor for Cork's second goal immediately after the restart. Cork never looked back.

Talking Point: Ger Manley's side are in imperious form heading towards the All-Ireland semi-finals. Will a month-long break to that last-four clash upset their momentum?

What's Next: Cork await their All-Ireland semi-final opponents at Nowlan Park on July 27th.



Aoife Healy of Cork signs autographs after the game on Saturday in the Páirc. Picture: Inpho/Natasha Barton

Manley: Important to get straight through to semis

CAMOGIE

Ger McCarthy

CORK senior camogie manager Ger Manley is delighted to have reached the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior semi-finals following victory over Galway.

A convincing 2-16 to 1-7 Group 2 win saw the Rebels seal their place in the last four of this year's championship.

Goals in each half from Katrina Mackey and Amy O'Connor proved crucial. Manley is pleased that his panel is hitting form at an opportune moment.

"Look, we were very good.

"I have been saying it the last couple of weeks that we are hitting form. It is very important for us to get straight through to the All-Ireland semi-finals, especially for our dual players, Hannah Looney and Aoife Healy.

"They are out again next week and could be out again two weeks after that. Reaching the All-Ireland semi-finals gives them a bit of a break. We have been out six of the last seven weeks, so our aim was to win.

"We always have hard games against Galway. It was physical for a lot of it. I thought we just came out on top."

Although the final score suggests a one-sided contest, Galway never shirked a tackle in a hard-hitting encounter. Gaining such a physical test ahead of at least two more difficult encounters was exactly what Manley was looking for.

"We needed it because we will have a month's break now, something we are not used to," Manley admitted.

"We will have no game before the All-Ireland semi-final and it is hard to get games at this time of the year. We will have a couple of in-house games which are fine, but nothing compares to the test we got today.

"Galway are not gone away. They are a very good team. I thought we were efficient up front against them. We took our chances. Defensively, we were solid. I suppose, had we converted all our chances, there would have been an even bigger winning margin.

"The important thing is that we won."

Cork management and players had spoken about delivering a full 60-minute performance in the run-up to last Saturday's game. Having conceded 1-1 just before the break, the manner in which the Rebels re-emerged to dominate the third and fourth quarters bodes well for the remainder of the championship.

"This is a very focused group of players," the Cork manager said. "I have seen it over the last few years while working with Matthew Twomey.

"They were determined to get a good start to the second half against Galway. We got a super goal after 20 seconds. Aoife Healy made the run and passed to Amy O'Connor, who is playing out of her skin. The finish was top-class.

"You could see the drive and focus in the players the minute they came out for the second half. Now, we just need to focus on the All-Ireland semi-final. That is there to be won. I don't care how good or bad we are once we win it and hopefully, get back to another All-Ireland final."

What last Saturday's victory over Galway showed is that Cork are hitting form at the right time. An All-Ireland semi-final and, hopefully, final beckons for a driven panel of players determined to defend their title.



Cork manager Ger Manley talks to his players. Picture: Inpho/Natasha Barton

Laura is a star in the making



Laura Hayes gets her shot away during the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship clash with Galway at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Inpho/Natasha Barton

ANYONE who has followed Cork camogie this season will have noticed the impact made by St Catherine's Laura Hayes.

CAMOGIE

John Cashman

Now one of the best wing-backs in the country, the Conna native has been in sparkling form since returning to full fitness following some injury issues in recent years.

She has been a top performer in defence, but her forays across the halfway line and her influential play in attack make her a standout performer. She continued that trend by posting two points for Cork in last Saturday's win over Galway, which leaves the winners just a game away from another All-Ireland final appearance.

Hayes was recently presented with the latest 96FM/C103 Monthly Sports award, at a function hosted by joint sponsors Rochestown Park Hotel.

"It has been an exciting last few months overall for Cork," Hayes said. "In general, our form has been good all year, apart from the league result against Galway. At the time, we were only building and it gave us a lot to reflect upon at the time. I think we really looked at our standards following that game.

"It told us what we had to do in order to go on to win back-to-back All-Ireland titles; we just had to be way better than in the league.

"The Galway defeat was the match we stumbled on, but there were other games that we didn't perform."

Hayes admits that it was certainly a later-than-usual start to pre-season training this season, but it is all about getting the timing right as the business end of the championship nears.

"Ya, a lot of people know we had enjoyed our celebrations. But once we were back, it was a case of heads down. It definitely took us a while to get back in to the groove again. On the plus side, a number of newer players have developed.

"Unlike last year, when we had many injuries, we have now a lot of the group at full fitness and now have the newer group to come in a make a big impact."

The league may have ended prematurely, but victory in the Munster championship got the winning feeling back again in advance of the championship season.

"There was a real championship feel to the final, as we were playing Waterford again and it was part of a double-header with the hurling," Hayes said. "The win set us up for the championship and gave us real confidence again. We have been building again steadily since the of the championship opener and I think having won that opening game in real difficult conditions, it proved that we have the resources to cope with any type of weather.

"Subsequently, we had some decent wins, racked up a good few high scores, and I think we achieved our goals in getting to the latter stages. We have been very lucky to play at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh over the past few weeks.

"Getting through to the semi-final directly has a definite advantage, in that it gives us the additional break and obviously also benefits the players in the group that have football commitments."

After a stellar athletics career as a juvenile and a host of medals, Laura has established herself as one of the top players in the land and had the honour of captaining her county in recent weeks.

She is heading in the direction of the PwC All-Stars banquet and maybe more accolades will follow on the back of last week's function, where members of the Cork Camogie Board, along with family and friends, joined representatives of the sponsors at Rochestown Park Hotel.

