

Motivation clear as UCC look to topple UCD

When UCC lost their opening Electric Ireland Ashbourne Cup game to UCD last month, nobody within the group was talking about winning the title.

UCC manager Michelle Gould remembers it as a sobering evening for the 2025 finalists and that "morale was low" immediately after the four-point loss.

"Sometimes home advantage is great but no, UCD took the game to us that evening and fair play to them," said Gould. "They came down to Cork and they beat us."

Overcoming SETU Waterford on a punishing evening of high winds and heavy

Electric Ireland Ashbourne Cup final



UCC v UCD

Sunday: DCU Sports Grounds, 4pm

Paul Keane



rain strengthened UCC's resolve and ignited the fire again. Then they beat an excellent University of Galway side containing reigning

All-Star Carrie Dolan.

Abby Walsh put a huge shift in for UCC that evening, the Clare defender holding Galway colossus Dolan scoreless from play.

And if confidence wasn't already soaring again, UCC must have felt virtually indestructible when they knocked out holders UL last Tuesday evening in their own backyard.

"UL were absolutely favourites, going for three in a row this year," said Gould. "But things went well for us and we'd done our homework."

That's quite the bounce back from their Round 1 defeat and UCC can prove just

how far they've come when they face UCD all over again in tomorrow's Electric Ireland Ashbourne Cup final.

"Beating Galway was a huge boost to our players' confidence," said Gould, a former UCC player herself. "And we just drove on. It was kind of like, 'Look, there's nothing to lose now' and we just went on from there."

"But losing the first round of the championship was definitely tough and there was a bit of regrouping to be done after that."

"Morale was low and, technically, people might have expected us to win that because we were at home."

"But we didn't and we had to look at things, change a few things around, positions and stuff, and thankfully it's working for us at the moment."

Cork dual star Aoife Healy has been central to UCC's resurgence.

"She's having a great season so far," said Gould. "We were unlucky to lose our captain, Méabh Ring; she's sick so she's out of action. But Aoife has been unbelievable; Abby Walsh, Sarah O'Brien, who is a senior with Limerick, she's having a great season as well. I could name plenty more because people have really stepped up."

UCD have been boosted by the availability of former Kilkenny star Grace Walsh this season.

They last won the title in 2008. UCC have endured an even longer wait for success, since 2003, and came up an agonising two points short in last year's final.

"It's a long time since we won it. 23 years," acknowledged Gould. "It would be sweet to do it, I won't lie. But we're probably going in as underdogs; they've beaten us already. I think that will be a big motivating factor for us. As I've said to them, we've gotten this far; anything can happen on the day of a final."

O'Brien propels UCC to Ashbourne Cup triumph

Intervarsity camogie

Kevin Egan

UCC's 23-year hoodoo in the Ashbourne Cup has finally come to an end after they easily brushed aside the challenge of UCD by 2-16 to 0-7 in yesterday's Electric Ireland showpiece final at DCU Sportsgrounds.

Sarah O'Brien was the star of the show, settling the pre-match favourites by winning a free for the opening point and following up with a score from play, then wrapping up a stellar all-round showing with two late goals to put real distance between the sides.

That immediate initial impression forced UCD's management to pull their talisman, Kilkenny's Grace Walsh, back into the full-back line to try and curtail the Limerick star. While the battle between these two players was a real clash of the Titans, Walsh's influence further outfield was sorely missed by the Dublin students.

With their nerves eased by that fast start, Niamh McNabola kept the pressure on with a point, O'Brien moved over to the left corner to add another score, and AFLW-bound Cork dual star Aoife Healy drove through the defence to set up a Sophie Pembroke point, making it 0-5 to no score after 10 minutes.

There were 23 minutes on the clock by the time UCD finally got off the mark, Ciara Curtin whipping over.

A score of real class from



WAIT OVER: The University College Cork camogie squad celebrate yesterday with the Ashbourne Cup after their victory over UCD at the DCU Sportsgrounds. UCC last took the honours 23 years ago.
Picture: Tom O'Hanlon/Inpho

UCC, set up by O'Brien and slotted from a tight angle by Abby Walsh, made it 0-9 to 0-1 at the interval.

UCC added the first four points of the second half as well and — while UCD then settled into the game with points from Carey, Curtin, and Emma Moran — there was still time for a final flourish from O'Brien.

Her first goal came after she pounced on a break and drove through a gap to finish low underneath Robyn Conlon. Her second rifled to the roof of the net when she cut through

from the left corner and recovered well after her first attempt was hooked, the last act in a comprehensive win.

■ UL won the Purcell Cup, holding out in a tense, defensive battle against Queen's University by 2-9 to 1-9. Caoimhe O'Donovan (Offaly), Emma Mulhall (Kilkenny), Aisling Cooney and Aoife Anderson (both Clare) were strong in the opening half, controlling the middle of the field and ensuring a steady flow of possession for the Shannonside students.

Queen's made a bright start when Sinéad Quinn powered

down the left wing to set up the opening score for Katie Molloy, but Kaci Toomey's reflexes meant she was first to react to Clodagh Kelly's save on a Sadhbh Buttle shot, and UL never trailed from then on.

Queen's did draw level but UL pulled away again with points from Fianait Dooley and Emma Mulhall and by half time they led by 1-6 to 0-6.

Mulhall was the player who ensured that UL would take the honours as she seized the initiative to score the all-important second UL goal in the 48th minute.

UL were comfortable for most of the remainder of the game but a low strike from Jessica Traynor in the first minute of stoppage time set up a grandstand finish.

Queen's couldn't get another clean look at goal, however, and ultimately time ran out on their bid to build on their Fr Meaghair Cup win two years ago.

■ University of Galway easily brushed aside Trinity College in this year's Fr Meaghair decider by 5-19 to 1-5.

Leah Murphy bagged a hat-trick of goals for UG.



Cork's Cliona Harte shoots as Limerick's Aoife Morrissey closes in during their Minor Camogie Championship clash. Pictures: David Keane

Meillouin goal brace as Collins saves minors

Cork 2-8
Limerick 0-11

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

A goal in either half from Lea Meillouin and a penalty save late on by Aoife Collins ensured Cork took the spoils in a tough, hard-fought Electric Ireland Minor Camogie Championship group game at Castle Rd.

After Limerick had enjoyed an early period of dominance, Cork got the boost they needed with Meillouin's first goal on 22 minutes and they finished the half in control.

The second half was a tight affair. Cork keeper Collins denied Limerick an equaliser with a minute left to ensure Cork held out to take their first points in a tight group.

Limerick were quick out of the blocks and had opened up a four-point lead inside the first 10 minutes. They worked the ball in fast to an inside line where the impressive Aoibhinn O'Connor and Rachel O'Grady put their early stamp on the game.

Underfoot conditions were soft but good, as the Castle Rd pitch held up well, and it made for a fast-flowing game.

Hazel Horgan, Aoibhinn O'Connor, Amber O'Sullivan and Caitlin Nyhan had Limerick points before Lexi Manley converted a Cork free on 13 minutes.

With both sides playing a sweeper, defences were on top. O'Connor extended the Limerick lead before Cork settled into the game.

A Manley free narrowed the gap and when Leah Hannigan sent a pinpoint pass to Meillouin, she made no mistake, finishing to the net.

Cork upped the pace and took control from here. Three Manley points without reply had them three in front before Mia Smith got one back for Limerick on the stroke of half time.

Manley converted a free to put three between the sides

again, before Anna Rose Benson ended a 26-minute Limerick drought with a point.

Boosted by this score, they pressed up on the Cork defence. Caitlin Ryan and Hazel Horgan had the sides on level terms again, but Cork replied with an excellent Cliona Harte point. As the battle to gain a firm grip continued, the Cork defence was mopping up a lot of Limerick pressure.

With Limerick pushing up, it left a lot of space around the middle of the pitch. Cork began to capitalise on this as they drove long ball to their inside line.

It was from a long delivery that Meillouin won possession on the end line and rounding her marker, finished superbly to the corner of the net to put four points between the sides.

Aishling Foley narrowed the gap with a point before Cork conceded a penalty with a minute remaining. Up stepped goalkeeper Emma Doherty, but her effort was stopped on the line by Collins.

As the clock ticked on, Foley and Meillouin swapped points but Cork hung on for victory.

Scorers for Cork: L Meillouin 2-1, L Manley 0-6 (0-4 f), C Harte 0-1.

Limerick: H Horgan, A O'Connor, C Ryan (f), A O'Sullivan, 0-2 each, A Benson, A Foley, M Smith, 0-1 each.

CORK: A Collins (Sarsfields); S Donohue (Blarney); A Ashman (Killeagh); T O'Neill (Fr O'Neill's); M Lombard (Ballinhassig, c); C O'Donnell (Sliabh Rua); C Ryan; (Newtownshandrum); C Murphy (Eire Og); C Hayes (St Catherine's); C Harte (Barryroe); L Manley (Aghabullogue); O Troy (Newtownshandrum); L Meillouin (Innisscarra); E Healy (Eire Og); L Hannigan (Ballincollig).

Subs: S Dwyer (Douglas) for C Hayes (45); A Halpin (Sliabh Rua) for M Lombard (55).

LIMERICK: E Doherty; T Hynes (c); O Barrett; E Herbert; S O'Riordan; A Morrissey; C Long; A R Benson; C Ryan; I O'Brien; A O'Sullivan; M Smith; R O'Grady; H Horgan; A O'Connor.

Subs: A Buckley for E Herbert (36); A Foley for R O'Grady (49).

Referee: Gavin Donegan (Dublin).



Millie Condon of Cork clears from Beth Carton of Waterford.

Picture: INPHO/James Lawlor

Cork defeat no surprise

Waterford 1-12
Cork 0-9

CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

Cork got the defence of their Centra National Camogie League Division 1A title off to a losing start at Azzurri Walsh Park on Saturday.

With only four of the team that started the All-Ireland final last August playing, it was very much a new-look Cork side and it was no great surprise to see an experienced Waterford outfit get the better of them.

But credit to Cork, they battled to the end, with the likes of Libby Coppinger, Ashling Thompson, Millie Condon, and Niamh McNabola the pick of them.

Cork now face Antrim next weekend, a game that will be expected to be their first win.

Beth Carton opened the scoring for the home side, with Niamh McNabola replying for Cork.

Another from Carton put Waterford back in front, as they led by 0-2 to 0-1 after five minutes.

A free from Niamh Rockett increased Waterford's lead as she pointed from long distance, using the wind at their backs to her full advantage.

Abby Flynn increased their lead and with 11 minutes gone Bevan Bowdren added another to see Waterford in front by 0-5 to 0-1.

In the absence of Cork's regular free-takers, Keeva McCarthy took over the duties and she pointed to add her side's second score.

Flynn combined with Carton for the latter to increase Waterford's lead as the home side were making the most of their chances, to lead by 0-6 to 0-2.

Carton struck another as she was causing the Cork defence all sorts of problems and she was on target again, to make it 0-8 to 0-2 after 23 minutes.

McCarthy pulled a point back from a free, after 27 minutes, which was the last score of the half as Waterford led by 0-8 to 0-3 at the break.



McNabola got the first score of the second half as Cork were now playing with the strong wind.

Another free from McCarthy had the Waterford lead down to three, with 35 minutes played: 0-8 to 0-5.

A minute later and Waterford found the back of the net. Rockett picked up the ball, and it looked like the Cork defence had done enough to stop her. But from her



Niamh McNabola of Cork in action on Saturday. Picture: INPHO/James Lawlor

knees she looped the ball over Amy Lee's head to score a magnificent goal to make it 1-8 to 0-5.

Carton increased their lead as Cork were finding it hard to get a foothold in the game, which was no surprise with the number of players missing.

Two subs, Avril Cashman and Isobel Sheehan, combined for the latter to point, with Emma Murphy adding another from a free.

Ava McAuliffe, just on as a sub for Cork, pointed with her first touch, with Orla Hickey replying at the other end.

Lorraine Bray added another for the home side, to make it 1-11 to 0-8 with a minute to go.

Carton got her seventh of the afternoon to put seven between the sides as the game entered injury time.

Murphy had a late chance for a goal for Cork, but her effort was well saved by Brianna O'Regan and the danger was cleared.

Murphy got the last score of the tie as the home side ran out winners by 1-12 to 0-9.

Scorers for Waterford: B Carton 0-7, N Rockett 1-1 (0-1 f), A Flynn, B Bowdren, O Hickey, L Bray 0-1 each.

Cork: K McCarthy 0-3 f, E Murphy (f), N McNabola 0-2 each, I Sheehan, A McAuliffe 0-1 each.

WATERFORD: B O'Regan; V Falconer, C Carroll, A McNulty; R Walsh, K Corbett Barry, C Sherlock; L Bray, A Flynn; E O'Neill, B Carton, B Bowdren; N Rockett, L Forrester, R Kirwan.

Subs: M Gosti for R Kirwan (37); O Hickey for L Forrester (40); S Lacey for N Rockett (48); A O'Sullivan for C Sherlock (55).

CORK: A Lee (Na Piarsaigh); M Murphy (Ballinora); L Coppinger (St Colum's); A O'Neill (St Finbarr's); A Fitzgerald (Sarsfields); D O'Brien (Enniskeane); R Hart (Ballyhea); M Condon (Ballinascahy); A Thompson (Milford); E Murphy (Glen Rovers); C Kingston (Newcestown); K McCarthy (St Finbarr's); H Ryan (Blackrock); N McNabola (Cloughduv); C O'Callaghan (Blackrock).

Subs: A Cashman (Youghal) for C Kingston (ht); A Sheppard (Cloughduv) for C O'Callaghan (37); I Sheehan (Eire Og) for K McCarthy (40); O Cahalane (St Finbarr's) for H Ryan (44); O Cremin for (Eire Og) for A Fitzgerald (46); A McAuliffe (Castlemartyr) for N McNabola (55).

Referee: Liz Dempsey, Kilkenny.



Cork's Lea Meillouin battles with Limerick's Tara Hynes at Castle Rd.

By Kevin Egan

ON A day when meaningful senior intercounty action resumed for the first time since Galway pipped Cork in last year's thrilling All-Ireland senior final, both counties lost in the first round of the Centra National Camogie League.

Those defeats resulted in Tipperary taking top spot in Division 1A on the back of their commanding performance against Antrim in Cushendun.

Cork are clearly trying to deepen their squad this year after last year's final disappointment, and lined out just four of their team from the 2025 decider at Azzurri Walsh Park yesterday.

Waterford didn't need to be asked twice to take advantage, picking up a 1-12 to 0-9 win.

After the first two points of the game were shared, Beth Carton

A spectacular goal after 38 minutes transformed this game

hit her stride with the breeze behind her, scoring five of her 0-7 total from play in the first 22 minutes to put Waterford six points clear.

Early points for Niamh McNabola and Keeva McCarthy suggested Cork might rally, but a spectacular goal after 38 minutes completely turned the game.

On her knees between three Cork defenders, Niamh Rockett struck a looping shot from the left corner that sailed over the head of Amy Lee and into the Cork goal, restoring the Déise's six-point advantage.

Ger Manley swapped out five of his starting six forwards, with Ava McAuliffe and Isobel Sheehan both getting on the scoreboard, but the Rebels still couldn't get going up front and a 14-minute scoring drought left them with too much to do. The O'Duffy Cup hold-



HITTING HER STRIDE: Beth Carton of Waterford (left) in possession

Rockett's on fire as Waterford see off Rebels

ers Galway had home advantage against Kilkenny in Ballinasloe and got out to a dream start when Carrie Dolan – scorer of that memorable winning point in Croke Park last August – found the net inside a minute of action at Duggan Park.

Kilkenny responded well, with the next two points from Aoife Prendergast and Laura Greene, and the Cats were back on level

terms by the midway point in the first half when Sarah Barcoe split the uprights with a neat swing of the wrists in traffic.

The Cats produced their best hurling in the ten minutes before half-time but, going into injury time, it looked like Galway had held out well, conceding just two

TOUGH TUSSELE: Ava McAuliffe of Cork in action against Eimear O'Neill



frees to Prendergast.

Then Asha McHardy found the net to make it a four-point game and give Kilkenny something to defend as they turned around to play into the diagonal breeze.

It was a strong Galway team with nine starters from last year's All-Ireland final, though just three of those were in the back seven.

Still, Róisín Black and Ciara Hickey were strong along the spine of the defence, while Kilkenny's starting full-forward line didn't score from play.

After falling 1-8 to 1-3 behind with 34 minutes gone, Galway came like a train with five points in a row, including two from play from the impressive Niamh Niland, but their good work was undone by Caoimhe Keher Murtagh's goal early in the final quarter.

Prendergast scored a free and a 45 to bring her tally to 0-7 and that was just about enough to enable Kilkenny to hold off a late push from Galway to win by 2-11 to 1-13.

In Cushendun, Tipperary surged to the top of the league with a 2-19 to 0-9 win over Antrim, but Saf-fon manager Elaine Dowds will take some encouragement from an encouraging performance from her newly-promoted charges.