This weekend, Laura and her Cork colleagues can look on with interest as Kilkenny meet Dublin on Saturday and Galway play Waterford on Sunday in the All-Ireland quarter-finals at Croke Park. Cork, just like Tipperary, know they are already heading for UPMC Nolan Park on July 27, with the glamorous prize of a date in Croke Park beckoning for the winners.

The Leesdiers certainly look in a good place as Ger Manley hopes to guide his charges back to an All-Ireland final in his first year at the helm.



Cork camogie ace Laura Hayes collecting the 96FM/C103 GAA Sports Star of the Month award from Finbarr McCarty at the Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture: Tony O'Connell



Cork's Niamh O'Regan drives up field against Wexford.
Picture: Patrick Browne

Moving straight into semis is Cork's goal

SATURDAY: Glen Dimplex Intermediate Championship, round five, Cork v Galway, Castle Road, 2pm

CAMOGIE

■ **Mary Newman**

Cork secured their place in the knockout stages of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Intermediate Championship last weekend with a comprehensive victory over Wexford and will be going all out tomorrow to maintain their place at the top of the group and go straight to the last four.

Galway, having recorded an excellent and surprising victory over a strong Offaly side last weekend, will come to Castle Road boosted by that result, and they will be determined to stop Cork in their tracks and consign them to the quarter-finals. However, it will take a might effort from a Galway side, who are currently in second on plus 18.

They need to defeat Cork, who are on plus 35, by nine points and even then, that would also depend on Galway not conceding scores to Cork.

The bottom line for Donie Daly's side is go out and do what they have been doing all through this campaign and that is win.

Starting the season with new management, there was going to be a period of settling in, but it was straight down to business as Daly and his management gave players every opportunity to stake a claim for a place in his championship squad.

When the sides met in the league in February, Cork came away with four points to spare after a 1-10 to 0-9 win.

The all-important goal coming five minutes from full-time and with Cork going on to take the Division 2B title.

All the league games helped build a team for the championship.

Throughout the championship campaign, Cork have been showing steady improvement and the confidence in the side is evident. They are determined and focused.

In defence, they are disciplined and are not conceding silly frees. Throughout the league this was something they were inclined to do, but they have worked on that flaw and they have got it right.

They have a lot of experience in the side. Niamh O'Leary, Emma Flanagan, Lauren Homan, Cliona O'Callaghan, and Cliona Dooley have huge experience at intermediate level.

Also this season, several of last season's All-Ireland winning minor side have stepped up the ranks, including Maedhbh De Burca, Emily O'Donoghue, Eimear Duignan, Caoimhe O'Donoghue, and Erinn Curtain, giving the side has a nice blend of youth and experience.

Olivia McAllen was unavailable last season due to injury and she is another player who is a valuable asset to the side.

Homan has been excellent on free-taking duties, showing her accuracy in all games and this is a vital asset.

Galway narrowly missed out on the league final, with Tipperary edging them out by a point.

Their championship campaign has produced excellent wins over Westmeath, Wexford, and Offaly, but they surprisingly lost to Clare.

Aoibheann Barry has been in great scoring form for Galway. She hit 1-11 against Offaly, a goal and six coming from play, and she is one tht the Cork defence will need to close down.

Caoimhe Kelly, Ava Lynskey and Katie Donoghue are the players who Conor Dolan will look to as his side battle to cause an upset.



Cork's Cliona Dooley battles Wexford's Muireann Fitzpatrick.



OUT IN FRONT: Cork's Molly Lynch with Dublin's Emma O'Byrne, Waterford's Aoife Landers, Galway's Aine Keane, Kilkenny's Aoife Prendergast, Tipperary's Mairead Eviston, Tipperary's Sinead Meagher, Tyrone's Úna McCann, Roscommon's Orla Connelly, Armagh's Leanne Donnelly, Cavan's Shanise Fitzsimons and Laois' Líadan C Fennell as the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior and junior championships continue this weekend. PHOTO: JAMES CROMBIE/INPHO



JOINING FORCES: Camogie Association president Hilda Breslin, LGFA chief executive officer Helen O'Rourke, GAA director general Tom Ryan, Minister of State Kieran O'Donnell, and members of St Oliver Plunkett Eoghan Ruadh and St Brigid's GAA clubs during the planting on an oak tree at the launch of Clann of Gaelic Games exhibition at Phoenix Park Visitor Centre and the unveiling a plaque to mark the venue of the 1893 GAA All-Ireland finals.
Picture: Harry Murphy/Sportsfile

'Hurling-camogie double header good step forward'

All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship quarter-final

Dublin v Kilkenny

Saturday: Croke Park, 12.30pm
Referee: Andy Larkin
TV: RTÉ One



Daire Walsh

As she prepares to line out at the famed stadium later today, Dublin's Emma O'Byrne has expressed her hope that hurling and camogie double headers will become the norm at Croke Park in the years to come.

Back on March 20, 2022, the defender, from Good Counsel/Liffey Gaels, was part of a Sky Blues side that took on Down in a National Camogie League Division 1 clash in GAA HQ. A league meeting between the Dublin men's footballers and Donegal followed this tussle and, just over two years later, O'Byrne and her inter-county colleagues are back at the Jones' Road venue for a similar occasion.

Before Clare and Kilkenny do battle in the penultimate round of the All-Ireland SHC, the latter's camogie side will lock horns with Dublin at the quarter-final stage of their senior championship.

This is the second year in succession that Kilkenny have shared a billing with their male counterparts in Croke Park and, with the full integration of the GAA, the LGFA, and the Camogie Association in the pipeline, O'Byrne sees this as the way forward.

"It's good that we could get the opportunity to get another double header and hopefully, with the integration now coming forward, double headers will become more of a normal thing. Hopefully we can push for that," O'Byrne remarked at a camogie championship quarter-final launch earlier this week.

"I think it's really exciting for the camogie side of things but hopefully it will just become the norm in the future.

"I think it's all about building towards that end goal of full integration and full exposure for all codes. This is a good step forward."

Although they were already in a strong position coming into the game, Dublin sealed third spot in Group 2 of the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship with a commanding 4-20 to 0-6 victory over Down at St Malachy's Kilclief last Saturday.

This also ensured they reached the quarter-finals of the top-tier competition for the second time in just three seasons. The Metropolitans will be hoping for better fortune than they enjoyed at this stage of the championship two years ago, when eventual champions Kilkenny had 16 points to spare over them at Semple Stadium in Thurles.

You have to go back to 2017 for the most recent quarter-final victory that Dublin recorded in the senior championship — a 1-16 to 0-12 success over provincial rivals Wexford — but O'Byrne senses a desire within the current squad to get themselves back into the last-four of the O'Duffy Cup.

"I think it's not just a matter of reaching the quarter-final, this time around we're really pushing to get the win and building on working towards that, breaking past the quarter-final spot."

If Dublin did manage to overcome the considerable challenge of Kilkenny, it would represent a significant moment in what has already been a productive 2024 to date for Bill McCormack's team.

With O'Byrne playing a key role at full-back, Dublin claimed the National Camogie League Division 1B title courtesy of a final win at the expense of Wexford at Setu Carlow on April 13.

Having watched on as a number of her team-mates achieved success at club level in recent times, the 24-year-old student took confidence from getting her hands on a substantial piece of silverware.

"I think when you look at the players in the team, we do have a lot of girls coming back from club success with Vincent's and Jude's.

"It's good to be able to get that winning feeling into the rest of the girls after that win in the league.

"That winning mindset just radiates through the team," O'Byrne added.



Prendergast has leadership capabilities for Cats to forge past Dublin

DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR

Kilkenny's Aoife Prendergast has already received the O'Duffy Cup on behalf of her team-mates.

That memory of 2022 prompts a smile, as does the thought of following Jenny Clifford up those same Hogan Stand steps the week before Christmas in 2023 when Dicksboro dethroned Sarsfields as club champions thanks to Prendergast's nine-point player-of-the-match contribution.

She is a bit away from that point again with the Cats still only at the quarter-final stage of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Championship, and Dublin standing in their way at her happy Croke Park hunting ground today. But if it were to happen again, it would rubberstamp the tall sharpshooter as a leader of substance.

She bats away such talk because of her past experiences and knowing of what being a panel member means.

Another thing the 27-year-old PE teacher at Coláiste Mhuire in Johnstown has little truck for is any notion of Kilkenny being in transition, just because one of the top forwards of the modern era, Denise Gaule, and among the cleverest defenders, Claire Phelan, are no longer involved.

Prendergast, who has inherited the free-taking responsibilities from Gaule and is delivering with aplomb, has huge respect for her former team-mates but will always emphasise the collective.

"We do have new players in, new management in, but we don't think that we're in transition," says Prendergast. "We're now competing with everyone else, and we believe that, if we will compete, that we can perform as a team, and we just need to believe in each other.

"We kind of took the league to get game time into players and get different players used to playing with each other. And the management team took the time just to get to know us. There's no room for that anymore now though.

"Over the last few years, I've looked up to Denise Gaule. I got the opportunity to play with Colette Dormer, play with Claire Phelan, Denis Gaule, all these big players, and you learn so much from them, whether it's being a leader on the pitch or off the pitch, whether you get the opportunity to be on the starting 15 or not."



Kilkenny captain Aoife Prendergast

Prendergast's heroics in the maroon of Dicksboro certainly gave her added belief returning to the county set-up but having taken so long to get her hands on a jersey numbered 15 or lower, she doesn't intend to rest on her laurels.

"No, I definitely wouldn't say I was established. I still think we're fighting for a position, week in, week out, to be on the starting 15 or even to come on.

"The win with Dicksboro brought huge confidence to you as a player, but there's huge competition in the Kilkenny camp now at the moment, so you won't take anything for granted. When you get the opportunity, and you get that jersey, you want to do the best you can, even for the girls that didn't get the opportunity.

"You never take your starting jersey for granted. And even coming on as a sub, you have to be ready, and you have to play a role.

"You can't be too disappointed that you didn't get on the starting team. You have to just analyse that and see what you can bring to the team, because we need everyone from 1 to 34 and our whole management team."

Sharing the Croke Park stage with the county's hurlers, who renew their rivalry with Clare in the All-Ireland semi-final, adds to the feeling of growing equality and profile.

It offers a glimpse of what integration might bring, too, with supporters and family members not having to choose between the two – something Prendergast brought up in other interviews earlier in the week.

While the occasion is important, knockout games are about winning and the manner in which Kilkenny had to chisel out a five-point victory over an improving Dublin in the Leinster final means the Noresiders are fully aware of the damage Bill McCormack's crew could inflict on their aspirations.

"Every time you go out and play Dublin, they always bring huge physicality to the game. They probably haven't got the credit that they deserve over the last few years, they're always there thereabouts.

"Oh, yeah," the skipper concludes, exhaling in acknowledgement of the battle ahead. "It's going to be huge test."

Dublin v Kilkenny
Live, RTÉ1, 12.30

Keane eager to emulate those who inspired her to play for Galway

NIALL SCULLY

It was the press day to launch the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship quarter-finals.

The groundsman and his crew were busy on the pitch. Taking care of every blade of grass.

Áine Keane (right) took a seat in the Lower Hogan Stand. Her mind drifted back to 2013. Galway had won the O'Duffy Cup for the first time since 1996.