Tipp hit 1-3 in four minutes before half-time, their goal from Caoimhe Stakelum, and that effectively sealed the Premier County's win.

Nicole McAtamney hit one of her five frees after half-time and Maeve Kelly followed up with a point to make it 1-10 to 0-6, but Tipp had too many weapons, with Stakelum (1-4), Róisín Howard (0-2), Clodagh McIntyre (0-3), Eimear McGrath (0-3), Kate Ralph (0-2) and Caoimhe McCarthy (0-2) scoring well.

Niamh Treacy made her four-minute cameo appearance count, hitting the game's second goal in stoppage time.

In Division 1B, Clare took a point from their trip to Abbotstown in Dublin, Limerick edged out Down and Wexford were impressive in seeing off Offaly in Enniscorthy.

Experimental Cork target

New-look Rebels suffered defeat on opening day of Division 1A action

CORK 0-9
WATERFORD 1-12

BY MATTHEW HURLEY

GER Manley's Cork will be hoping to spark their Centra National Camogie League Division 1A campaign into life with a win when they face Antrim in MTU this Saturday (2pm).

Both sides head into this tie off the back of opening day defeats, as an experimental Cork team lost away to Waterford in Walsh Park.

Antrim fell to a heavy 2-19 to 0-9 loss to Tipperary, so the Division 1B champions will also

hope to get their first points on the board this weekend. Meanwhile, All-Ireland champions Galway lost their opener to Kilkenny (2-11 to 1-13) so all to play for in round two.

But perhaps what Cork want from this league campaign is different to last season when the Rebels were crowned Division 1 champs. The aim this year is to build a strong panel to compete for starting spots for the championship.

Only four Cork starters from the All-Ireland final loss to Galway started in last weekend's league opener – Amy Lee, Libby Coppinger, Ashling Thompson and Emma Murphy.

DIVISION 1A CAMOGIE

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Tipperary	1	1	0	0	25	9	0
Waterford	1	1	0	0	15	9	3
Kilkenny	1	1	0	0	17	16	3
Galway	1	0	1	0	16	17	0
Cork	1	0	1	0	9	15	0
Antrim	1	0	1	0	9	25	0

Laura Tracey retired in the off-season, while Hannah Looney and Aoife Healy are heading to the AFLW. The Mackey sisters, Katrina and Pamela, have opted out for now, Amy O'Connor is injured, while Saoirse McCarthy was also absent.

On a positive note for Carbery camogie, Daire O'Brien (Enniskeane), Millie Condon (Ballinascarthy) and Claire Kingston (Newcestown) all started against Waterford.

Waterford, in comparison, played 11 of their starting side that faced Cork in last year's

All-Ireland semi-final and the experience on the pitch was evident. The home side out-scored Cork 1-11 to 0-4 from play overall and were 0-8 to 0-3 up at the break.

Beth Carton hit her stride with 0-5 in the opening stages while Bevan Bowdren, Niamh Rockett and Abby Flynn added to Waterford's tally.

Cork only hit 0-1 from play in the opening half courtesy of Niamh McNabola and struggled against a strong wind as Keeva McCarthy kept them going from frees.



A sideline ball in dispute at MTU on Saturday. Picture: Noel Sweeney

Manley: They wanted it more than our players

It was a result that not too many would have predicted as Cork lost out to Antrim in the Centra Camogie League at MTU.

Antrim would have travelled more in hope than expectation after their loss to Tipperary last weekend. With Cork looking to get back to winning ways after their loss to Waterford last weekend few would have given Antrim a chance.

But full credit to the Ulster side, they tore in to Cork from the start and in the end were deserving winners.

Cork manager Ger Manley was quick to praise them and said they were worthy winners on the day.

"They were very committed and, look, I think they wanted it more than our players and I think that was the difference," said Manley.

"We always knew it was going to be a bit of a battle and give them their credit, they were the better team for the majority of the game.

"We had a few chances, but, in all fairness, I think they deserved to win."

Manley said they wanted it more, but also said there were no harsh words afterwards about the level they were at.

"You don't have to tell them about that game, they know. They can be self-critical most of the time; probably too much at times, because their standards are high.

"We know that's not good enough and we know where we're at, as well. We've a lot of new players in and we always

REACTION

Rory Noonan

said the league would be tough this year, because we've so many players missing.

"It's not an excuse for today, as it wasn't good enough. We had a few chances. They took theirs and that was the difference."

Cork have a break now for a few weeks, before they are away to Kilkenny in a fortnight. It gives Manley and his management team a chance to work on a few things ahead of what is now a crucial game for his side.

"I suppose, it's an opportunity for the players, but I mean, where'd you go from that? It's going to be a lot of hard work in the next month or two to get us right for the championship.

"Like, I think the league isn't there for us now. We probably knew that after the first game that we lost. So, I suppose, we're trying to give players games, but the realisation is that it's a different level at inter-county, no matter what team you're playing, to club level.

"I think some of the girls will know that after today, and after Waterford won the last day.

"But look, there is a couple of positives. Some of the newer girls did well there. Orlaith Cremin, I thought, did quite well there and young McAuliffe (Ava) did well and was a bit unlucky there for a goal towards the end, so there's a few positives."



Players tussle for possession during Cork's clash with Antrim in the Centra National Camogie League at MTU. Picture: Noel Sweeney

Cork stunned on home turf

Cork 1-11
Antrim 2-10

A shock result as Cork were beaten by Antrim in their second-round game of the Centra Camogie League Division 1A at MTU on Saturday.

It was a game Cork would have been expected to win, but full credit to Antrim, they were deserving winners on the day.

Two second-half goals were the key scores as the visitors bounced back from their heavy loss to Tipperary last week to take the points.

It now leaves Cork pointless after two games and virtually rules them out from retaining their title. In fact, they will have to start worrying about relegation, with tough away games to come.

With only three of the side that lost the All-Ireland final starting, it was never going to be a straight-forward task. Still, it was a game Cork were expected to win, and no doubt they will have to do a lot of soul-searching before their next outing in two weeks'.

Antrim made all the early running, but that was no great surprise with the strong wind at their backs. They had the first few chances to score, with Nicole McAtamney missing two early frees.

Antrim took the lead after five minutes when Janey McIntosh scored, with Haley Ryan replying from a 45 for Cork. With nine minutes gone, Cork had their first goal chance, with Ryan playing Orlaith Cremin in, but her effort was well saved by Caitriona Graham.

With 12 minutes gone, Cork had another chance to take the lead, but again the wind played its part as Millie Condon's effort went just wide. McAtamney pointed for the visitors, and she added another from a free, to see Antrim lead by 0-4 to 0-1.

McIntosh increased their lead, and Eobha McAllister was also on target as Antrim were making the most of the wind to lead by 0-6 to 0-1 after 19 minutes.

Emma Murphy pulled a point back for Cork, with Cliona O'Callaghan having another shot on goal for the Rebels saved by Graham.

Murphy got her second from a free as



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

Cork were now getting used to the wind. Cremin added another as they cut Antrim's lead by two. McAtamney was on target from another free, with Isobel Sheehan replying for Cork.

McAtamney got the last score of the half as Antrim led by 0-8 to 0-5, but Cork were now turning to play with the very strong wind in their favour.

Early scores from Murphy and Sheehan reduced the deficit to one before the former was on target again, to make it 0-8 each after 35 minutes.

Cremin put Cork in front for the first time, but their lead didn't last long. Lucia McNaughton played in McAtamney to find the back of the net to put the visitors back in front.

Cork responded, with half-time substitute Orlaith Cahalane finding the back of the net, to make it 1-9 to 1-8 after 48 minutes in their favour.

Credit to Antrim, they never gave up

and with 51 minutes gone they hit their second goal, with Aimee Ferris on target.

McAtamney added a point from a free to increase their lead, and when McAllister pointed they were 2-10 to 1-9 in front.

Cahalane put the goal between the sides, with Millie Condon also scoring to make it 2-10 to 1-11. But Cork ran out of time as Antrim hung on for a deserved win on the day for a result that will shock many.

Cork have a lot of work to do ahead of their clash with Kilkenny in two weeks'.

Scorers for Cork: O Cahalane 1-1, E Murphy 0-4 (0-1 45, 0-11), O Cremin, I Sheehan 0-2, H Ryan (45), M Condon 0-1 each.

Antrim: N McAtamney 1-5 (0-3 f), E McAllister 0-3 (0-1 f), J McIntosh 0-2, A Ferris 1-0.

CORK: E Hurley (St Finbarr's); M Murphy (Ballinora); L Coppinger (St Colum's); Aisling Egan (St Finbarr's); A O'Neill (St Finbarr's); A Thompson (Milford); R Harty (Ballyhea); M Condon (Ballinascorney); A Fitzgerald (Sarsfields); E Murphy (Glen Rovers); I Sheehan (Eire Og); O Cremin (Eire Og); H Ryan (Blackrock); N McNabola (Cloughduv); C O'Callaghan (Blackrock).

Subs: O Cahalane (St Finbarr's) for C O'Callaghan (ht), A McAuliffe (Castlemartyr) for I Sheehan, C Kingston (Newcastle) for A O'Neill (both 46), K McCarthy (St Finbarr's) for N McNabola (50), A Cashman (Youghal) for H Ryan (56).

ANTRIM: C Graham; C Patterson, S Heggarty, D Dobbin; C McKillop, K Molloy, N Cosgrove; A Boyle, E McAllister; M Kelly, L McNaughton, N McAtamney; A Ferris, C Griffin, J McIntosh.

Sub: C Conlon for N Cosgrove (ht). Referee: Brian Kearney, Kildare.



Niamh McNabola of Cork breaks away from Amy Boyle of Antrim. Picture: Noel Sweeney



Action from Cork against Antrim. Picture: Noel Sweeney

Dowds hopes to carry energy from Cork stunner

Centra Camogie League

Kevin Egan

Elaine Dowds conceded that long-term developmental plans went out the window in the closing quarter, as the reality of an away Centra Camogie League Division 1A victory over Cork emerged as a realistic possibility.

And who could argue? No one, as the Saffrons downed the Rebels at MTU Cork for the first time in almost half a century, meaning that the defending champions are still

without a win after two games. And anyway, beating Cork will tend to accelerate growth, even if the bench hasn't been emptied in the process.

Meanwhile, Galway, who beat Cork in the All-Ireland final, will be pursuing their first win, albeit having had this weekend off — while a resurgent Kilkenny tops the table after beating Tipp to retain a 100% record from the first two rounds.

"I've played camogie all my life. This is the first time in many, many years that An-

trim have beaten Cork," beamed Antrim manager Dowds in the aftermath of her side's 2-10 to 1-11 win.

Cork lined out with just three starters from the team that contested last year's championship decider in Croke Park, but they still looked like the more likely winners when they came back from five points down to lead by one with the wind at their backs early in the final quarter.

Aimee Ferris' goal on 51 minutes retook the advantage for the visitors however, and

they were able to hold out, with goalkeeper Caitriona Graham making a fine late save to go with two previous excellent stops to prevent goals in the opening half.

"I do understand this is a very depleted Cork team, but I am still very, very proud of what we have done today," Dowds said.

"We've come down here and given absolutely everything. It is about workrate, belief, never giving up, no lost causes, and I think you saw that today. Normally I would think the league is for getting

your subs off the bench, but who could I take off there?"

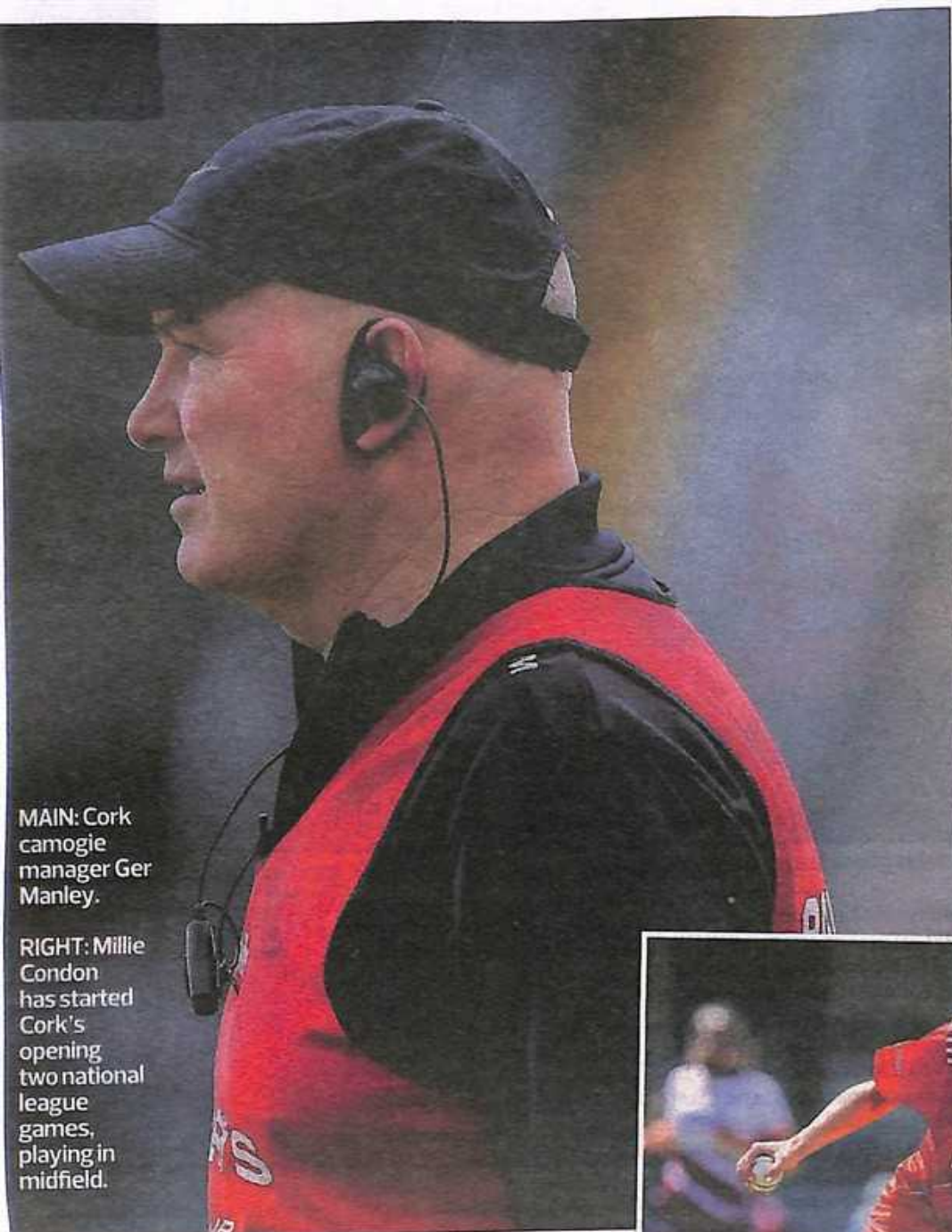
The other game in the top tier saw Kilkenny use the breeze well to build up an 0-11 to 0-2 half-time lead against Tipperary at Freshford, with Asha McHardy picking up the Player of the Match accolade for her outstanding display in the half-forward line, striking six points from play to power her side to an 0-15 to 0-10 win.

"This year there's just such a new energy within the group, it's so positive and so enjoyable," she said afterwards. "We really wanted to

come and back up last week win here today, and we're delighted to have done that."

"There was a strong wind the first half, we did well to have a lead of nine at half-time, but we knew Tipp were going to come back at us, probably had a bit of a rough patch, but we stuck with it and dogged it out."

In Division 1B, Clare recorded an 0-16 to 0-9 win over Wexford, Sarah O'Brien's second-half goal edged Limerick past Offaly by 1-15 to 2-9, a Down beat Dublin by the same margin, 1-10 to 0-10.



MAIN: Cork camogie manager Ger Manley.

RIGHT: Millie Condon has started Cork's opening two national league games, playing in midfield.

CHANCE TO SHINE?

Cork's evolving panel has opened the door for a number of West Cork players to make their mark at senior level. Ballinascorthy's Millie Condon, a former West Cork Sports Star Paudie Palmer Youth Award winner, continues her development after gaining exposure to the set-up last season. Newcestown's Claire Kingston (pictured) saw her strong Ashbourne Cup form with UCC rewarded with a Cork senior debut in the league clash with Waterford, and a second appearance against Antrim; Claire was called up to the senior squad last summer after catching the eye with the Cork U23s. Enniskene's Daire O'Brien is another highly regarded prospect, having impressed at underage level, including captaining the Cork U23s last season in their run to the All-Ireland final.



when we brought her into the senior panel,' Manley explains.

'Daire O'Brien has been around with the U23s, played with UL too, and has a lot of potential. Millie Condon is another with a high ceiling. They have that bit of cutting edge you want to see, and now it's about getting accustomed to playing at this level. That won't happen overnight.

'It takes time to get comfortable in these surroundings, to make the jump from club to inter-county.

'We have maybe 12 of last year's U23s in with us, but this

is a step up physically and mentally. It could take some girls a year to get used to training and matches at this level.

'We want to see what happens over the next three or four months,' he adds, with the national league offering players a chance to audition ahead of the championship.

'There's been such a strong squad there for seven or eight years, but now there are opportunities with a few gone to Australia, a few stepping away, and a few injuries,' Manley says.

'We want to win every match we play, whether it's league or championship - this is a competitive squad. But we also know we need to unearth players for the championship. Given the strength of the group over the last few years, it was hard to break into it, but there is an opportunity now.'

Perhaps this is the moment for Carbery players to push their way into Manley's plans. The Cork boss is well aware of the talent in the division, name-checking Clonakilty's Amy McCarthy, who won the Ashbourne Cup with UCC in recent weeks and has represented Cork at underage level up to U23.

'We keep an open mind; if players are putting their hands up, we will have a look,' he says.

One Carbery player Manley knows all about is Libby

'Given the strength of the group over the last few years, it was hard to break into it, but there is an opportunity now'

Coppinger, and he is a huge admirer. The St Colum's woman will now concentrate fully on camogie at inter-county level after stepping back from the Cork footballers, a welcome boost given the youthful profile of the squad.

'If Libby wanted to keep playing football, we would have supported her, but it is a boost to have her with us all the time now,' Manley says.

'She gives everything. I've worked with her for the past five years and she has always impressed me. If Libby Coppinger came to me on one leg, you'd play her. She is brilliant with the younger players around her too.

'She picked up a bad injury in 2024 and missed the All-Ireland because of it, but came back strong last year and is flying this season already. She is top class.'

So, alongside established names like Coppinger, there is now a real chance for the next generation of Carbery camogie players to show what they can do at the highest level.



ers, it's no surprise there is a youthful look to the Cork camogie team competing in Division 1 of the National League. After an opening-round loss to Waterford, an inexperienced Cork suffered a surprise loss at home to Antrim last weekend, with Manley giving several players their chance to impress, including a number from Carbery.

While St Colum's three-time Camogie All-Star Libby Cop-

pinger is a well-established defensive lynchpin, Manley is also handing game-time to Ballinascorthy's Millie Condon, who was involved with the senior squad last season, as well as Claire Kingston (Newcestown) and Daire O'Brien (Enniskene).

'Claire had a great Ashbourne Cup with UCC and was impressive last year

'knuckle down' as Rebels have work to do

brilliantly denied Cork's Orlaith Cremin a goal.

Eobha McAllister restored the visitors' advantage prior to Nicole McAtamney making it 0-3 to 0-1 as Antrim stuck doggedly to their task. Next, McAtamney added a long-range free to extend their advantage.

Cork struggled to get going and fell further behind when Janey McIntosh burst through. It was 0-6 to 0-1 once Eobha McAllister fired over.

The Rebels hit back via Emma Murphy to leave four between the teams heading towards half time. Cliona O'Callaghan wasted a terrific goal opportunity but Cork reduced the deficit once Murphy landed a free. Ger Manley's team finished the half strongly as

Orlaith Cremin fired over.

The sides swapped points, Nicole McAtamney and Isobel Sheehan, before another McAtamney free cemented the Northerners 0-8 to 0-5 interval lead.

Orlaith Cahalane was sprung from the bench and set up a move from which Cork was awarded a 45 - Emma Murphy converted and there was only a point in it when Isobel Sheehan scored.

Murphy floated over a beauty from the wing to complete Cork's comeback and make it 0-8 apiece after 35 minutes.

Orlaith Cremin edged the Rebels ahead but just when it seemed the hosts were assuming control, Antrim responded. Nicole McAtamney was afford-

ed too much space to wallop into the bottom corner and make it 1-8 to 0-9.

Orlaith Cahalane replied with a Cork goal within 60 seconds. But a mistake by Cork goalkeeper Eimear Hurley was seized upon by Aimee Ferris who forced the sliotar over the line.

It was 2-8 to 1-9 with ten minutes remaining but Antrim remained calm as Nicole McAtamney (45) and Eobha McAllister extended their lead.

Late Orlaith Cahalane and Millie Condon points weren't enough to prevent another Cork defeat.

'There's no point talking anymore, we just have to get out and do it,' Libby Coppinger concluded.

'It's February but it's not what you want to be doing in February either. So, a tough, tough day today but hats off to Antrim and we go again.'

Next up is an away



Cork stalwart Libby Coppinger.

trip to table-toppers Kilkenny on March 7th.

Scorers

Cork: Emma Murphy 0-4 (145, 1f); Orlaith Cahalane 1-1; Orlaith Cremin, Isobel Sheehan 0-2 each; Hayley Ryan (45), Millie Condon 0-1 each.

Antrim: Nicole McAtamney 1-5 (3f); Eobha McAllister 0-3 (1f); Aimee Ferris 1-0; Janey McIntosh 0-2.

Cork: Eimear Hurley (St Finbarr's); Meabh Murphy (Ballinora), Libby Coppinger (St Colums), Aisling Egan (St Finbarr's); Aolfe O'Neill (St Finbarr's), Ashling Thompson (Midford), Rachel Harty (Ballyhea); Millie Condon (Ballinascorthy), Ava Fitzgerald (Sarsfields); Emma Murphy (Glen Rovers), Isobel Sheehan (Eire Og), Orlaith Cremin

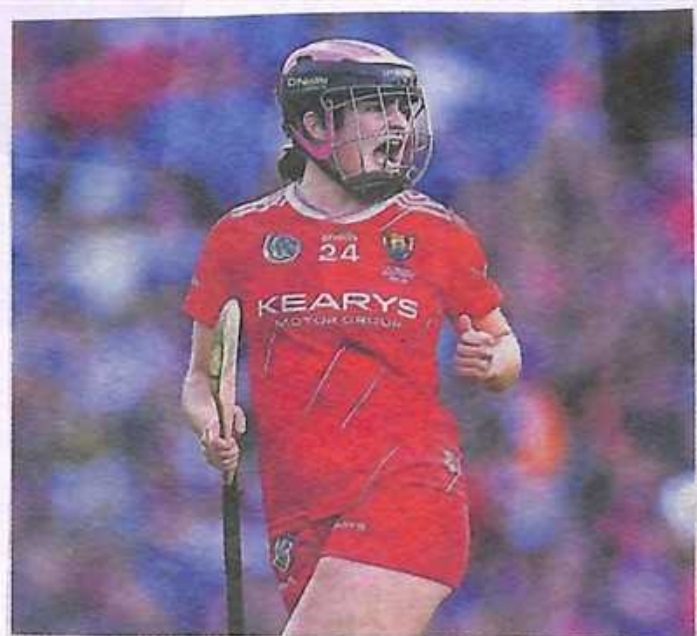
(Eire Og); Hayley Ryan (Blackrock); Niamh McNabola (Cloughduv), Cliona O'Callaghan (Blackrock).

Subs: Orlaith Cahalane (St Finbarr's) for C O'Callaghan (ht), Ava McAuliffe (Castlemartyr) for I Sheehan (47), Claire Kingston (Newcestown) for A O'Neill (47), Keeva McCarthy (St Finbarr's) for N McNabola (50), Avril Cashman (Youghal) for H Ryan (57).

Antrim: Catriona Graham (captain); Colleen Patterson, Shannagh Hegarty, Dearbhla Dobbin; Clare McKillop, Katie Molloy, Niamh Cosgrove; Amy Boyle, Eobha McAllister; Maeve Kelly, Lucia McNaughton, Nicole McAtamney; Aimee Ferris, Cliona Griffin, Jane McIntosh.

Sub: Caoimhe Conlon for N Cosgrove (ht).

Referee: Brian Kearney (Kildare).



Emma Murphy will be one of the players Cork will look to tomorrow against Kilkenny. Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Cork face the Cats as they bid to pick up first points of season

It doesn't get any easier for Cork as they head to Kilkenny to take on the Cats in round three of the Centra Camogie League Division 1A.

Kilkenny come into the game in confident form, after two big wins in the league, so they are joint top of the table with Waterford, the only two undefeated sides.

They will be looking to build on those wins again tomorrow, at St Lachtain's GAA Club, throw-in 2pm. They take on a Cork side who have yet to pick up any points.

The Cats got the better of Galway and Tipperary in their opening games, two sides that are never easy to beat, and they will be confident of adding another scalp as they take on a Cork side that have yet to get going.

Asha McHardy picked up the Player of the Match accolade for her display in the half-forward line, scoring six points from play to power her side to a 0-15 to 0-10 victory.

"This year, there's just such a new energy within the group, it's so positive and so enjoyable," she said afterwards.

"We really wanted to come and back up last week's win here today, and we're delighted to have done that."

"There was a strong wind in the first half. We did well to have a lead of nine at half time, but we knew Tipp were going to come back at us. We probably had a bit of a rough patch, but we stuck with them and dogged it out."

"We'll put the heads down now and get ready for Cork. We're in a good place and we're looking forward to it."

As good a place as Kilkenny are in, the opposite could be said of Cork, but there are mitigating factors.

For their opening two games, they had four first day out and then three, the second day of the side that lost the All-Ireland final on the pitch.

That is down to a combination of retirements and injuries, but there is some good news on the injury front.

Players like Meabh Cahalane, Laura Hayes, and Saoirse McCarthy are back in training

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

and manager Ger Manley hopes to have them available shortly for selection.

They are unlikely to start tomorrow. Manley said that it's too early in their recovery for them to do so.

He also has Izzy O'Regan back in training, along with Ciara O'Sullivan, with the former the more likely to feature tomorrow.

O'Sullivan is still well away from featuring and has yet to take part in any contact training, but Manley hopes she will be fit for the championship.

He also confirmed that Clodagh Finn and Amy O'Connor are on the way back, but said that they, too, are out for the league.

"I expect the team that starts won't be too far from the one that started against Antrim," said Manley.

"We still have a lot of players only on the way back and we can't afford to risk some of them, for fear of a reaction to their injuries."

"But we will be heading up to Kilkenny determined to put in a quality performance against a side that are in very good form."

"The players know the challenge that lies ahead and they will have to be up for it or else we will be facing down another defeat."

Cork will need to bounce back from their losses to Waterford and Antrim and need to get points on the board, or else the defending champions could be staring down the relegation road.

The Rebels will need big games from the likes of Libby Coppinger, Emma Murphy, Niamh McNabola, and Ashling Thompson to have any chance of getting their first win of the season.

It won't be easy and they will be going in as underdogs, but this side have bounced back before and there is a determination in the squad to start turning things around and to be one of their arch enemies would be a huge confidence boost for them.



Cork's Sorcha McCartan gathers the sliothar from Clare's Lynda Daly last season. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Returning All-Stars help secure first camogie league win of season

Kilkenny	0-9
Cork	1-15

Cork picked up their first win in the Centra National Camogie League Division 1A as they got the better of Kilkenny at St Lachtain's GAA Club on Saturday.

It was much-needed points for the Rebels as they bounced back from losses to Waterford and Antrim. A far stronger Rebel side took to the pitch against the Cats with welcome returns as Meabh Cahalane and Laura Hayes were back in defence.

Orlaith Cahalane started her first game and Sorcha McCartan was also back, having returned to the squad during the week.

To bring four All-Stars back helped to strengthen the Cork side considerably, but new players like Orlaith Cremin, and, in particular, Ava Fitzgerald, were also in top form.

However, late on Cork lost Ashling Thompson to an elbow injury and she will be a massive loss to the side and is unlikely to play again before the start of the All-Ireland championship.

Overall, this was an impressive team display by Cork with all contributing to the win as they bounced back from their shock loss to Antrim in their last outing. They started the better of the two and were in front in the first minute when Hayley Ryan, another to impress, got their opening point.

Seven minutes later and they doubled the lead, when Emma Murphy converted a free. With 14 minutes gone, McCartan announced her return with a trademark long-distance point to put Cork further ahead, 0-3 to no score.

Aoife Prendergast got Kilkenny off the mark after 15 minutes when she pointed from a free, before they were awarded a penalty for a tackle on Caoimhe Keher. Prendergast stepped up but her shot went over the bar for their second point.

McCartan replied from a free, with Murphy and Ryan adding scores, to see Cork lead by 0-6 to 0-2 after 20 minutes. Prendergast pulled a point back for Kilkenny, with

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

McCartan getting her third, from another free to stretch Cork's lead.

But just before half time Prendergast was on target again, from another free, to see the Rebels lead by 0-7 to 0-4 at the break.

McCartan increased Cork's lead at the start of the second half, before Kilkenny enjoyed their best spell of the game. Prendergast hit two frees to put only two between the sides, before Asha McHardy made it a one-point game after 36 minutes.

Four minutes later and the sides were level when Sarah Barcoe was on target for the home side, to make it 0-8 each.

But credit to Cork, they upped their game again, with Thompson putting them back in front. McCartan pointed to make it 0-10 to 0-8 before the crucial goal came.

With 51 minutes gone, Hayes played a long ball in and Orlaith Cahalane was quickest to react to the breaking ball as she pulled first time for the only goal of the tie.

This put Cork well in front and when she added a point the result was beyond doubt.

Prendergast pointed another free for Kilkenny but Cork finished strongly with McCartan, Isobel Sheehan and Ryan all scoring as they ran out deserving winners of a game they dominated from start to finish.

Scorers for Kilkenny: A Prendergast 0-7 (0-3 f, 0-1 pen), A McHardy, S Barcoe 0-1 each.

Cork: S McCartan 0-6 (0-3 f), O Cahalane 1-1, H Ryan 0-3, E Murphy (0-1 f), A Thompson 0-2 each, I Sheehan 0-1.

KILKENNY: A Norris; R Phelan, M Teehan, A Carroll; C Dowling, N Deely, E Smith; A Brett, L Greene; A McHardy, S Fitzgerald, S Barcoe; E Shortall, A Prendergast, C Keher Murtagh.

Subs: C O'Shea for S Barcoe, R Dowling for C Dowling (both 52), M Brennan for L Greene (58).

CORK: A Lee; M Murphy, L Coppinger, M Cahalane; R Harty, L Hayes, A Fitzgerald; M Condon, A Thompson; E Murphy, O Cremin, N McNabola; O Cahalane, S McCartan, H Ryan.

Subs: I O'Regan for N McNabola (39), A O'Neill for R Harty (50), I Sheehan for A Thompson (58 in).

Referee: Joe O'Connor, Clare.

Cork finish with a flourish as experienced players return to boost their league hopes

KEVIN EGAN

Round three of the Centra National Camogie League saw the return of the established powers.

Neither defending champions Cork nor Galway, who defeated them in last year's All-Ireland final, had won a game in the first two rounds and the grim spectre of relegation was starting to open up for them.

Galway's 1-13 to 0-12 win over Tipperary and a devastating finish from Cork in their 1-15 to 0-9 victory against Kilkenny put the two counties right back into the pack, still with very real aspirations of returning to the league decider.

Waterford remain in the driving seat on the back of their 1-16 to 0-9 win over Antrim, meaning they are the only side with a perfect nine points from three games.

"Three from three but we're not taking anything for granted," manager Michael Boland said. "This was a hard match, you come overnight so everything is changed around as opposed to a normal match, but we're delighted with the performance of all the players, young and old."

Important

"We brought 28 players in and we told them all that they'd all get their chance, and that they had to take it when it came, if they didn't there'd be someone else ready to step up. We've been true to our word, we're trying to be fair to everyone, because there are a lot of girls that won't get time in the championship so it's very important to see them now."

At Freshford, Cork struggled with the aid of the breeze and looked to be in trouble when they were reeled in by Kilkenny 10 minutes into the second half, with the Cats now having the wind at their backs.

But unlike the first couple of weeks when Ger Manley went with experimental sides, this was a Cork team with a lot more familiar faces, including a host of All-Stars and All-Ireland winners. Once one of that cohort - Orlaith Cahalane - rattled the net in the 50th minute, the Rebels didn't look back.

"I thought we played OK in certain parts of the Waterford and Antrim games but it's all about winning," Manley said. "Amy [Lee] in goal, Orlaith Cahalane, Sorcha McCartan, Meabh Cahalane, Laura Hayes was phenomenal today. Izzy O'Regan coming back as well, [it was] great to see her back after 12 months out. Any time you get players like that on the field you're happy. We probably should have been up a few more scores at half-time, but once we got the goal, we finished well."

Manley confirmed there would be more players coming back into the fold for their remaining games against Galway and Tipperary, though he did express both admiration and concern for the long-serving Ashling Thompson, who was forced off the field with an elbow injury.

Galway's four-point win over Tipperary came after a game where the All-Ireland champions fell 0-6 to 0-4 down, but they built on Aoife Donohue's goal to trail by just a point at the interval.



St Finbarr's SORCHA MCCARTAN celebrates after scoring a goal.
Picture: Leah Scholes/Inpho

Five St Finbarr's players named on camogie club team of the year

Five St Finbarr's players have been named on the Camogie Association and AIB Camogie Club Championship Team of the Year, while SORCHA MCCARTAN has been nominated for the Player of the Year award.

The players will be honoured at the AIB Club Player Awards, marking the second time that camogie, ladies football, hurling, and football celebrated together.