Dan Sheridan's iconic picture of Therese Maher made the front page as she sank to her knees, her hands clasped in prayer. Maher had been playing for Galway for 16 years. She had lost five All-Ireland senior finals.



"I was about 10 or 11 at the time," recalls Keane. "I was watching from the middle of the Hogan Stand.

"It's a day that I will never forget. We also won the All-Ireland intermediate championship that day.

"The joy of the homecoming celebration made such an impact on me.

"It gave me the aspiration of playing for Galway one day in Croke Park."

Maher was at the heart of the effort.

"She was such a fantastic player. She gave so much to Galway. She is still helping out. Any time you meet her, she always has a good word for you."

No doubt, Maher will be cheering on Galway this Sunday as they meet Waterford in Croke Park for a place in the All-Ireland senior camogie championship semi-final (1.30).

The game is on before the Cork v Limerick All-Ireland SHC semi-final (4.0).

"It's great to be part of the double-header," says Keane. "Double-headers with the hurling is the way to go. It's a welcome initiative.

"They are saying it's a sell-out. It's a massive opportunity to be out there in Croke Park on such a huge occasion.

"We played in Páirc Uí Chaoimh last week and now we are playing in Croke Park. It's wonderful to be playing in grounds like that."

Waterford were at HQ last season in their first All-Ireland final in 78 years.

Their only previous All-Ireland final appearance was in 1945 when they lost to Antrim.

"Waterford are a fantastic outfit. They have household names like Beth Carton, Lorraine Bray, Niamh Rockett, and other top players too.

"We know we are going to be up against it. We'll be looking to recover from our defeat to Cork last week."

Galway were last champions in 2021. In their respective groups this summer, both counties had identical records – three wins, a draw and a defeat.

In their league meeting in Loughrea last March, Galway won by a point. Tipperary beat Galway by a point in the league final in Croke Park.

Last year's All-Ireland final experience will serve Waterford well.

"It should be a great match," predicts Keane.



Cork's Amy O'Connor is tackled by Dublin's Emma O'Byrne during the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Dublin take on Kilkenny in the quarter-final at Croke Park today. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cats won't fear Dublin

TODAY

Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie quarter-final
Dublin v Kilkenny
Croke Park 12.30pm
Live RTÉ

Kilkenny would agree that they could be going better but their graph is slightly higher than Dublin's and they wouldn't be holding much fear about the opposition or the venue.
Verdict: Kilkenny.

TOMORROW

Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie quarter-final
Galway v Waterford
Croke Park
1.30pm Live RTÉ

Both teams reach this point with the same record from the groups. Waterford have shown they are not a flash in the pan yet Galway have more experience that will stand to them.
Verdict: Galway.

— John Fogarty



Cork's Ciara O'Sullivan signs a young Cork supporter's jersey. Picture: Inpho/Natasha Barton

Cork gear up for their top of the table clash with old rivals Kilkenny

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Following on their victory over Dublin in last weekend's camogie game in Castle Road, Cork U16s secured their place in the last four of the All-Ireland championship.

Tomorrow, it's a top-of-the-table clash against Kilkenny in Freshford at 1pm to decide who goes through as group winners to next weekend's semi-final.

Currently, Cork top the group on scoring difference, but this could all change tomorrow pending the result.

In joint third and fourth place are Galway and Limerick, with Tipperary just a point behind them. Tipperary take on Galway tomorrow and Limerick meet Dublin, and while the battle at the top is to secure first and second place these clashes will decide who will join Cork and Kilkenny in third and fourth place and secure themselves a semi-final spot.

It's amazing with all the talk of one association and integration, that we have Cork playing the biggest game of the year in Croke Park on Sunday and the Camogie Association have an All-Ireland championship game on the same day with Cork U16s playing.

Surely, with all the players on school holidays this game could have been moved to Friday evening at 8pm in Kilkenny, given that it could not go ahead on Saturday with Kilkenny hurlers also playing in Croke Park. It would have been the ideal compromise to play on a summer evening.

Cork	**4-17**
Dublin	**0-8**

Cork played superbly last weekend their work-rate was excellent and they really turned on the style in the second half to run out comfortable winners with twenty one points to spare.

Dublin's cause wasn't helped by losing a player to a straight red card early in the second half and from here to the finish Cork were dominant in all sectors.

The first half was close as the sides battled to gain a grip on the game. They exchanged early points before Cork edged in front with the first of their two first-half goals; Clara Murphy was on target and with Dublin finding the range with two points Cork were two in front at the end of the opening quarter.

An Erin Healy goal stretched the lead and at the break Cork were 2-4 to 0-5 in front.

On the resumption, Sophie O'Sullivan pointed, but Kate Kearney replied for Dublin.

Laura Walsh and Clare Murphy were on target again for Cork as Dublin responded with a point.

Caoilainn Ryan, who put in good hour, was on target for Cork before Dublin were reduced to 14 players and from here in, Cork took over.

Sadhbh McGolderick in added a point to the Dublin tally on fourteen minutes but they were not battling to stay with a lively Cork who found acres of room and moved the ball fast.

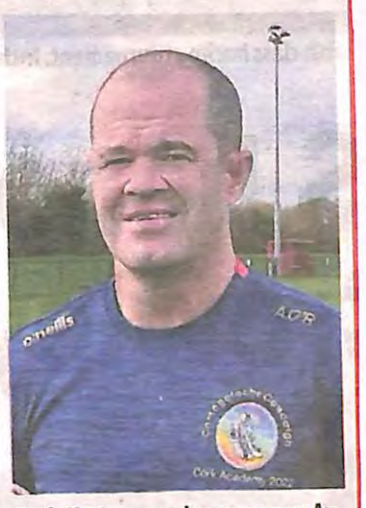
Substitute Kate Somers struck for Cork's third goal and from the restart Cork had the ball in the net again with Healy grabbing her second goal.