The camogie Player of the Year award winner will also be revealed at the ceremony on Friday, March 13, in Croke Park.

Champions Athenry led the way with eight representatives on the team of the year.

The Galway outfit needed a replay to secure the AIB All-Ireland Senior Club Championship title in January, with victory over St Finbarr's at FBD Semple Stadium.

Laura Freeney, Dervla Higgins, Lisa Casserly, Olwen Rabbitte, Sinéad Feeney, Kerri O'Driscoll, Therese Donohue, and Clodagh Burke are all included for the winners.

The Barrs enjoyed a superb campaign, claiming a first ever Munster title en route to the final.

Their exploits have been acknowledged with five places on this selection — Stephanie Punch, Aisling Egan, Keava McCarthy, SORCHA MCCARTAN and Orlaith Cahalane.

The Leesiders representatives needed extra-extra-time to overcome Antrim's Loughiel Shamrocks in the last four, and the Ulster champions are represented by Amy Boyle and Róisín McCormick.

Athenry have two nominees for player of the year, Lisa Casserly and Therese Donohue. The third nominee is St Finbarr's and Cork star SORCHA MCCARTAN, who hit an impressive six points in both finals against Athenry.

AIB has also established the 'Moments of the Championship' award this year, recognising unforgettable instances across the LGFA, Camogie, and GAA Club Championships, which will be presented at the ceremony.

The nominees for this new award are:

Muckalee LGFA, who triumphed against the odds to win the AIB LGFA Leinster Junior Championship, before going on to land the AIB All-Ireland Junior title; Katie Rogers of Knockbride LGFA, whose inspiring personal goal 'To Play in Croke Park' from

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

her list of things to do before turning 30 became a reality; and Ballymacelligott GAA, who demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship by forming a guard of honour for their West Kerry neighbours, An Ghaeltacht, as they ran onto Croke Park ahead of the AIB GAA All-Ireland Intermediate Final.

Camogie Association president Brian Molloy said: "The 2025/2026 AIB All-Ireland Camogie Club Championship Team of the Year is a fitting recognition of the exceptional standard we witnessed throughout this year's club campaign."

"The performances delivered by the players honoured, particularly across two gripping All-Ireland finals and a dramatic semi-final series, showcased the best of our game in terms of skill, resilience and athleticism. Comhghairdeas libh uilig."

"I would also like to sincerely thank AIB for their continued support of Camogie and for their unwavering commitment to championing female sport."

AIB chief customer officer, Orlaith Ryan said: "The AIB Camogie Club Championship has delivered a memorable season showcasing the highest calibre of play and dedication."

"The joy and commitment displayed by these athletes have generated so many unforgettable moments of the championship."

"My heartfelt congratulations go to every player named on the Camogie Team of the Year, whose individual honours are richly deserved and best of luck to the Player of the Year nominees."

"Their achievements deserve to be celebrated in Croke Park on March 13."

AIB Camogie Club Championship Team of the Year 2025/2026: Laura Freeney (Athenry), Stephanie Punch (St Finbarr's), Aisling Egan (St Finbarr's), Dervla Higgins (Athenry), Lisa Casserly (Athenry), Olwen Rabbitte (Athenry), Sinéad Feeney (Athenry), Amy Boyle (Loughiel Shamrocks), Keava McCarthy (St Finbarr's), SORCHA MCCARTAN (St Finbarr's), Kerri O'Driscoll (Athenry), Therese Donohue (Athenry), Orlaith Cahalane (St Finbarr's), Róisín McCormick (Loughiel Shamrocks), Clodagh Burke (Athenry).

AIB Camogie Club Championship Player of the Year nominees: SORCHA MCCARTAN (St Finbarr's), Therese Donohue (Athenry), and Lisa Casserly (Athenry).

Munster GAA confirm four double-headers

Two of Cork's Munster SHC round-robin clashes will have camogie games serving as curtain-raisers, the provincial council has confirmed.

In addition, both the senior football final in the province will be preceded by the meeting of Cork and Kerry in the Munster Ladies' SFC, while the camogie decider will also take place on the same bill as a senior hurling tie.

Cork's provincial hurling opener on Sunday, April 19 is a repeat of last year's All-Ireland final as they travel to face Tipperary. The game has a 4pm throw-in time and the Munster senior camogie quarter-final between the counties will also take place at FBD Semple Stadium, commencing at 2pm.

A week later, on Sunday, April 26, the winners of the camogie game will face Limerick and that has been confirmed for 12 noon at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh, to be followed by the hurling clash between Cork and Limerick at 2pm.

The Munster SFC final is confirmed for Sunday, May 10 at 1.45pm, with the venue being dependent on the counties involved. However, regardless of the pairing it will have the ladies' football clash between Cork and Kerry as its under-card, starting at 11.45am.

A week later, the Munster camogie decider will be held on either Saturday, May 16 or Sunday 17 — once the finalists are known, the decision will be taken as to whether it will be in Thurles on the Saturday, before Tipperary v Clare, or on the Sunday in Limerick, prior to the meeting of Limerick and Waterford.

Speaking following confirmation of the curtain-raiser fixtures, Munster GAA chairperson Tim Murphy said "The inclusion of four curtain-raisers — three camogie and one ladies' football — ahead of our Munster senior hurling and football championship games once again highlights the strong and growing partnership between our respective organisations."

"It is very pleasing to see this initiative continue into 2026, and we are committed to further strengthening the connection between our games in the years ahead."

Those views were echoed by Munster Camogie chairperson Christine Ryan: "Munster Council Camogie is delighted to once again work in partnership with Munster GAA to see three of the four Munster Senior Camogie Championship matches staged as curtain-raisers to the Munster hurling championship."



Clare's CAOIMHE CAHILL and Ashling Thompson of Cork in action during last year's Munster Senior Camogie Championship game at Zimmer Biomet Páirc Chiosóg.
Picture: Inpho/Tom Maher

CAMOGIE

■ Denis Hurley

"Our players relish the opportunity to perform on Munster championship matchdays, experiencing the unique atmosphere of packed stadiums. These occasions play a vital role in raising the profile of camogie and showcasing our game to an even wider audience."

Equally, Munster LGFA President Lorraine Royle welcomed the scheduling.

"Munster Ladies' Football is thrilled to again be included as part of Munster GAA's curtain raiser for the upcoming Munster football championship," she said.

"This continued partnership is an important acknowledgement of the talent, commitment, and growing profile of our players. We are particularly pleased that our round three clash, Kerry v Cork, will be a showcase fixture ahead of the Munster football final."

"We sincerely thank Munster GAA for their ongoing support and collaboration in promoting and elevating ladies' football across the province."

Sunday, April 19 — FBD Semple Stadium

Munster SCC quarter-final: Tipperary v Cork, 2pm

Munster SHC: Tipperary v Cork, 4pm

Sunday, April 26 — SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh

Munster SCC semi-final: Limerick v Cork/Tipperary, 12 noon

Munster SHC: Cork v Limerick, 2pm

Sunday, May 10 — venue TBC

Munster Ladies' SFC: Kerry v Cork, 11.45am

Munster SFC final: Teams TBC, 1.45pm

Saturday, May 16 — FBD Semple Stadium

Munster SHC: Tipperary v Clare, 7pm

Sunday, May 17 — TUS Gaelic Grounds

Munster SHC: Limerick v Waterford, 3pm

The Munster SCC final will precede one of the games on May 16/17



Cork's Saoirse McCarthy tries to get away from Waterford's Orla Hickey



Cork's Lexi Manley in control of the Sliotar against Caitlin Ryan, Limerick, in the Munster Minor Camogie Championship final.
Picture: Brendan Gleeson

Cork minors will look to build on Limerick win for their trip to Galway

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

The Cork minors had a good victory under their belts over Limerick in round two of the Electric Ireland Camogie Championship, after losing out narrowly to Tipperary in the opener.

Cork travel to Galway on Sunday to take on a side with victories over Dublin and Limerick to their credit. It was close in their clash with Limerick as just a goal separated the sides at the full-time whistle.

Cork and Limerick was also a close affair as the Rebels edged it on a 2-8 to 0-11 scoreline, two crucial goals one in either half from Lea Meillon ensured Cork took the spoils. It was a tough, hard-fought battle where a penalty save from keeper Aoife Collins denied Limerick an equaliser with a minute left.

The Leesiders won the Munster title, which is separate to the group stages of the All-Ireland but Galway have some fine players and know a win would set them up nicely.

Kilkenny also have two wins from two, while Tipperary and Cork have a win each while Dublin and Limerick are yet to get off the mark.

Tipp will be expected to get the upper hand on Dublin while Kilkenny and Limerick should be another close encounter.

Kilkenny 1-11 Cork 1-8

Kilkenny got the upper hand in closely contested Eir U16 All-Ireland Camogie Championship group game in Tullagher.

Underfoot conditions were soft with the breeze favouring Cork in the first half. Noa Bambrick opened the scoring after five minutes with a Kil-

kenny point from a free, Cork responded well as Isabelle O'Callaghan point after Heidi Culleton had made a good save to deny Cork a goal.

Niamh O'Connor and Isabelle Sheehan stretched the Cork as they put pressure on the Kilkenny defence. Dearbhla Ryan cut the deficit with a point and as the sides traded scores, Cork led at the break 0-6 to 0-4.

Kilkenny started the second half at a faster pace. Rebecca Smith narrowed the gap before Bambrick levelled.

The Cork forwards were putting pressure on the Kilkenny backs and Ailbhe Byerley delivered a high ball to the back of the net to edge Cork in front, followed by a point from play.

Cork were now in control but Bambrick slotted over a point before her shot for a goal from a free outside the 20-metre line was well saved by Cork goalie Kayleigh Murphy. Kate Dalton pounced on the rebound though and finished to the net from a tight angle. Level pegging with seven minutes to go.

Niamh O'Connor pointed for the Cork to restore the lead but this was to be their final score.

Kilkenny began to push forward and Rachael Duff split the posts before Norris and Duff struck the scores which sealed a hard-earned win for the hosts despite the huge effort from Cork.

The Rebels had good displays from Kitty O'Mahony, Lauren McAuliffe, Niamh O'Connor, Isobel O'Callaghan and Ailbhe Byerley.



Clara Murphy gets a shot away despite the efforts of Tipperary's Ella Flood

Returning stars help Cork back to winning ways

BY KEVINEGAN

IT'S no coincidence that as some of Cork's more experienced players returned to the fold, the Rebels finally lifted off in Division 1A of the Centra Camogie Leagues.

After back-to-back defeats against Waterford and Antrim left the defending champions bottom of the table, Cork returned to winning ways with a 1-15 to 0-9 victory away to previously unbeaten Kilkenny.

At Freshford, the Rebels struggled despite having the aid of the breeze and looked to be in

trouble when Kilkenny reeled them in ten minutes into the second half, with the Cats now having the wind at their backs.

But unlike the opening weeks, when Ger Manley opted for experimental sides, this was a Cork team with far more familiar faces, including a host of All-Stars and All-Ireland winners. Once one of that cohort – Orlaith Cahalane – rattled the net in the 50th minute, the Rebels didn't look back.

'I thought we played okay in certain parts of the Waterford and Antrim games but it's all about winning,' Manley said.

'Amy (Lee) in goal, Orlaith Cahalane, Siorcha McCartan, Méabh Cahalane – Laura Hayes was phenomenal today. Izzy O'Regan coming back as well, it was



great to see her back after 12 months out. Any time you get players like that on the field you're happy. We probably should have been up a few more scores at half-time, but once we got the goal, we finished well.'

With the breeze at their backs and the bit between their teeth, Cork quickly put three points on the board through Hayley Ryan, Emma Murphy (free) and Siorcha McCartan, hold-

Cork's Orlaith Cahalane scored a crucial goal.

ing their hosts scoreless until midway through the half when Aoife Prendergast landed a free to break their duck.

The second quarter saw Kilkenny compete well to hold the deficit to 0-7 to 0-4 at half-time. It looked like they were poised to push on and win when they drew level after the break.

For the first time in any competitive game in 2026, Cork found a rich vein of form in the final quarter, ignited by Orlaith Cahalane's goal. Ashling Thompson and McCartan were hugely influential while Isobel Sheehan and Ryan landed late

points to confirm victory.

Manley confirmed that more players will return to the fold for their games against Galway and Tipperary, with the Rebels hosting Tipp in Páirc Uí Rinn this Saturday (1pm). The Cork boss also expressed both admiration and concern for Ashling Thompson, who was forced off with a late elbow injury.

'A player fell on her, it was a pure accident, but I think it was her elbow. She was flying, and it's better she's getting it now. Her enthusiasm and desire are incredible. For her sake and ours, I hope it's not serious.'

Cork aim for a second win

The table reads a little bit better for the Cork senior camogie team after their win over Kilkenny last weekend.



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

Kilkenny and now faces a long spell on the sidelines, now long is still not 100% sure at this stage. But knowing Thompson she will do all she can to be back sooner rather than later and don't be surprised to see her feature in the All-Ireland championship later in the season.

Manley confirmed that she is definitely out for the rest of the league and also the Munster championship, but would hope that she would be back for the All-Ireland series.

He also confirmed that Izzy O'Regan, who came on against Kilkenny for her return to action after a year out with an ACL injury will start tomorrow.

'We will most likely play her in midfield alongside Millie (Condon), but we will make a final decision before the game tomorrow,' said Manley, 'but whether it's in midfield or somewhere else she will be starting tomorrow.'

'We also have Saoirse McCarthy back in the panel and it's great to have her available as well again for selection.'

'We know that Tipp are never easy to beat and will want to bounce back from that loss to Galway. In fairness they were very good and could just as easily have won so we are expecting another battle tomorrow.'

er will want to keep their winning run going and secure their league final spot.

If they win, Cork do and Galway also beat Antrim then you will have the Rebels, the Cats, Tribeswomen all battling it out to see who will face the Deise in the league decider. So there is still a lot to play for with all sides having the potential to reach the league final, or in the case of five of them possible be relegated.

Tipp will be looking to bounce back from their loss to Galway last weekend and Cork manager, Ger Manley, and his players will be well aware that they are never an easy side to beat.

As good as the news that the four aforementioned have returned you also had the devastating news that Ashling Thompson will be out for some time with a serious elbow injury.

She dislocated her elbow late on against

Cork U23s earn spot in Munster camogie final

BY GER MCCARTHY

IT was another productive weekend for Carbery camogie players on the Cork U23 and underage inter-county panels.

Jerry Wallace's Cork U23s are through to this year's Munster U23 camogie decider after a one-point win over Limerick in Cappamore on Sunday. That outcome has set up a Munster final meeting with Tipperary.

Amy Sheppard (1-6), Eimear Duggan, Emily O'Donoghue (0-2 each), Clara Morrison and Aoife Byrne O'Riordan (0-1 each) scores cemented a narrow 1-12 to 1-11 victory.

Amy McCarthy (pictured), Niamh Kennedy (both Clonakilty) and Maebh O'Brien (Enniskeane) are Carbery's U23 panellists.



The Cork U15A and U15B squads got their respective Munster Camogie Development League seasons underway last weekend. On Saturday, the Rebels were pushed to the pin of their collars before seeing off Clare 4-15 to 4-12 at Fr. Mac Park in Ennis.

The following afternoon, Mallow GAA's Complex hosted the Cork U15Bs Munster Development League opener at home to Galway. A terrific display delivered a 4-8 to 2-5 Rebels triumph.

Carbery's representatives on the 2026 Cork U15 development set-up include Aoife Harte, Kate Collins, Megan O'Regan, Niamh Doyle (all Barryroe), Clodagh Kearney, Michaela Coholan (both Courcy Rovers), Ella Haughney (Clonakilty), Isabelle Harrington (Bandon) and Lily Ustanowski (Kilbrittain-Timoleague), Annabelle Nolan, Muireann Holland (both Valley Rovers) and Hollie O'Sullivan (Kinsale) are also involved.

Cork and Tipperary's Eir All-Ireland U16A Championship clash ended in a 1-14 to 2-7 win for the Premier county at Castle Road on Sunday. Clonakilty's Ailbhe Byrley netted one of Cork's goals with Isabelle O'Callaghan (1-1) also finding the net. Alas, those efforts along with additional Ava Kenneally (0-3), Eabha Lynch, Niamh O'Connor and Ellie Cafferkey (0-1 each) scores weren't enough to prevent defeat.

Cork will look to rebound in their next outing, a fourth round All-Ireland U16A Championship fixture away to Waterford on Sunday, March 22nd. Carbery's players on the Cork U16A panel include Kate O'Mahony (Kilbrittain-Timoleague), Amy Walsh (Enniskeane), Ailbhe Byrley, Aoife White and Saoirse Gilmore (all Clonakilty).

The Rebels U16Bs produced an excellent team display to see off Galway. Bouncing back from their Munster U16B defeat to Limerick, Cork registered a superb 3-13 to 0-10 win. Julie Canty (Newcestown) and Anne O'Leary (Bandon) are Carbery's players on Cork's U16B set-up.

Also, Cork were crowned Munster Camogie U17 Development League champions thanks to 2-15 to 3-4 victory over Limerick on Saturday. Ballinascahy's Amber Bishop is on the panel.



Cork's Rachel Harty has impressed for her side so far this season.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Maebh Murphy has slotted into the fullback line for Cork this season.
Picture: INPHO/Laszlo Geczo

Late Tipp point denies Rebels



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

Cork 2-8
Tipperary 1-11

It ended all square between Cork and Tipp in their Centra Camogie Division 1A league clash at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday.

A draw was probably a fair result and it means there is still a lot at stake for both sides in their final game next weekend in the round robin stage.

The wind was a major factor during the game with Cork having it in the first half as they led by six points at the break.

It was then a case of if it was enough to hold out. It looked like they were going to until Tipp got a late point to see it end all square.

Sorcha McCartan opened the scoring for Cork from a free two minutes in, with Caoimhe Stakelum equalising for Tipp from the restart.

Tipp missed a number of chances to go in front, with four wides before the next score came.

It took until the 11th minute for it to arrive as Cork found the back of the net. McCartan played the ball in from a sideline and Emma Murphy pulled on the breaking ball to make it 1-1 to 0-1.

Aoife Dwyer pulled a point back for Tipp before Laura Hayes scored a long-range point, using the wind in Cork's favour to her full advantage.

Hayes was involved again for Cork's second goal when she played a long ball out of defence to Orlaith Cahalane.

She beat several defenders before sending an unstoppable shot to the back of the net, to make it 2-2 to 0-2. Cahalane added a point to increase Cork's lead with Hayley Ryan adding another to make it 2-4 to 0-2 after 20 minutes.

Dwyer pulled a point back for Tipp, with Roisin Howard also on target to reduce the deficit.



Cork's Orlaith Cahalane takes on Tipperary's Mairead Eviston during their Centra Camogie League Division 1A clash at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Larry Cummins

McCartan got the last score of the half, from another free, to see Cork lead by 2-6 to 0-4 at the break, but Tipp were going to have the advantage of the strong wind in the second half.

Tipp were back in contention four minutes into the second half when they found the back of the net.

A free deep inside their own half was brought forward for dissent. That meant the goal was now in range and Stakelum got on the end of Celine Guinan's free to make it 1-4 to 2-6.

Two frees from Eimear McGrath had only the goal between the sides with 42 minutes gone, as Tipp were making full use of the wind.

She hit another free to put only two points between the sides, before

McCartan got Cork's first score of the second half.

With 49 minutes gone Cork's lead was down to two again, this time Stakelum splitting the posts to make it 2-7 to 1-8.

McGrath pointed again for Tipp to put only one between the sides as the strong wind was playing its part.

McCartan scored for Cork, from another free, to make it a two-point game, with three minutes to go, 2-8 to 1-9.

Tipp missed a goal chance to win the tie, with Clodagh McIntyre mishitting with the goal at her mercy.

McGrath pointed to put one between them again and it looked like Cork would hang on for the win, with the three minutes of injury-time gone.

But Tipp had one last play and McIntyre made up for her earlier miss to point to see it end all level.

Scorers for Cork: O Cahalane 1-2, S McCartan 0-4 (0-2 f), E Murphy 1-0, L Hayes (f), H Ryan 0-1 each.

Tipperary: C Stakelum 1-2, E McGrath 0-5 (0-3 f), A Dwyer 0-2, R Howard, C McIntyre 0-1 each.

CORK: A Lee, M Murphy, L Coppinger, M Cahalane, R Harty, L Hayes, A Fitzgerald, M Condon, I O'Regan, E Murphy, S McCarthy, A McAuliffe, H Ryan, O Cahalane, S McCartan.

Subs: O Cremin for H Ryan, N McNabola for E Murphy (both 44), I Sheehan for A McAuliffe (54).

TIPPERARY: L Leenane, I O'Donnell, M Eviston, E Loughman, M Burke, C McCarthy, C Guinan, K Kennedy, C Maher, A Dwyer, E McGrath, C McIntyre, C Stakelum, R Howard, N Treacy.

Subs: E Heffernan for C Maher, E Carey for M Burke (both 44), J Kelly for A Dwyer (57), N Cunneen for N Treacy (60).

Referee: Donnacha O'Callaghan, Limerick.



Cork's Hayley Ryan wins a free against Tipperary's Karen Kennedy at Páirc Uí Rinn.



Cork's Sorcha McCartan fires over a free.

Pictures: Larry Cummins

Rebels left frustrated by second-half showing in home draw with Tipperary

CORK 2-8
TIPPERARY 1-11

GER MCCARTHY REPORTS

'HUGELY frustrating and disappointing' - that's how Laura Hayes described Cork's home draw against Tipperary.

Caoimhe Stakelum's goal along with Eimear McGrath's accurate shooting saw Tipp move within a point of the hosts late on in this Division 1A tie, before Clodagh McIntyre's injury-time leveller.

This was a poor second-half effort from a Cork team that played so well during the opening 30 minutes.

The Rebels will travel to Galway in their final Division 1A League outing this Saturday, already assured of their top-tier status but knowing big improvements are needed ahead of provincial and All-Ireland championships.

'We were lucky to get a point at the end of it, so it is hugely frustrating and disappointing,' Cork's Laura Hayes admitted to *The Southern Star*.

'We did alright in the first half but we were all over the place in the second.'

'I thought we had come on quite well after the Kilkenny win so it is just disappointing to come away after that performance more than the result.'

'We completely lost our shape. The game ran away from us a small bit. Tipp were really physical in the second half and we must work on that for the coming week.' Hayes' assertions were echoed by her manager, Ger Manley.

'We had a good start but, to be honest, I thought the second half was poor,' Manley admitted.

'We should have kicked on but made wrong decisions and our basic skill levels have to improve. Everyone knows that and these are things we can work on, which is good but, overall, I'm disappointed.'

'Look, we were in relegation trouble after the first two matches. We went up to Kilkenny and beat them. That was a good performance.'

'Today's first half was probably up to that level. The second half wasn't.'

'We did some very poor things today, defensively and technically and that's disappointing.'

'We spoke to the players afterwards and they know that (second half) wasn't good

'We need to improve for championship'



Tipperary's Clodagh McIntyre is tackled by Cork's Meabh Murphy, Ava Fitzgerald and Libby Coppinger during the Division 1A clash.

enough. It is the senior players that have to drive it on now.

'Consistently, we have been average in the league this year but the championship is our goal and we need to improve.'

A strong Cork line-up was enhanced by the late additions of Saoirse McCarthy and Ava McAuliffe to Ger Manley's starting team.

Sorcha McCartan (free) and Caoimhe Stakelum exchanged scores amid a scrappy opening ten minutes in which Tipp were guilty of hitting four wides. It took a McCartan sideline-cut that ended with Emma Murphy finding the bottom corner to make it 1-1 to 0-1 in Cork's favour.

Aoife Dwyer replied prior to a monster Laura Hayes free, restoring the host's three-point lead. That advantage was doubled once Cork found Orlaith Cahalane on the edge of the

square and she fired into the net on 14 minutes.

Cahalane added a point, as did Hayley Ryan, and the hosts led by eight heading towards the break. Aoife Dwyer and Roisin Howard pulled two back for a Tipp side having to work hard for every score.

Cork's tenacious defending, along with additional Cahalane and McCartan (free) scores, saw the Rebels change ends 2-6 to 0-4 ahead.

The second period exploded with a Tipperary goal four minutes after the restart. Caoimhe Stakelum raced clear and fired past Amy Lee. Eimear McGrath added a free before a Libby Coppinger yellow card presented the same Tipp player with another opportunity which was duly converted.

A McGrath 45 made it a two-point game as Cork struggled to gain a foothold. Sorcha Mc-

Cartan's converted free was a welcome score making it 2-7 to 1-7 after 47 minutes.

A marvellous Caoimhe Stakelum effort roused the visiting supporters and there was only a point in it once Eimear McGrath split the posts for a rampant Tipp.

Another converted McCartan free, after Orlaith Cahalane was fouled, gave Cork some breathing room with four minutes to go.

Clodagh McIntyre had a late sight of goal but Amy Lee saved the Tipp forward's attempt. Eimear McGrath walloped over a terrific effort as the clock reached 60 minutes to make it a one-point game.

Tipp kept pushing and Clodagh McIntyre's leveller, three minutes into injury-time, earned the visitors a draw and heaped more frustration on Cork.



Ashling Thompson is set for an extended spell on the sidelines with an elbow injury, with July mentioned as a possible comeback date.

Scorers

Cork: Orlaith Cahalane 1-2; Sorcha McCartan 0-4 (4f); Emma Murphy 1-0; Laura Hayes (1f), Hayley Ryan 0-1 each.

Tipperary: Caoimhe Stakelum 1-2; Eimear McGrath 0-5 (2f, 145); Aoife Dwyer 0-2; Roisin Howard, Clodagh McIntyre 0-1 each.

Cork: Amy Lee (Na Plarsaigh); Meabh Murphy (Ballinora), Libby Coppinger (St Colum's), Meabh Cahalane (St Finbarr's, captain); Rachel Harty (Ballyhea); Laura Hayes (St Catherines), Ava Fitzgerald (Sarsfields); Millie Condon (Ballinascorthy), Izzy O'Regan (Ballygarvan); Emma Murphy (Glen Rovers), Saoirse McCarthy (Courcy Rovers), Ava McAuliffe (Castlemartyr); Hayley Ryan (Blackrock), Orlaith Cahalane (St Finbarr's), Sorcha McCartan (St Finbarr's).

Subs: Orlaith Cremin (Eire Og) for H Ryan (44), Niamh McNabola (Cloughduv) for E Murphy (44), Isobel Sheehan (Eire Og) for A McAuliffe (54).

Tipperary: Laura Leenane; Isobel

Cork's Sorcha McCartan in action against Tipperary. (Photo: David Ribeiro/INPHO)

O'Donnell, Máiread Eviston, Eimear Loughman; Mary Burke, Caoimhe McCarthy (captain), Celine Guinean; Karen Kennedy, Caoimhe Maher; Aoife Dwyer, Eimear McGrath, Clodagh McIntyre; Caoimhe Stakelum, Roisin Howard, Niamh Treacy.

Subs: Eimear Heffernan for C Maher (44), Emma Carey for M Burke (44), Jean Kelly for A Dwyer (57), Niamh Cunneen for N Treacy (60).

Referee: Donnacha O'Callaghan (Limerick).



Orlaith Cahalane scored 1-2 against Tipp.



Ailish Cahalane with her daughters from left, Meabh, Grainne, Orlaith and Kate at the St Finbarr's GAA club double victory dinner of the senior men's footballer and camogie winning teams at Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork U16 camogie team in search for points in round four

Round four of the Eir U16A camogie championship sees Cork head to take on Waterford in a bid for their first win, having lost out to Kilkenny, Galway and Tipperary.

A win is needed to keep them in the hunt for a place in the last four with one game to come against Limerick.

Tipperary and Kilkenny are joint top having three wins from three games.

Galway are in second place with two wins from three.

Waterford, with a big win over Limerick in round three, picked up two vital points, while Limerick and Cork are still looking for their first win and the way the table is shaping up, the battle for the last semi-final spot will be a battle between Cork, Waterford and Limerick.

Limerick face a tough challenge this weekend when they meet a strong Galway side, who will be expected to be strong for Limerick.

Kilkenny and Tipperary will battle it out to take the points to give them the top spot as they go into the last round of games.

If Cork could get a result against Waterford, they would join them in fourth spot, but if Limerick defeat Galway, it would mean the three teams would be level going into the last round of games.

Against Tipperary, Cork played well in what was a battle to the final whistle.

Tipperary, just about hung on to a one goal victory.

In that clash, Ava Kenneally when introduced was impressive as she hit over three points from play.

Eabha Lynch, Isabelle O'Callaghan and Niamh O'Connor all battled hard as Cork gave it their all.

Waterford, boosted by their impressive 5-17 to 3-8 victory over Limerick in their last game, will be hoping for a similar result this time out.

CAMOGIE Mary Newman

Aisling Counihan Sophie McCarthy and Katie Mullane have been to the fore for Waterford to date and they will lead their challenge for back to back victories.

Meanwhile, following on from their one point victory over Limerick, Jerry's Wallace's Cork U23 squad take on Tipperary in the provincial decider on Sunday, at 2pm at a venue to be announced.

Cork were the winners of the inaugural Munster Camogie U23 Championship in 2025 as they defeated Tipperary in the final after a close contest that went to extra time to give Cork a historic win a first in this competition.

In their semi-final with Limerick, Amy Sheppard gave Cork an early lead with a goal from the throw in and it proved to be important as it helped Cork set the foundations for victory.

As the side's traded point for point, there was little in it, but Cork held their one goal advantage to the break.

Cork showed huge character to hold on with eight minutes remaining Limerick were back on level terms, but Cork, winning a free, which Amy Sheppard converted, edged ahead to win out.

Emily O'Donoghue, Ciara Morrison, Amy Sheppard and Eimear Duignan were on the scoresheet for Cork and Jerry Wallace will be looking for more of the same as his side battle to retain their title.

Tipperary overcame Waterford in their semi-final clash on a 2-12 to 0-7 scoreline.

They are a strong side with experienced former minor inter-county players Ciara Shelly, Kate Ferncombe, Eva O'Dwyer and Grace Moloney in their line out they will provide strong opposition to Cork.



Saoirse McCarthy played her first game of the season against Tipperary last Saturday and will be expected to feature again tomorrow against Galway.

Cork need win over Galway

The only certainty ahead of the final round of the Centra Camogie Division 1A League is that Waterford are in the final.

They sit top of the table on 12 points, having won all their games so far and are safely into the league final.

After that the slide goes out as to who will join them and who will be relegated.

The clash of Kilkenny and Antrim could very well decide the relegation battle. If the Cats win, and they will be expected to, then Antrim will be relegated.

But if Antrim manage to pull off another shock win then it becomes interesting, with several sides, including Cork, in possible danger of going down.

So, there is still a lot to play for and a lot to be decided in the final round of games. Cork's draw with Tipperary last Saturday means that both sides could still possibly be relegated.

If the Rebels lose to Galway and Tipp are beaten by Waterford, and both permutations are a possibility, then they will be keeping a close eye on the Antrim tie.

Cork are Tipp are both on four points and Antrim are currently on three. A win for Antrim could potentially see the Rebels or Tipp go down.

Unlikely to happen as Kilkenny know a



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

win might put them into the league final so, with home advantage, the Cats will be expected to win and send Antrim down.

At present Cork, Galway, Kilkenny, and Tipp all still have a chance of making the final and until all games end it won't be confirmed who joins them.

Galway and Kilkenny are the favourites to win and it could come down to scoring difference to see which one joins Waterford in the decider.

Cork have a slight chance of reaching the decider, but they would need to beat Galway, Kilkenny to lose or draw, and Tipp to lose for that to happen.

For now, all they can do is concentrate on the Galway game, throw-in 2pm at Kenny Park, Athenry, and see what happens after that. It would be no great shock to see Cork beat the Tribeswomen as games between these two sides, in general, have been close over the last few years. Cork will need to improve considerably on their performance against Tipp

last Saturday to do that.

They were superb against Kilkenny two weeks ago and dominated against them from start to finish for their first league win.

The Rebels will be disappointed with their showing against Tipp in the second half in which they only scored two points from frees.

The wind was a factor, but it was still below the high standards they set for themselves to only score from frees.

Both manager, Ger Manley, and Laura Hayes, said afterwards that it simply wasn't good enough and they have a lot of work to do before tomorrow's game.

On the plus side from that game was the return of another start player in Saoirse McCarthy. Slowly but surely the injury list is starting to diminish, with only the likes of Amy O'Connor, Clodagh Finn and Ciara O'Sullivan now out, along with Ashling Thompson after the Kilkenny game.

Of those, Thompson is the one that is unlikely to feature until the All-Ireland series at the very least, as she has an operation on Wednesday on her fractured elbow.

How quickly she will be able to return won't be clear for some time yet.

But for now, all Cork can do is concentrate on tomorrow's game and hopefully get their second win of the season to round off their league campaign.



The Lord Mayor Cllr Fergal Dennehy, with Aisling Egan and Stephanie Punch, captain, and Karen Brennan, Lady Mayoress, at the St Finbarr's GAA club double victory dinner of the senior men's footballer and camogie winning teams at Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Clodagh Finn is one of the long-term injuries for Cork that manager Ger Manley hopes will be fit for the championship.

Picture: Tom Bearv/Sportsfile



Orlaith Cahalane will be hoping to add to her goal tally against Galway tomorrow, having scored two already in the league.

Picture: INPHO/David Riheirn

Barrs celebrate



Captains Steven Sherlock and Stephanie Punch at the St Finbarr's double victory dinner at the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Pictures: Eddie O'Hara

Murray's league aim rooted in practicality as Galway book seventh final in a row

Centra Camogie Leagues

Kevin Egan

Not since the turn of the millennium, when Cork won seven titles between 1995 and 2001, did any county reach seven Centra National Camogie League finals in a row.