With Enna Duff, Ryan, Kate Somers, and Grainne O'Neill all firing over points, the result was beyond doubt long before referee Liz Dempsey blew the full-time whistle.

Cork know a much bigger test lies ahead tomorrow, but they will go to Kilkenny determined to hold on to their top spot and finish the group stages on a high ahead of next weekend semi-final.

CORK: M Smith (Douglas); S Donohoe (Blarney), A Ashman (Killeagh), E Barrett (Aghabullogue); T O' Neill (Fr O' Neill's), M Lombard (Ballinhassig), M O' Donovan (Barryroe); C Ryan (Newtownshandrum), M O'Shea (Douglas); E Kelleher (Sarsfields), C Murphy (Eire Óg) (c), G Classen (Erins Own), L Walsh (Mallow) E Heal (Eire Óg), S O'Sullivan (Glen Rovers).

Subs: R McManus (Midleton) for T O'Neill (32), D O'Brien (Laochra Óg) for M O'Shea (420, E Duff (Aghabullogue) for E Kelleher (44), K Somers (Bishopstown) for C Murphy (45), L Kenneally (St Catherine's) for M O'Donovan (inj 46), G O'Neill (Banteer) for L Walsh (51).



Cork U16 camogie manager Anthony Cashman.

Stars of our Game
Kay Ryder

Kathleen (Kay) Ryder (born 1934) is a former camogie player, captain of the All-Ireland Camogie Championship winning team in 1965 and 1966. She won ten All Ireland senior medals in all.

She first played for Dublin at the age of 21 as a sub in the 1955 All-Ireland semi-final against Mayo and held her place for 12 years, winning the first of ten All-Ireland medals in 1957. She won the first of five Gael Linn cup medals with Leinster in 1956, playing her last match for Leinster in the unsuccessful final of 1966. She won five successive Ashbourne Cup honours with UCD between 1958 and 1962. In 1965 she became the second player in camogie history to captain her side to victory in both the All-Ireland Camogie Championship and Gael Linn Cup for inter-provincial teams in the same year.





National Sports Campus meet and greet ahead of the Glen Dimplex Senior All-Ireland Semi Finals. The legend, Kay Ryder signed jersey's, sliotairs and hurls for the young generation.

Murray thrilled with Galway rebound, now for Tipperary

All-Ireland senior camogie quarter-final

Galway.....1-12
Waterford.....1-9

Daragh Ó Conchúir
Croke Park



Galway's Orlaith McGrath tries to break through the challenge of Waterford's Rachael Walsh in yesterday's All-Ireland senior camogie quarter-final at Croke Park. Picture: Bryan Keane/Inpho

Galway manager Cathal Murray hailed his players for pulling themselves up by the bootstraps after a fairly abject performance against champions Cork in the final Group 2 tie at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh eight days previously, to chisel out victory over Waterford in yesterday's Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie quarter-final.

That sets up a last-four clash with Tipperary at UPMC Nowlan Park on July 27 as part of a semi-final doubleheader that also includes the Rebels taking on Dublin.

Murray admitted that the quick turnaround from the 12-point defeat might have proved beneficial as there was no time to wallow. They had to get back on the horse.

"It was probably a tough week for us to to manage in a way," Murray began. "It was a really bad defeat in Cork last week. But these girls showed their resilience and showed that character. And look, we did need the performance today. It wasn't me said it, it was the players themselves. They did most of the talk during the week.

"There was no time to feel sorry for ourselves. We really needed to focus on Waterford straight away. The performance wasn't good enough but that's not just about us. That's about Cork, how well they're playing and and how good they are. Ger Manley's done a serious job and they're definitely up a level from last year and other teams haven't reached that level yet.

"But it wasn't about Cork this week. It was about Waterford. We always knew they'd probably play a sweeper, probably keep it tight. So it was going to be frustrating at times. But look, at any time you go through to a semi-final by three points, you're delighted."

Galway led by 0-7 to 0-5 at the end of a cagey first half. An Aoife Donohue goal ten minutes after the restart helped the Tribeswomen move five clear but Beth Carton, hampered by a hamstring injury incurred in the third minute, blasted a penalty to the net mid-way through the final quarter to ensure a grandstand finish.

Though Déise goalie Brianne O'Regan reduced the margin to the minimum with a monstrous point from a free inside her own half, it was Galway that finished the strongest with points by Donohue and Olwen Rabbitte.

Suirside manager Jerry Wallace bemoaned the injuries to Carton, Lorraine Bray (broken hand), Vikki Falconer (quad) and Mairéad O'Brien (unspecified) and thought there might have been a bit of tension on their return to Croke after last season's heavy All-Ireland final defeat.

The Cork native felt that progress had been made however, in terms of incorporating more of the minor squads that competed in All-Ireland finals this year and last year as well as in conditioning. And he is committed to continuing the journey after his maiden term.

"You just wonder where we a small bit apprehensive at times," Wallace declared. "We seemed to be a bit standoffish early in the game like and I think we contributed to maybe three of their scores in the first half. We were coming out with possession and just rushed that offload."

Murray now turns his attention to Tipperary.

"Let's be honest," said the two-time All-Ireland-winning boss, "Tipperary have beaten us twice already this year (including in the League final). They beat us last year down in The Ragg and that performance isn't going to be good enough (against them). We know that in there and we've three weeks to work on it."