Galway have achieved that now after they overcame Cork by 0-18 to 1-9 at Kenny Park in Athenry on Saturday. After the game, manager Cathal Murray gave some indication as to why this competition has become so important to them.

"We need this game," Murray said. "We've no Leinster Championship or Munster Championship. We'd be sitting down today and not playing again until June 6 if we didn't win today. It's great to have a game in three weeks to prepare for."

The final will see the All-Ireland champions take on Waterford on Sunday week in UPMC Nowlan Park. The game will be live on RTE, as will the Division 1B final between Clare and Dublin, which will be the first leg of the double-header.

Waterford have beaten Galway once already this year, though that game took place a few days after extreme weather conditions in New York forced a late return from the team holiday of the O'Duffy Cup winners.

"We knew against Waterford that our preparation wasn't ideal, and that we weren't going to be at our best — and if you don't prepare properly for a team of that quality, you're never going to beat them," said Murray.

"We were staring down the barrel of relegation, or at least not making the league final. The girls showed great resilience, we got a great win down



Mayo celebrate winning the Centra Camogie League Division 3B Final, against Monaghan at Mostrim GAA Club. Picture: Tom Maher/Inpho

in The Ragg, we had a good win up in Antrim, and we still didn't think we'd done enough, but today was definitely our best performance of the year so far. We played very well, worked really hard, and it's great to get the win and the bonus is getting to a league final."

A stunning late goal from Cliona Griffin wasn't enough to stop Antrim falling to a 2-18 to 1-12 loss to Kilkenny in UPMC Nowlan Park, a result that means the Saffrons will drop back down to Division 1B, one year after coming up, but having been very competitive ahead of a tilt at the intermediate championship.

The first division to be completed was Division 3B, with Mayo the champions on foot of a 2-12 to 1-6 final win over Monaghan at Mostrim GAA.

Team captain and Player of the Match Lisa Scahill was part of the Mayo side that came back to intercounty competition in 2021 and immediately enjoyed success in the league and the Nancy Murray Cup, and she was de-

lighted to get back to winning ways after the county had taken a year out in 2025.

To that end, she knew just what it meant for Monaghan to follow in their footsteps for the first time in 15 years this term. "We said to the girls before the game that these days don't come along very often, and when they do, you have to grab the bull by the horns and make sure you perform," said Scahill.

"The biggest thing about today is it's great for the development of smaller camogie counties. It's great to see the likes of ourselves and Monaghan putting out teams at inter-county level and putting on a great game out there."

"Those two or three years [from 2021] were great but, after that, the timing was a problem, a lot of girls had to step away due to travelling and work and other things, so we're in a similar position to Monaghan now, starting over. There's a new batch here now. They're young, they're eager to play for Mayo, and today will be great for them."

Tipperary eased to a 3-21 to 1-8 win over Waterford in a game where the Déise had nothing at stake, while in Division 1B, Down are relegated after Emma Tomkins shot some excellent points for Wexford in an 0-15 to 0-10 win.

Clare continued their strong run of form, beating Offaly 2-17 to 2-11, but the game of the day was in Abbotstown, where Dublin met Limerick in a de facto league semi-final.

Goals from Grace O'Shea and Aisling Maher helped Dublin to lead by 2-6 to 0-0 after 22 minutes, and they cruised to a 2-17 to 2-8 win.

Manager Bill McCormack said his team's shock reverse to Down earlier in the campaign became a real turning point for them.

"It was a nice awakening for the group to kick on for the rest of the league. There were no excuses in that Down game, we were just out-muscled and outworked," added McCormack.

"We got lucky in that Clare came late to edge out Limerick and that meant everything was still in our own hands. It still meant that every game we played was effectively knock-out. We had to be fully focused and perfect in what we did."

McCormack said that reaching a league final and gaining promotion was a "stated goal" of his players, and how a big day out in Kilkenny would stand to the players.

"If you're pulling on boots, your playing days don't last as long as you think, and you want to make sure you take all the opportunities you get to play at the highest level and to be part of the big days. This needs to be a springboard for the rest of the campaign now."

Wexford travelled to Down and prevailed by 0-15 to 0-10. In Division 2A, Kerry beat



TOUGH TEST: Cork's Ava Fitzgerald looks dejected after her team were beaten by Galway in Athenry. Picture: Tom O'Hanlon/Inpho

Derry, and Meath got the draw they needed to join the Kingdom in the final, with Carlow relegated after a 0-17 to 1-14 draw with the Royals. Tyrone fell two points short in their trip to Kildare, so they

failed to overtake Roscommon in Division 3A, meaning that Armagh will play the Rossies in the final.

Wicklow's relegation was confirmed before their loss to Armagh in Granemore.



UNDER PRESSURE: Galway's Niamh Mallon with Meabh Cahalane of Cork.

Picture: INPHO/Tom O'Hanlon

The Rebels avoid relegation drop

Galway 0-18
Cork 1-9

Another defeat for Cork as they lost out to Galway in their Centra Division 1A clash at Kenny Park, Atherry, on Saturday.

The result meant that Cork were then looking to the result of other games, in particular the Kilkenny-Antrim one, to retain their status in the top flight. Thanks to the Cats' win, it meant that Antrim, not Cork, were relegated with the Rebels knowing they have a lot of work to do before the Munster championship in a few weeks.

Carrie Dolan put Galway in front in the second minute from a free before she nearly had a goal. A ball in from her dropped short, but at the crucial moment Amy Lee slipped but the Cork keeper recovered to clear the danger.

Dolan added a second to increase the home side's lead to make it 0-2 to no score after four minutes. Another free from Dolan put Galway further in front as they were enjoying the better of the opening exchanges.

Sorcha McCartan got Cork off the mark from a free eight minutes in, with Niamh



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

Mallon replying at the other end from the restart, to make it 0-4 to 0-1.

Orlaith Cahalane added a second for Cork as she was starting to cause the Galway defence problems.

A great ball from Laura Hayes found Saoirse McCarthy and she took on the Galway defence, but her effort on goal was superbly saved by Sarah Healy. McCartan picked up the breaking ball to score Cork's third point.

Mairead Dillon pushed Galway further ahead when she made it 0-5 to 0-3 with 12 minutes gone. But Cork hit back to level it, with McCarthy getting their fourth and Cahalane on target again to make it 0-5 each after 17 minutes.

Another Dolan free put Galway back in front as they kept the scoreboard ticking over. Two from Niamh McPeake stretched Galway's lead further as they led by 0-8 to 0-5 after 25 minutes.

Another Dolan free made it a four-point game, with three minutes to go to half-time.

Aoibheann Barry put five between the sides before they had another goal chance. A cross-field ball was picked up by Aoife Donohue but Lee saved well to deny her a goal. Aoibheann Barry added a point late on for Galway to see the Tribeswomen leading by 0-11 to 0-5.

Dolan got the first score of the second half, with Niamh McNabola, on as a sub, getting Cork's first score after the break. Orlaith Cremin got their second, to make it 0-12 to 0-7 after 40 minutes.

McCarthy got her second from a free, with McPeake replying at the other end to keep Galway five to the good, 0-13 to 0-8. Scores were far between in the second half and it took until the 50th minute for the next to arrive, with Mallon scoring for Galway.

Donohue and McPeake added two more as the home side were well ahead at this stage and Cork were looking to the results of other games to see if they would stay in the top division. McCarthy pulled a point back for Cork, with N Niland replying for Galway, as they led by 0-17 to 0-9 heading into injury time.

A free from McCartan led to a goalmouth scramble with Cahalane finding the back of the net to make it 1-9 to 0-17. Caoimhe Kelly rounded off the scoring to see Galway run out deserving winners on the day.

Scorers for Galway: C Dolan 0-6 (0-5 f), N McPeake 0-4, N Mallon, A Barry 0-2 each, M Dillon, A Donohue, N Niland, C Kelly 0-1 each.

Cork:

O Cahalane 1-2, S McCarthy 0-3 (0-1 45, 0-1 f), S McCartan 0-2 (0-1 f), N McNabola, O Cremin 0-1 each.

GALWAY: S Healy; R Hanniffy, R Black, D Higgins; K Manning, C Hickey, KA Porter; J Hughes, C Dolan; N Mallon, N McPeake, A Donohue; S Corcoran, M Dillon, A Barry.

Subs: A Lynskey for Barry (48), N Niland for M Dillon (49), C Kelly for A Barry, R Kelly for KA Porter (both 56), A Kelly for J Hughes (58).

CORK: A Lee; M Murphy, L Coppinger, M Cahalane; R Harty, L Hayes, A Fitzgerald; M Condon, I O'Regan; E Murphy, O Cremin, S McCarthy; A McAuliffe, O Cahalane, S McCartan.

Subs: H Ryan for R Harty, N McNabola for A McAuliffe (h-t), C Kingston for I O'Regan (50), C O'Callaghan for E Murphy (54), D O'Brien for M Cahalane (56).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).



Cork's Meabh Murphy turns from Aoife Donohue of Galway.

Picture: INPHO/Tom O'Hanlon



Cork's Ava McAuliffe passes ahead of Rachael Hanniffy of Galway.

Picture: INPHO/Tom O'Hanlon



Cork's Emma Murphy takes on Katie Anna Porter and Dervla Higgins of Galway.

Cork have work to do as they start to focus on camogie championship

A year ago, it was a time of celebration as they were crowned league champions.

But, a year on, it has been a disappointing Centra Camogie Division 1A campaign for Cork.

It started with an away loss to Waterford, followed by an unexpected home one to Antrim.

That was followed by their only win away to Kilkenny and, in their final home game, they drew with Tipperary.

Cork rounded off their league series away to Galway, where another defeat meant they were looking over their shoulders at Antrim. Had they beaten Kilkenny, then Cork would have been relegated but, thankfully, from a Rebels viewpoint, they didn't and they faced the drop.

No one celebrates a side being relegated but, ironically, it was two games involving the Cats that were key to Cork staying up.

The Rebels played their best hurling of the league in their win over Kilkenny several weeks ago and then had to thank their arch-enemies for their win over Antrim.

There are reasons why Cork's league campaign has been disappointing, with the number of players missing through injury, retirements, and moving abroad.

Against Galway last Sunday, in their 0-18 to 1-9 loss, they were missing at least seven of the side that started against Galway in the All-Ireland final last year.

That said, there was still no excuse for some of the mistakes that Cork made, giving the ball away too easily at times and some of their passing was off the high standards they set themselves.

There aren't too many positives Cork can take from the league but one is the game time that new players were given ahead of the championship, which had to be done.

Cork will also be hoping that the likes of Amy O'Connor and Clodagh Finn will be back in the coming weeks ahead of their championship clash with Tipperary at Thurles on April 19.

After the Galway tie, Cork manager Ger Manley acknowledged how good Galway were on the day and said that



Orlaith Cahalane was Cork's top scorer in Galway.

Pictures: Tom O'Hanlon/Inpho

CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

his side have to move on now to the championship and put the league behind them.

Reflecting on the league, he felt they got a few players out of it, one of their objectives with the players no longer available.

"I felt we got a few players out of it," said Manley, "a lot of the younger players, we got game time into them."

"We knew coming up here today it would be tough. Galway are a very strong team. I thought early on we struggled a bit, our midfield struggled, but then we sort of got into it a bit. I think whoever beats Galway will win the All-Ireland, that's how good they are."

"I thought our full-forward line were very good once they got ball into them. But, look, Galway were clinical. Every opportunity they had, they took."

"We had a couple of wides and it was disappointing for us. We thought we had a good week of training but we're only playing in patches."

"But it's championship now and we have to look forward to it. A couple of games in the Munster one first before we are back up here on June 8 in the first round of the All-Ireland series. So that's our aim now, preparing for them."



Cork captain Meabh Cahalane: We just need to find our rhythm.
Picture: INPHO/Morgan Treacy

Meabh: It was a very different campaign than last season

It was not the league campaign that the senior Cork camogie side would have wanted.

They beat Kilkenny and drew with Tipp, but over their round-robin series lost to Waterford, Antrim, and Galway.

The Rebels were the defending champions and are disappointed to have given up their title so easily.

There are reasons for their showing, not excuses, as they don't do excuses.

The number of players that were not available was, at times, staggering and it meant Cork went into nearly every game as underdogs, a position they are not too used to.

When you lose the likes of Laura Treacy, Hannah Looney, Aoife Healy, Katrina and Pamela Mackey, you are losing top-class players.

Add in injured ones like Amy O'Connor, Clodagh Finn, Ciara O'Sullivan, and Ashling Thompson and it shows the changes that Cork had in their starting 15 so far this season.

O'Connor, Finn and O'Sullivan are expected to be back before the All-Ireland championship starts in June, but most likely earlier than that.

Thompson recently underwent an operation on her fractured elbow and it will be some time before it is known when she will be back in the Rebel red, but she is possibly out for the season.

Reflecting on their league campaign and where it leaves Cork ahead of the championship, captain Meabh Cahalane said it was a very different one to last season.

"Upon reflection, it was a very different league campaign than last year," said Meabh. "At the start of the league, going into the first game against Waterford, there were no more than maybe two

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

or three of our more established players playing, which is tough.

"There were players who maybe haven't played for Cork yet at that level and players coming up from the U23 side. It was great that they were given the opportunity of game time and stuff, but it's a huge step up and probably took a couple of weeks to find their feet and to get into the rhythm of training.

"The Kilkenny game was probably our best performance and coming out with a win up there turned out to be huge for us.

"We didn't perform then in the second half against Tipperary. We could have come out with a win that day, but also could have lost in the end, so I suppose a draw was probably a fair result that day, and then disappointment again after the Galway game the last day.

"Maybe it just shows how much work we need to do and for a team that's probably after losing a few key players just need to find our rhythm.

"The league was the opposite of last year where you nearly had 16, 17, 18 players who'd played in Croke Park, who played in the All-Ireland Championship and had that bit of experience.

"On the flip side this year, maybe not even a third of the team had. So, you must be patient with that as well. These girls are coming in, they're eager to learn. And as we said, it's a huge step up.

"So hopefully the league will stand to them, the learnings that will come from that and the standard now that we need to get to be in contention with those top four teams at the moment."



CRASH COURSE: Cork's Ava Cashman collides with Kilkenny's Hollie Ryan during their Electric Ireland All-Ireland Minor Camogie Championship at Castle Road.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork bag semi final spot despite defeat

Cork	1-12
Kilkenny	2-15

On a day when it came right down to the wire, Cork and Limerick finished on the same scoring difference in their Electric Ireland All-Ireland minor camogie group.

However, thanks to their victory over Limerick last month, the Rebels secured a top-four finish and a place in the semi-finals along with Galway, Tipp and the Cats.

A goal two minutes into injury time from a long-range Lexi Manley free, ended up being crucial for Cork, otherwise they would have been knocked out on scoring difference.

Two first-half goals gave Kilkenny the upper hand after they played with the aid of the strong wind at Castle Road. They were already through to the semis following impressive performances while the hosts were chasing the win they thought they'd require.

Aoife O'Grady and Amy O'Shea split the posts to give the visitors an early lead but Cork were quickly back level through Manley, from a free and a 45. It took an excellent save from Aoife Collins to deny

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Kilkenny their opening goal. As the sides swapped points, it was level at 0-4 apiece after 10 minutes.

Kilkenny hit the front with an O'Shea goal at the end of the opening quarter when her low shot from a free caught Cork and ended up in the net. Now piling on the pressure, Kilkenny extended their lead with an Emily Phelan point.

When Ruth Crowley first-timed a ground shot to the net, they opened up a six-point advantage. Manley kept Cork in touch with a free and Stephanie Dwyer added one from play but three in a row from O'Shea made it 2-8 to 0-6 at the break.

O'Shea maintained her accuracy from placed balls as Kilkenny stayed in front throughout the second half, despite being against the breeze. Cliona Harter and Manley had Cork points.

With both sides working hard, scores came fast at either end. Phelan and Shauna Mahony were on target for Kilkenny and Manley hit four in between as Cork kept the pressure on, as they knew every score was vital.

As the clock ticked towards the 60th minute, Kilkenny led by six points and Cork looked to be heading out. Then came the key moment, when Manley's free deceived the Kilkenny keeper and nestled in the corner of the net much to Cork's delight.

As they waited for the result of the Limerick-Dublin clash, word came through that the Treaty won by 12 points. With the maths being frantically done by mentors, a phone call from Croke Park confirmed Cork were through.

Scorers for Cork: L Manley 1-8 (1-5 f, 0-1 45), C Harter, L O'Connor, S Dwyer, L Hannigan 0-1 each.

Kilkenny: A O'Shea 1-8 (0-6 f), E Phelan 0-5, R Crowley 1-0, S Mahony, A O'Grady 0-1 each.