Scorers for Galway: A Donohue 1-1; C Dolan 0-4(fs); N Mallon 0-2; D Higgins, N McPeake, A O'Reilly, N Niland, O Rabbitte 0-1 each

Scorers for Waterford: B Carton 1-4 (1-0 pen, 0-3fs, 0-1 45); N Rockett 0-3; B O'Regan (f), O Hickey 0-1 each

WATERFORD: B O'Regan, L Forrest, C Carroll, A McNulty, K Lynch, K Corbett, M Power, B Bowdren, L Bray, N Rockett, B Carton, O Hickey, A Flynn, T Power, R Kirwan.

Subs: A Fitzgerald for Kirwan (25); S Lacey for T Power (36); R Walsh for Mairéad Power (36); M O'Brien for Lynch (44); M Gostl for Bray inj (56)

GALWAY: S Healy, R Black, C Hickey, D Higgins, A Keane, N Hanniffy, R Hanniffy, A Hesnan, A Donohue, C Dolan, N McPeake, A O'Reilly, N Kilkenny, N Niland, N Mallon.

Subs: O McGrath for McPeake (42); O Rabbitte for Hesnan {(57); S Rabbitte for Kilkenny (58)

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare)

Camogie semi-finals

Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie semi-finals:

Cork v Dublin,
Galway v Tipperary

Saturday July 27, UPMC Nowlan Park, Times TBC

Maher hails 'big win' but ready to go again

All-Ireland senior camogie quarter-final

Dublin.....1-13
Kilkenny.....0-12

Daragh Ó Conchúir
Croke Park

Aisling Maher has long been an impressive speaker, even while still a student, which was the case the last time Dublin qualified for the semi-finals of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship, in 2017.

The St Vincent's luminary finished that season as an All-Star full-forward and has been captain for most of an intervening period that has been about too much upheaval in terms of management and player retention.

Speaking after Saturday's famous 1-13 to 0-12 victory over heavily fancied Kilkenny at Croke Park, the leadership skills that were undoubtedly pivotal in seeing Maher become co-chair of the GPA a few days beforehand, were in evidence once again.

This was the epitome of measured. The win was important, massively so and it would be counter-productive, given how many tough days have been endured, not to celebrate. But the player of the match wasn't whooping and hollering. Bridging the 38-year gap to Dublin's last appearance in an All-Ireland final is an alluring project.

"We were able to kind of hold our nerve coming down the stretch at the end and get the result, which is obviously the most important thing in a quarter-final," said Maher.

"That's a big win for us there today. [First] semi since 2017. I think it was nearly 30 years before that that we were in a semi [1990]. So they don't come around too often. We'll enjoy today. We'll enjoy tonight, enjoy the fruits of our labour. But ultimately, three weeks [July 27 at UPMC Nowlan Park], plenty of time, main goal is reset and go again."

A fantastic sixth-minute goal by Sinéad Wylde, playing with a broken bone in her hand, gave the Blues the ideal start, but with Aoife Prendergast and Aoife Doyle hitting some impressive points, Kilkenny settled and took the lead as the victors endured a 20-minute barren spell.

Aoife Norris made some good saves in this period, including from Maher's penalty, though the shot was tame. Maher missed a couple of frees you might have expected her to slot too but her character shone from there, picking up mountains of ball in the new position she has adopted this season in the defensive pocket.

What's more, she landed a monster free from outside the 65 as Dublin managed to go in leading by one at the break. The quarterback/sweeper was unerring from that juncture on, finishing with seven points, including the final insurance score on the run from 50m.

That was the last of four on the trot that separated Dublin from Kilkenny, with substitute Aisling O'Neill, returning from a serious hamstring injury, having had a significant impact off the bench with two of those scores.

Co-manager Gerry McQuaid has seen many huge days in this stadium, having been involved through Wexford's three-in-a-row from 2010-2012. He has a familiar face alongside him now in former Wexford goalie Mags D'Arcy, while Bill McCormack is an integral facet of the brains trust as the other co-manager. Micky McCullough, a renowned camogie and hurling coach and visionary, is another central cog.

Like Maher, McQuaid was balancing a very obvious delight in what had occurred with an emphasis on there being another task to complete.

"A lot of work went into it and this is just rewards," McQuaid began.

"But listen, I emphasise, it's a quarter-final, you know? It's a semi-final now we have to get to in three weeks. We have to go and perform again."

He hailed the impact of the bench, giving Dublin the fuel injection to pull clear down the stretch. We don't call them subs. We call them finishers. If you take a look what they did, they finished so delighted for them all.

"Aisling [O'Neill] had a serious injury. She actually only put her helmet on this week, for contact. We were very, very cautious about her."

Scorers for Dublin: A Maher 0-7(6fs); S Wylde 1-0; A O'Neill 0-2; S Nolan, A McKearney A Gannon, C Gannon 0-1 each

Kilkenny: A Pendergast 0-5(3fs); A Doyle 0-3; C Keher Murtagh 0-2; S Fitzgerald, K Power 0-1 each

DUBLIN: A Gorman, A Ryan, E O'Byrne, A McKearney, C Gannon, K Finnegan, Z Couch, S Nolan, N Gannon, A Gannon, E Jamieson-Murphy, A Maher, G O'Shea, E Flanagan, S Wylde. Subs: A O'Neill for Flanagan (41), A Rafter for Nolan (43), L Sharkey for Couch (45), A Kenny for Ryan (60+1), A Heffernan for Jamieson-Murphy (60+3)

KILKENNY: A Norris, M Teehan, G Walsh, K Byrne, N Deely, L Murphy, S O'Keeffe, K Doyle, K Power, S Barcoe,. S Fitzgerald, A Doyle, C Keher Murtagh, A Prendergast, J Malone. Subs: T Fitzgerald for O'Keeffe (ht), M Bambrick for K Doyle (44), L Greene for S Fitzgerald (47), K Nolan for Barcoe (52)

Referee: Andy Larkin (Cork)

O'Reilly in winning frame of mind for do-or-die duel

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Galway goal poacher Ailish O'Reilly is not one for dodging hard challenges.

O'Reilly doesn't attempt to soft soap how poor Galway were at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh in their final game of the group series, when they scored three points in the second half and were beaten by 12.

With a direct route to the semi-finals up for grabs, it was an uncharacteristically uncompetitive performance in the Cathal Murray era.

"We just haven't really got going," said O'Reilly ahead of today's Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie quarter-final against Waterford at Croke Park. The Maroons have been a bit hit-and-miss to date, just getting over the line against Dublin and drawing with Wexford before accounting for Down and Clare.

"But, you know, we have one game now to do or die, so we have to be ready for it or our season could be done.

"We did a bit of talking [about Cork]. We don't have a lot of time . . . we have to, just scrap it, and we have to shift our focus to Waterford, [a] huge semi-final spot on the line. Big players like Niamh [Kilkenny] and Aoife [Donohue] spoke very well after the game. We have to drive on."

It it is not an unknown phenomenon for knockout fare to flick a switch in a group that knows how to get things done, and if there has been some turnover in the panel in recent years, there remains a core group that have the bling of success in their lockers.

O'Reilly is among that cohort with wonderful memories of Croke Park, from winning her first senior All-Ireland as a teenager in her debut season in 2013. Six years later, in Murray's first full campaign as boss, she laid the platform for success with two goals, either side of an assist for Oranmore/Maree clubmate, Niamh Hanniffy's goal.

They were at it again two years later, a season that ended with O'Reilly picking up a fifth All Star in nine seasons. The 30-year-old remains a valuable operator, often taking on freetaking duties and mixing it up between the inside line, where she made her name, and a deeper role.

If Carrie Dolan has recovered from the dead leg that forced her off eight days ago, there should be no need for placed-ball work today. Galway haven't had a lot of luck with injuries but things might be coming right, with Aoife Donohue in line for a return too after a month on the sidelines.

A former player of the year, Kilkenny returned to the fold this term after missing 2023 when giving birth to her first child with husband and former Galway hurler, Cyril Donnellan. And having her long-time compadre Donohue back in the mix would make a big difference too.

"She was training well this week and knowing Aoife, do-or-die game, nothing will stop her. You know it was probably her first injury ever. I do not remember her ever missing a game or a session.

"Niamh coming back was a big boost. Just her presence alone. I was only talking to my uncle the last day, I said I'd love to count up all her assists in the last couple of games. We need all those kind of players. We've lost so many."

Siobhán McGrath was the latest bona fide match winner to depart, the hero of both club and county All-Irelands withdrawing from the panel after the one-point league final defeat to Tipperary.

Niamh Mallon played her first game for Galway as a last-quarter sub that day, having transferred to McGrath's club, Sarsfields, from Portaferry as a long-time resident in the City of Tribes. The Down native almost rescued the day for her new teammates in the league decider, scoring three points and being fouled for another. She then scored 0-10 on her championship debut in the three-point win over Dublin, four from play. Murray has described her as "a huge asset", and O'Reilly agrees.



Galway's Ailish O'Reilly

"She's a massive threat, especially when we've lost the few we have. She just has something different."

That league final concluded what the Aussies might call a pretty ordinary 24 hours for O'Reilly — "not great" is how she describes it in an understated fashion — as she also lost the BIDL Women's decider with Claregalway basketballers the day before. A point guard, O'Reilly was an underage international who won a schools' All-Ireland with Calasanctius College and played Division 1 National League with NUIG Mystics.

She has spoken in the past about how much basketball has brought to her game in terms of movement and all-round fitness.

"I went back last November and really enjoyed it. I hadn't played since before Covid. It's a totally different type of fitness — I never have to do cardio in the winter when I'm playing basketball. Having the low centre of gravity helps too.

"Touch wood, thankfully I haven't picked up any of those horror injuries that are creeping into camogie. You seem to be hearing about a cruciate nearly every weekend now. And even with all that twisting and turning, you don't hear about it so much in women's basketball. So I wonder if it actually strengthens the knees?"

It's all Croke Park today and hoping the real Galway kicks in against last year's All-Ireland finalists.

"We've had good days and bad days at Croke Park. It's lonely, a very lonely place, when you don't come out the right side out of it but that's all part of it. We just hope we are looking forward to a couple of other big days out by the end of the day."

Wylde magic gives Dublin the edge

DUBLIN	1-13
KILKENNY	0-12

Dublin found another gear in the final quarter to pull clear of Kilkenny and qualify for the semi-finals of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship.

The win was fully merited as the Dubs created far more via clever movement and ferocious work-rate.

While Kilkenny had a 15-minute period of early ascendancy, they could not get the likes of Aoife Prendergast or Aoife Doyle involved enough, whereas Dublin had big contributions from their key players with Sinéad Wylde's fine sixth-minute goal proving crucial to the outcome.

Dublin skipper Aisling Maher, who was immense playing in the defensive pocket, equalised from a free early on before that wonderful piece of opportunism by Wylde. A free by Maher broke on the edge of the parallelogram but as Niamh Deely went to pick up the sliotar, Wylde somehow flicked it one-handed off her hurley and into the net.

The Cuala ace was playing with a broken bone in her hand but was a constant thorn in the side of the Noresiders, with Aoife McKearney, Kerrie Finnegan and Emma Byrne also starring for the victors who led by 1-5 to 0-7 at half-time.