CORK: A Collins (Sarsfields); S Donoghue (Blarney), A Cashman (Killeagh), T O'Neill (Fr O'Neills); M Lombard (Ballinhassig c), C O'Donnell (Sliabh Rua), C Ryan (Newtownshandrum); O Troy (Newtownshandrum), C Hayes (St Catherine's); C Harter (Barryroe), L Manley (Aghabullogue), L O'Connor (Killeagh); L Meillouin (Iniscarra), C Murphy (Eire Og), L Hannigan (Ballincollig).

Subs: S Dwyer (Douglas) for Hayes (27), E Healy (Eire Og) for Troy (h-t), A Halpin (Sliabh Rua) for C O'Donnell (inj 38), C Foley (Couragey Rovers) for C Murphy (48).

KILKENNY: E Walton; H Tennyson, E Morrissey, M Duggan; C Hickey, O Kennedy, C Teehan; S Doherty, E Doherty; A O'Grady, S Mahony, H Ryan; E Phelan (c), R Crowley, A O'Shea.

Subs: E Treacy for C Hickey (45), S Shefflin for A O'Grady (45), L Coomey for S Doherty (49), T Cody for E Phelan (49).

Referee: Donnacha O'Callaghan (Limerick).



Cork star Ashling Thompson could miss the season through injury.



Cork's Léa Meillouin racing away from Kilkenny's Hannah Tennyson.



Cork's Lauren O'Connor holds onto possession from Kilkenny's Shannon



Cork's Amy Sheppard played well for Cork U23s in their loss to Tipperary. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork U23 side battle hard but Tipp win to take Munster title

Tipperary 1-12
Cork 0-13

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Tipperary took the Munster U23 camogie title in Cappamore holding on to win despite a strong Cork fight back in a second half that went down to the wire, in six minutes of additional time played.

Cork made a good start as they opened up an early two point advantage with points from Ciara Morrison and Eimear Duignan, both points coming from play.

Tipperary settled, and were back on level terms with Lucy Heffernan and Grace Moloney scoring points.

Cork then opened up a four point lead as they hit four points in a row.

Rose Murphy and Niamh McNabola had one each to put Cork two clear, and it took a save from Molly O'Dwyer to deny Cork a goal before Amy Sheppard converted a 45 and a free to put Cork 0-6 to 0-2 in front 18 minutes in.

Tipperary began to gain a foothold and with their defence tightening their grip on the Cork forwards, they were making it hard for the Cork attack. In a six minute spell they hit four points from play without reply.

Maeve Cunneen and Grace Moloney with two points each to level the game for the second time with five minutes to the break.

With the sides level it took the upright to deny Rose Murphy from putting Cork back in front, but then they were hit the front with points from Ciara Morrison and Ciara Golden, before Eve O'Dwyer pointed a Tipperary free on the stroke of half time as Cork led 0-8 to 0-7.

Tipperary started the second half well and were on level terms inside a minute with a Lucy Heffernan point.

Cork responded and won a penalty, but again, Molly O'Dwyer in the Tipperary goal denied them with an excellent

save from Amy Sheppard's effort. Anna Kearney denied Tipperary taking the lead before Eve O'Dwyer put them in front for the first time pointing a free.

Cork again replied as Amy Sheppard pointed a free to tie the game up for the fourth time. Tipperary, with Grace Moloney and Eve O'Dwyer leading the way, went five points clear.

O'Dwyer pointed a free, Grace Moloney had one from play before Tipperary won a penalty which Eve O'Dwyer dispatched to the net to put them five clear with 11 minutes left on the stop watch.

Cork battled back hitting four points without reply.

Amy Sheppard with three from placed balls and one from Ciara Golden cut the Tipperary lead to a point.

In the six minutes of injury time, Cork put on huge pressure, but Tipperary held firm with Eve O'Dwyer pointing a late 45 to seal victory after a tough battle in a game where she was named as player of the match.

Scorers for Tipperary: E O'Dwyer 1-4 (0-3f's 1-0 pen), G Moloney 0-4, L Heffernan, M Cunneen 0-2 each.

Cork: A Sheppard 0-6 (0-4f's 0-1 45), C Morrison, C Golden 0-2 each, R Murphy E Duignan, N McNabola 0-1 each.

Tipperary: M O'Dwyer, A Mellerick, K Fitzgerald, L Fahie, P Quirke, M Murphy, K Dowling, E Fogarty, A Fahie, M Cunneen, N Cunneen, E O'Dwyer, L Heffernan, G Moloney, K Ferncombe.

Subs: E Cunneen for M Cunneen (44), D Ryan for L Heffernan (54).

Cork: A Kearney (Blackrock); M De Burca (Carrigtwohill), A O'Riordan (Ballinora), A Cashman (Youghal), L O'Donovan (St Finbarr's), L Dunlea (Sarsfields), K Goulding (Ballincollig), C Murphy (Kinsale), A McCarthy (Clonakilty), C Golden (St Finbarr's), R Murphy (Ballinora), E Duignan (Mallow), A Sheppard, (Cloughduv), L McNabola (Cloughduv), C Morrison (Douglas).

Subs: A Barrett (Aghabullogue) for C Murphy (h/t), E Wigginton - Barrett (St Finbarr's) for L O'Donovan (58), M O'Brien (Enniskeane) for C Morrison (58).

Referee: Daniel O'Donnell (Limerick).



Ciara Golden, hit two points for Cork

Picture: Moya Nolan



Niamh McNabola in action for Cork against Waterford in the Centra Camogie League Division 1A clash. McNabola will be one of the players the U23 side will look to on Sunday against Galway.

Cork minor and U23 camogie face tough ties

CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

It's a make-or-break Sunday for the Cork minor camogie side, while the U23 squad are on the road to Galway in the All-Ireland championship as they face the team that beat them in the final last year.

This is the first game for the U23 side in the round-robin stage of their championship as they take on the Tribeswomen, who will be fancied by many to retain their title.

While that is going on up the country the minors are at home to Kilkenny in a must-win tie for them as well, with both games throwing in at 2pm.

If Cork lose, they will be out of the All-Ireland series and see their season come to an end.

The Cats, Tipperary, and Galway are already qualified, and the final spot is between Cork and Limerick to see who joins them.

The fact Kilkenny are already through may work in Cork's favour, but as manager Mossie O'Sullivan said they don't like losing to Cork.

He said that there is little or nothing between the teams and knows they are in for another tough battle on Sunday. At minor level, there is normally a big turnover of players every year, so it's effectively a new team every season.

"You must remember you bring in 30 girls and most of them wouldn't have experience at this level," said Mossie.

"We have five on the panel from last year, and we brought in 25. Every year you're bringing in new girls, and I think the level goes up as well.

"Everyone is doing work, the likes of Galway, Kilkenny, Tipperary, and others are putting in a lot of work at the minor age, because they know

that that's where they need to get players ready for senior and U23 teams.

"This year every game has been close. We lost by two points against Tipperary, we lost by four against Galway, and another day they could have went the other way as well."

Cork play the Cats at Castle Road, and Mossie is hoping home advantage will work in his side's favour.

"If you have a home crowd, you have a great atmosphere, and you know, playing at home adds to the excitement. It's our patch, it belongs to us, and we don't like losing there, so I think that's a mindset that has always been in Castle Road, which is a good thing, and hopefully we get the result."

For the U23 side, they will be looking to bounce back from their Munster final loss last weekend against Tipperary at Cappamore.

With only a week between the games, it's never easy to do, and Jerry Wallace and his management team would have had a tough week trying to get the players in the right frame of mind for their trip to Galway.

With the Cork senior side having no game until April 19, Wallace is likely to have a number of the senior squad members available to him for selection. While on the opposite side, Galway are in the league final, so that may see some of their players not being freed up to play.

But as defending champions and with home advantage, this is going to be a really tough game for Cork to win.



Leah Hannigan, in action for her club Ballincollig, will be one of the players Cork minors will look to against Kilkenny on Sunday in the All-Ireland championship. Picture: Sah Dalu/Sportsfile



Amy Sheppard in action against Tipperary's Maria Connolly and Anna Fahie. The Cloughduv start hit 1-4 for Cork against Dublin in the U23 All-Ireland championship on Sunday. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork far too strong for Dublin as they ease to second U23 victory

Cork 5-19
Dublin 0-9

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

One-way traffic at Castle Road as Cork had too much strength in all sectors as they made it two wins from two in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland U23 Camogie Championship.

Aided by the strong wind, Corks piled on the pressure and dominated in all sectors. Inside two minutes, they had two goals, Amy Sheppard, with the first attack, before Ava McAuliffe kicked the sliotar into the net.

Dictating matters all over the field, Cork were faster and sharper.

By the end of the opening quarter, Cork had added their third goal courtesy of Ciara Morrison and with points coming fast and furious, led 3-9 to no score. Sheppard, Orlaith Cremin, Eimear Duignan, Rose Murphy and McAuliffe were all on target as the Dublin defence was unable to cope with the pace and strength.

Kirsty Fenlon converted a free on 16 minutes to open the Dublin account but despite battling hard, they failed to breach the Cork defence and had a mountain to climb at 3-13 to 0-1 at the break.

On the resumption, Dublin improved and added eight points to their tally as they worked hard and began to move the ball with a bit more purpose but Cork were always in control.

The sides had exchanged four points. Elle Ui Cheallaigh, Eimear Keohane, Ava O'Shea and Amy Carey on target for Dublin as McAuliffe,

Morrison, Millie Condon and Sheppard kept the scoreboard ticking over for Cork each.

Cork sub Meabh O'Brien finished to the net for Cork's fourth goal.

As the clock ticked on, Abbey Kenny, Fenlon, Emma Moran and Ui Cheallaigh hit points in a late Dublin flurry.

At the other end, Amy McCarthy and Morrison had added points as Cork ran out comfortable winners.

It's a fast turnaround to round three as Cork meet Waterford on Friday next in Castle Road.

Scorers for Cork: C Morrison 2-2, A Sheppard 1-4 (0-3 f, 0-1 45), A McAuliffe 1-4, O Cremin 0-3, M O'Brien 1-0, A McCarthy, E Duignan 0-2 each, R Murphy, M Condon 0-1 each.

Dublin: K Fenlon 0-2 (0-1 f, 0-1 45), E Ui Cheallaigh 0-2, A O'Shea, A Carey, E Keogh, A Kenny, E Moran 0-1 each.

CORK: A Kearney (Blackrock); A Cashman (Youghal), A O'Riordan (Ballinora), M Murphy (Ballinora); A Fitzgerald (Sarsfields), L Dunlea (Sarsfields), K Goulding (Ballincollig); M Condon (Ballinascorthy), A McCarthy (Clonakilty), E Duignan (Mallow), R Murphy (Ballinora), O Cremin (Eire Og); A Sheppard (Cloughduv), C Morrison (Castletyons), A McAuliffe (Castlemartyr).

Subs: C Murphy (Kinsale) for M Condon, N Kennedy (Clonakilty) for A Cashman, O Grimley (Blackrock) for A Fitzgerald, M O'Brien for M Murphy (all 47), M De Burca (Carrigtwohill) for M Murphy (51).

DUBLIN: E Kennedy; A Groake, R Fitzsimons, E Maher; N Roche, C Tierney, A Kenny; S Cherry, K Fenlon, E Moran, A Kenny, A Byrne; C McKenna, A Carey, E Kehoe.

Subs: A O'Shea for E Maher (15), N Brennan for C McKenna (h-t), E Ui Cheallaigh for A Kenny (h-t).

Referee: Shane Foley (Carrow)



Cork's Ava McAuliffe clears the ball from Dublin's Cara Coffey at Castle Road. McAuliffe also hit 1-4 for the Rebels against Dublin.

Cork U23 team off to a great start in their All-Ireland campaign

Cork 1-11
Galway 0-11

A superb start for Cork as they got their All-Ireland U23 campaign off to a winning start with a victory over holders Galway in Duggan Park Ballinasloe last weekend.

A Ciara Golden goal in the opening minute gave Cork a vital cushion and it was the score that divided the sides at the full-time whistle as Cork held their lead despite huge Galway pressure.

Cork played with the aid of the strong wind in the opening half and left by six points, 1-5 to 0-2 at the half time whistle after they had taken the game to the hosts and put them under a lot of pressure.

Inside the opening 10 minutes Cork led by five points.

An Amy Sheppard pointed free and one from play form Orlaith Cahalane helped stretch Cork's lead as they settled into the contest.

Niamh McInerney responded for Galway with a point, but keeping their foot on the pedal, Cork drove forward and points from Ciara Golden, Orlaith Cahalane and Amy Sheppard kept Cork in control.

Galway could only draw a one point response from Caoimhe Kelly as Galway struggled against a strong Cork defence.

Galway hit the ground running on the restart and firing over four points without reply they had Cork on the back foot.

Aoibhinn Barry, Kayla Madden, Katie Gilchrist and Caoimhe Kelly pointed in a six minute spell which narrowed the gap to two points.

Cork needed to regroup and settle and they did hitting three points in a row to restore their lead.

Amy Sheppard pointed a forty five before Rose Murphy and Orlaith Cahalane had points to again put five between the sides.

Galway were battling to find gaps, but the Cork defence was strong.

Caoimhe Kelly pointed from play, but again Cork hit three without reply.

Amy Sheppard continued to show her accuracy from frees with one point and one from play, whilst Niamh McNabola also hit one and with six min-



A Ciara Golden goal in the opening minute gave Cork a vital cushion and it was the score that divided the sides at the full time whistle as Cork held their lead despite huge Galway pressure.

Picture: Larry Cummins

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

utes remaining Cork led 1-11 to 0-8.

Galway were not going to go down without a fight.

They rallied with four points on the bounce.

Despite losing a player for a second yellow card on 52 minutes, they came at Cork and points from Niamh McInerney, Ciara Kelly (2) and Aoibhinn Barry had them without touching distance, but it wasn't to be as Cork held on for an excellent opening day victory.

Cork take on a Dublin in round two on Sunday in Castle Road at 2pm.

Dublin recorded a draw last weekend in their opening clash with Tipperary.

Scorers for Cork: A Sheppard 0-5 (0-2's, 0-1 45), C Golden 1-1, O Cahalane 0-3, N McNabola, R Murphy 0-1 each. **Galway:** C Kelly 0-5, A Barry, N McInerney 0-2 each, K Madden, K Gilchrist (f) 0-1 each.

CORK: A Kearney (Blackrock); M deBurca (Carrigtwohill), A Barrett (Aghbullogue), M Murphy (Ballinora); L O'Donovan (St Finbarr's), L Dunlea (Sarsfields), K Goulding (Ballincollig); A Cashman (Youghall), A McCarthy (Clonakilty); N McNabola (Cloughduv), R Murphy (Ballinora), C Golden (St Finbarr's); A Sheppard (Cloughduv), E O'Donoghue (Bishopstown), O Cahalane (St Finbarr's).

Subs: E Curtin (Blackrock) for E O'Donoghue, A O'Riordan (Ballinora) for A Barrett, E Duignan (Mallow) for A McCarthy, C Morrison (Castletyons) for R Murphy.

GALWAY: L Freaney, R Kelly, L McGrath, A Greaney, A Crowe, A Carr, K Lawless, O Mullins, A Joyce, K Madden, K Gilchrist, E Madden, N McInerney, A Barry, C Kelly.

Subs: S Lyons for A Greaney, K O'Driscoll for O Mullins.



SHARPSHOOTER: Orlaith Cahalane scored three points for Cork in their opening U23 All-Ireland championship clash with Galway.

Picture: INPHO/David Ribeir

Cork aim for a second win

The Cork U23 camogie side will be looking to make it two from two as they take on Dublin in the All-Ireland championship on Sunday.

Throw-in is at 2pm at Castle Road, and Jerry Wallace's side will be looking to build on an impressive win over Galway last weekend.

The Tribeswomen are the defending champions and never an easy side to beat, and it will be a huge confidence boost to Cork to have travelled home with the points.

Dublin drew with Tipperary last weekend and can travel in confident form after that result. Tipp are another side that are tough to get the better of, and Dublin will have learned a lot from that draw.

They also won the U23 B championship last year so, know what winning is all about. They will look for strong performances from the likes of Abbie Kenny, Kirsty Fenlon, Aisling Groarke, Amy Carey and Caoimhe Tierney to try and get the better of Cork.

But the Rebels will be expected to keep their winning run going. With players like Orlaith Cahalane, Ciara Golden, Niamh McNabola, Amy Sheppard, Rose Murphy and Aoife Barrett, Cork have a strong side



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

and will be determined to go one better than last year, when they lost in the All-Ireland final.

They won't take anything for granted, but Cork should have too much for Dublin, and a win sets them up here for their clash with Waterford a week later.

Meanwhile, Cork Camogie has announced the launch of a new online fixtures, results and tables hub for the 2026 season.

The new service has been introduced to provide a more user-friendly and reliable way for clubs, players, mentors, parents and supporters to follow competitions across the county.

With dedicated sections for fixtures, results and league tables, users can now access key competition information more quickly and clearly than before.

As competitions get underway, the new hub will continue to expand across a range of adult and underage grades, en-

suring that followers of Cork camogie can stay up to date throughout the season.