Scorers — Dublin: A Maher 0-7 (6f); S Wylde 1-0; A O'Neill 0-2; S Nolan, A McKearney A Gannon, C Gannon 0-1 each. **Kilkenny:** A Prendergast 0-5 (3f); A Doyle 0-3; C Keher Murtagh 0-2; S Fitzgerald, K Power 0-1 each.

Dublin: A Gorman; A Ryan, E O'Byrne, A McKearney; C Gannon, K Finnegan, Z Couch; S Nolan, N Gannon; A Gannon, E Jamieson-Murphy, A Maher; G O'Shea, E Flanagan, S Wylde. **Subs:** A O'Neill for Flanagan (41), A Rafter for Nolan (43), L Sharkey for Couch (45), A Kenny for Ryan (60+1), A Heffernan for Jamieson-Murphy (60+3).

Kilkenny: A Norris; M Teehan, G Walsh, K Byrne; N Deely, L Murphy, S O'Keeffe; K Doyle, K Power; S Barcoe, S Fitzgerald, A Doyle; C Keher Murtagh, A Prendergast, J Malone. **Subs:** T Fitzgerald for O'Keeffe (h-t), M Bambrick for K Doyle (44), L Greene for S Fitzgerald (47), K Nolan for Barcoe (52).

Referee: A Larkin (Cork).



Cork's Niamh O'Regan tussles with Galway's Ellen Burke during their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship at Castle Road. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Rebels blow Galway away to top group with five wins from five

Cork	3-17
Galway	0-9

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

A superb performance from Cork, in Castle Road on Saturday, ensured they finished Group 1 of the Glen Dimplex Intermediate Championship undefeated and advance to the semi-final.

They eased past a Galway side that needed to win by nine points to grab a semi-final spot.

Galway will now face Kerry in the quarter final next weekend.

The opening half was close, with Cork leading by two points, 0-7 to 0-5, at the break.

They were counting themselves lucky as Galway, playing with the strong wind, squandered scoring opportunities, most notably 12 minutes in when Chloe Broderick's pass saw Caoimhe Kelly hit the side netting from close range.

The sides were level, at two points apiece, after ten minutes.

Lauren Homan and Edel Sheehan gave Cork an early advantage, only to be pegged back by Niamh Spellman with two Galway points.

Cliona O'Callaghan and Tara McCarthy restored Cork's advantage and with Galway playing with a third midfielder, they were picking up a lot of possession.

Niamh Spellman pointed a free to cut the deficit, but two without reply had Cork three points clear after 20 minutes.

Putting a lot of pressure on the Cork defence, Galway hit two points in a row and as the sides swapped further points, Cork were two clear at half time, 0-7 to 0-5.

Cork were dominant in the second half and added 1-3 to their tally, before Galway found a response.

Lauren Homan hit a goal inside 20 seconds of the restart and points form Niamh O'Regan, Laura Doyle, and Lauren Homan had Cork seven points in front and Galway in trouble.

With Cork moving the ball fast, Galway were under pressure.

Caoimhe Kelly had a point back for them, but again Cork were finding gaps and by the three-quarter stage it was 1-14 to 0-8 and Cork never looked in danger of being caught.

As they piled on the pressure, the scores came fast and furious.

Eimear Duignan, Katie Walsh, Cliona O'Callaghan all added to the Cork tally.

Chloe Broderick and Caoimhe Kelly had Galway points, but Cork finished it out in style when Katie Walsh, with a pin-point pass, found Lauren Homan, who kicked the ball to the net for her third goal.

Eimear Duignan added a point on the full-time whistle as Cork advanced with ease to the last four.

Cork manager Donie Daly was pleased with this side's display and with a two-week break to the semi-final, they can enjoy a well-earned break next week.

Galway will be happy to advance to the quarter-final next weekend and today they seemed to be holding back and we should expect to see several of their regulars, who were amongst the substitutes today, featuring next week against Kerry as they bid to join Cork in the last four.

Scorers for Cork: L Homan 3-2, E Duignan 0-3, C O'Callaghan , N O'Regan 0-2 each, E Sheehan, T McCarthy, A Cashman, L Buttimer, L Doyle , C Dooley, H O' Leary, K Walsh 0-1 each.

Galway: C Kelly 0-3 (0-2f's), N Spellman 0-3 (0-2f's), A Kelly, C Broderick, C O'Meara 0-1 each.

Cork: C Hurley (St Finbarr's); A Barrett (Aghabullogue), N O'Leary (Brian Dillon's), E Flanagan (Aghabullogue); A Cashman (Youghal), O McAllen (Sarsfields), M Ring (Aghabullogue); T McCarthy (Glen Rovers), L Buttimer (Cloughduv); N O'Regan (St Catherine's), C O'Callaghan (Blackrock), E Sheehan (Eire Og); C Dooley, (Ballinora), E O'Donoghue (Bishopstown), L Homan (Brian Dillon's).

Subs: E Duignan (Mallow) for T McCarthy(h/t), M de Burca (Charleville) for M Ring (blood sub 40), K Walsh (Glen Rovers) for N O'Regan (44), H O' Leary (St Finbarr's) for L Buttimer(48), E Curtin (Blackrock) for C Dooley (52), O Keating (Ballincollig for E Sheehan (58).

Galway: C Hickey; A Keane, E Burke, L Ni Dhonncha; C Lawless, R McPhilbin, Z Rodgers; A Joyce , C O'Meara; N Spellman, A Kelly, C Broderick;

S Flynn, K Madden, C Kelly.

Referee: Brian Kearney (Kildare).



Cork manager Donie Daly, seen here against Galway in their intermediate camogie clash at Castle Road. Picture: Eddie O'Hare