"This is an important step in improving how competition information is shared online and forms part of Cork Camogie's continued commitment to enhancing communication and accessibility across the association," said PRO Brian O'Regan.

"This new system is now directly integrated with Foiréann, ensuring that fixtures and results are sourced from official competition data. We will endeavour to have all results updated as soon as possible following the conclusion of each match, helping to keep clubs, players and supporters fully informed.

"As this is a newly introduced service, it will continue to evolve over the course of the season. Our intention is to further enhance the platform to provide additional details and insights where possible.

"For now, however, we are delighted to make this available to clubs and supporters as an important first step in improving access to competition information.

"There may be minor updates and refinements required as the system beds in. We welcome all feedback from users and encourage anyone with suggestions or issues to get in touch."

■ See <https://corkcamogie.com/> for more.



Christine Ryan, chairperson of Munster Camogie presenting Cork's Amy Sheppard with the player of the match award after their win over Tipperary in the Munster U23 Camogie final at Kilmallock, Co Limerick.



Niamh McNabola was in top form for Cork against Galway last weekend.



Rachel Murphy, pictured in action against Tipperary's Emma Kennedy, was another to impress against Galway.

Picture: Dan Linehan



Orlaith Cahalane, of Cork, tussles with Mairead Eviston, of Tipperary, during their Centra Camogie League Division 1A clash at Páirc Uí Rinn earlier in the season. Picture: Larry Cummins

Eviston: Tipperary are ready to take on standard bearers Cork

Tipperary defender Mairead Eviston believes her side are moving in the right direction ahead of their Munster senior camogie championship clash with Cork at Semple Stadium on Sunday, April 19.

The game throws in at 2pm and forms part of a double-header, with the same two counties clashing in the Munster senior hurling championship at 4pm.

Mairead was speaking at the launch of the camogie championship at Semple Stadium, where all four championships were launched together for the first time.

Players across camogie, hurling, ladies' football, and football gathered at Thurles for one launch in another step on the road to integration of all the associations in the next few years.

Tipp arrive in to the provincial campaign with renewed confidence under new management, a deeper panel, and a clear sense of unfinished business.

While Mairead was speaking from the blue-and-gold corner, her words carried a clear message: Tipperary are coming for teams like Cork — because Cork remain the bar.

In the recent league meeting of the two sides, Tipp came from behind to earn a draw with the last shot of the game, a result that felt like more for them.

Eviston reflected on their clash at Páirc Uí Rinn, a game Cork might have felt they controlled for long stretches. Tipp, however, saw it very differently.

"We were going for the win and were happy to come back with the draw, but disappointed we didn't get the win as well," Mairead said, despite being eight down at half time.

From a Cork viewpoint, her words are worth noting.

Tipp didn't just claw their way back, they left believing they had outplayed Cork in the second half.

If Tipp come with that same intent on the 19th, then Ger Manley and his Cork side know they will need to start as they did and finish far stronger if they are to get the better of Tipp.

Rules within camogie have changed this season and Mairead praised them, saying they have increased physicality to make the sport "more enjoyable to watch" and are pushing the game forward.

Tipp's confidence in that area is one that Cork will have

CAMOGIE ■ Rory Noonan

to match and then impose their own style to ensure they advance to the semi-final in this knock-out competition.

Mairead highlighted young players, like Lucy Purcell and Caoimhe Stakelum, praising their impact and development. She described competition for places as "fierce", with nobody "resting on their laurels".

She said that Cork traditionally punish teams that fade late on, but is hoping that fresh legs and youthful depth mean the Rebels may not "enjoy the same second-half opportunities they often exploit".

Mairead said they haven't forgotten about last year's All-Ireland semi-final defeat and how Tipp have been "bottling that hurt" and are now "waiting to unleash it".

For Cork, that's familiar ground and have used heart-break as rocket fuel often enough in the past. But Tipp are now tapping in to that same emotional reservoir, eager to convert frustration in to momentum.

When Tipp come with fire, Cork will be ready. They've lived through higher-stakes battles than almost any team in the country, and they know how to channel pressure in to performance.

Cork are the defending champions, last winning the title in 2024. Last year's decider wasn't played due to the skorts v shorts debate. At that time, both Cork and Waterford indicated they would be wearing shorts and the Munster Camogie Board called the game off late on to ensure it wouldn't become an issue on the day.

The result, with the tight inter-county calendar, meant the game was never played, so Cork are still the reigning champions, two years on from the last final.

The Munster championship rarely eases teams in to the season, and this year is no different.

You must win or you're out: It's as simple as that.

If Mairead's comments show anything, it's that the Rebels continue to influence the mindset, preparation, and hunger of every contender. Tipp are talking about making a statement.

Cork will want to ensure it doesn't come at their expense.



Cork and Ballinora star Mábh Murphy was named on the Electric Ireland Camogie Third Level Rising Stars Team of the Year.

Picture: Ben Brady/Inpho

Seven UCC players make third-level camogie team of year

Seven UCC players have been named on the Electric Ireland Camogie Third Level Rising Stars Team of the Year.

The university won the Ashbourne Cup for the first time in 23 years and such was their dominance in the final that it's no great surprise to see seven of the side make the team.

The team of the year features six universities: UCC, UCD, DCU, University of Galway, Technological University (TU) Dublin, and UL.

Runners-up UCD boast three spots, with DCU taking two. TU Dublin, University of Galway, and UL all feature a single player on the team.

The seven UCC players on the team are: Claire Kingston, Mábh Murphy, Orlaith Cremin, Niamh McNabola, Aoife Healy, Sarah O'Brien, and Sophie Pembroke.

There was an added bonus for the college as O'Brien was named as the Electric Ireland Camogie Third Level Rising Star Player of the Year.

Throughout the season, the Limerick native has been a clinical sharpshooter, delivering when it mattered most and scoring 2-2 in the final to earn the player-of-the-match award. Her pace and agility meant she was a constant outlet for the Cork side.

O'Brien showed her consistency and reliability as an attacker, playing a central role in UCC's system, and she was a key player in their path to victory.

Brian Molloy, president of the Camogie Association, said: "The Electric Ireland Ashbourne Cup once again showcased the very highest standards of third-level camogie in 2026, and I would like to warmly congratulate all those named on the Rising Stars team of the year."

"These players have distinguished themselves on the field across a fiercely competi-

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

tive campaign. Congrats to University College Cork who lead the way following a landmark year for the university, and I commend all six institutions represented for their contribution to an excellent championship.

"Third-level camogie plays a vital role in the development of our players, providing a unique environment where friendships are forged and elite competition thrives."

"I would also like to thank Electric Ireland for their continued support and commitment to these competitions, helping to ensure that they remain a cornerstone of our games. Comhghairdeas libh go léir ar éacht den scoth."

Jillian Saunders, group sponsorship and PR manager for Electric Ireland, said: "We are thrilled to unveil the 2026 Electric Ireland Camogie Third Level Rising Stars Team of the Year."

"The Ashbourne Cup, powered by our #FirstClass-Rivals campaign, truly encapsulates the vibrant blend of fierce competition and genuine camaraderie — a spirit we were proud to showcase in our Player POV content series."

The Electric Ireland Camogie Third Level Rising Stars Team of the Year is:
Keeva Steadmond — DCU DE, Wexford, Craanford-Monaseed; Emily Adderley — UCD, Dublin, Ballinteer St Johns; Claire Kingston — UCC, Newcestown; Mábh Murphy — UCC, Ballinora; Grace Walsh — UCD, Kilkenny, Tullaroan; Karen Tomkins — DCU DE, Wexford, Kilrush; Orlaith Cremin — UCC, Eire Óg; Alannah McNulty — UCD, Waterford, De La Salle; Niamh McNabola — UCC, Cloughduv; Carrie Dolan — University of Galway, Galway, Clarinbridge; Aoife Healy — UCC, Aghada; Sophie Pembroke — UCC, Tipperary, Gortnahoe Glengoolie; Sarah O'Brien — UCC, Limerick, Templeglantine; Roisin McCormick — TU Dublin, Antrim, Loughgiel Shamrocks; Aoiheann Barry — UL, Galway, Kinvara.



Newcestown and UCC's Claire Kingston was also named on the Camogie Third Level Rising Stars Team of the Year.

Picture: Denis M...

Déise make history, but also want silverware

Therese O'Callaghan

Waterford make the short trip to UPMC Nowlan Park on Sunday and, by reaching their first Centra National League Division 1A camogie final, this team have already made history.

They won't be content with that alone, though; they are looking for the grand prize in what will be a stern test against All-Ireland champions Galway.

Lorraine Bray is Waterford's captain again this year. Player of the Match when they won the All-Ireland Intermediate Championship in 2015, the All-Star midfielder continues to excel.

The Déise have already defeated the Tribeswomen this term, but the Cappoquin club woman knows this game will be different.

"We've beat them earlier on, but this will be a different Galway team," she insisted. "We know exactly what they are going to bring. Even last year when we played them, just the strength they hit us with was unreal."

"We are going to put our best foot forward. We've had strong performances throughout the league, so we will carry that with us into the final."

"We didn't turn up against Tipp [final group game but were already qualified] and we hold our hands up. It was a chance to give girls an opportunity and get game time. We made some changes and that was important too — we wouldn't be here without the panel. Tipp came with all guns blazing, and were well deserving of the win."

A 'Pedal for the Déise' spinathon was held a couple of weeks ago to raise funds for the year ahead. The support the girls receive hasn't gone unnoticed.

Bray said: "It's all down to the supporters, and you genuinely feel you have another player on the field with them getting behind you, especially if you have momentum at all. I've said it before — we love the atmosphere in Nowlan Park; the crowd seem like they are on the pitch with you."

"We've had great support again this year with messages galore coming in up to the final. I feel it's building every year. Even the younger girls coming into the panel, they've a huge backing behind them."

They've had to overcome adversity to get where they are. After reaching the 2023 All-Ireland final, they lost heavily to Cork. Last year, they were forced to regroup following the departure of manager Jerry Wallace, and Mick Bolland took over.

"In fairness, Mick held it all together when there was disruption. And he has brought that form into this year, which is fantastic. During the league, you're testing any sort of tactic because it is an opportunity to do it before you come into the championship," the childcare worker in Ballyporeen said.

Victory would give them a bounce in their step for the upcoming provincial campaign and a quarter-final with Clare. If they navigate their way to the final, it will be played as a double-header with a Munster SHC tie.

Bray added: "Playing double-headers has 100% raised the prestige of the Munster Championship, and it gets you used to those bigger games on match-day. We look forward to more events like that in the future."

For now, it's all about trying to get their hands on the Division 1A trophy.

"We need to win, especially the older ones. No silverware at top-level league."



Cork's Millie Lombard tackles from Kilkenny's Shauna Mahony during the Electric Ireland All-Ireland minor camogie championship at Castle Road.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork minor team head to the Ragg to face Tipp in All-Ireland semi final

Cork, Kilkenny, Galway and Tipperary have made it through to the Electric Ireland All-Ireland minor camogie semi-finals that take place tomorrow, Saturday, as Cork take on Kilkenny at the Ragg at 2pm, while champions Galway face Tipperary.

It has been an interesting round robin series to date.

Kilkenny and Galway have been the standout sides.

Both finished their group stages with four victories each, and it was Kilkenny, who topped the group on scoring difference.

Tipperary came through with three wins to their credit, and in a dramatic last round of games, Cork edged out Limerick on the head to head after both finished on level points, and level on scoring difference.

The head to head result of their round two game where Cork ran out winners proved decisive.

Cork and Kilkenny met in the last group stage game where Kilkenny ran out 2-15 to 1-12 winners.

Two first-half goals gave Kilkenny the upperhand in a game where they knew they were already through to the semis, whilst Cork were chasing the win that was required.

At the full time whistle, the drama continued as scores were double checked from the Limerick versus Waterford clash and it was confirmed

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork had grabbed the fourth semi-final spot.

Kilkenny are a strong side. Aoife O'Grady, Amy O'Shea, Emily Phelan, Shauna Mahony and Ruth Crowley have been very much to the fore in all their outings to date.

Amy O'Shea is an excellent free taker and Cork will need to be mindful of this as conceding frees will be punished.

To their credit, Cork worked hard last day out and despite trailing they knew it very well might come down to scoring difference and as the clock ticked towards the 60 minute.

Kilkenny led by nine points and Cork looked to be heading out of the championship, but a goal two minutes into injury time from a long-range Lexi Manley free ended up being crucial for Cork, their never give up attitude helped get them over the line.

Lexi Manley is a superb free taker, and she will and has shown great accuracy all through the campaign.

Cliona Harte, Millie Lombard, Clara Murphy, Lauren O'Connor and Leah Hannigan are amongst the players who Mossie O'Sullivan will look to reach the final, and if they can show the same fighting spirit again this time out, it is within their grasp to get there.

CORK U23s

With two wins under their belts in the Glen Dimplex U23 All-Ireland camogie championship, Jerry Wallace's U23 side take on a Waterford side chasing their first win tonight at MTU at 7.30pm in round three.

Going on results to date, Cork will be expected to have too much strength for Waterford in this one, and with a game to go against Kilkenny on April 19th, they are well poised to make it to the semi-final.

CORK U16s

The U16A camogie team lost out to Waterford 2-6 to 1-6 in their last group game, but they still managed to grab the last semi-final spot over Limerick and Waterford.

The three sides were tied in fourth place having each won one game, but thanks to a better scoring difference Cork have managed to join Kilkenny, Galway and Tipperary in the last four.



GOLDEN ERA: Ciara Golden in action for her club, St Finbarr's, has been in impressive form for the Cork U23 side in the All-Ireland championship round-robin series.
Picture: Larry Cummins

Cork aim for third victory

Cork will look to maintain their perfect start to the U23 All-Ireland camogie championship when they take on Waterford at MTU tonight, throw-in 7.30pm.

This third round of the round-robin series sees Cork in confident form after back to back victories that have underlined their potential title credentials.

They opened their campaign with a hard fought 1-11 to 0-11 away win over Galway, the defending champions, before producing a dominant display against Dublin, running out convincing 5-19 to 0-9 winners in their second outing at home on Easter Sunday.

Those results have signalled intent from a Cork side determined to go one better than last season, when they narrowly lost out to Galway in the All-Ireland final.

Manager Jerry Wallace has been working hard with this side for some time now and he will be determined to keep their winning run going to ensure their qualification for the knock-out stages.

CAMOGIE



Rory Noonan

He will face some of the players he coached during his time in charge of the Waterford senior side so knows they can't take anything for granted.

But he has a strong squad as his disposal, with a nice blend of pace, scoring power and experience throughout, and their two performances to date suggest the Rebels are building momentum as the games go on.

Several players have caught the eye in the opening rounds, with Orlaith Cahalane, Ciara Golden and Niamh McNabola prominent.

Add in others like Amy O'Riordah, Ava Fitzgerald, Amy Sheppard and Rose Murphy all who have played their part so far.

Wallace is building confidence in the players and their ability to sustain pressure was needed in their win over Galway. Against Dublin they were never really under any pressure, in a game they were always expected to win.

Waterford, meanwhile, are still seeking their first win of the championship.

They opened with a tough defeat to Kilkenny, losing 3-15 to 0-4, and followed that with a 1-19 to 0-6 loss against Tipperary in round two.

Despite the results, the Déise outfit will be eager to show improvement and compete strongly against a fancied Cork side, knowing they will have to be at their best to have any chance of upsetting the odds.

With home advantage at MTU and with confidence high, Cork will be targeting another strong performance to cement their position in the round-robin standings.

Waterford, for their part, will be hoping to frustrate the Rebels and produce a display that reflects their potential.

All signs point to a Cork win as they continue their push towards their ultimate aim — All-Ireland success.



Amy O'Riordan will be one of the players Cork will look to tonight against Waterford.



Rose Murphy will be hoping to add to her scoring tally against Waterford this evening.



Cork manager Maurice O'Sullivan against Kilkenny during the Electric Ireland All-Ireland minor camogie championship at Castle Road.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Second-half goals prove the difference for Clare

Centra Camogie League Division 1B final

Clare 3-11
Dublin 0-17

Daragh Ó Conchúir
UPMC Nowlan Park

They may have been played a little bit yesterday, but given how downhearted they were following the defeat to Antrim in last year's final, it felt like an important result for Clare to be crowned Division 1B champions.

Joint skipper Clare Hehir

was monumental as part of a stellar defensive unit that laid the foundation for this victory in the first half, ensuring that Dublin led by only two points, 0-9 to 0-7 at the change of ends. Lorna McNamara scored two goals and sub Áine O'Loughlin another in the second half, while another sub, Ellen Casey, also had a big impact. Dublin battled hard, and Aisling Maher and Gaby Couch excelled, but they could not make up the concession of the three-pointers.

Hehir tried to contextualise it all, but came down on the side of merited celebrations.

"The goal is getting to a final, and when you get there, you want to win it. I think we put in a performance we can be proud of, and one that was good enough to win the game," the pragmatic wing-back said.

"There's a strong wind, and you know it's going to be a slog, so you want to narrow the deficit as much as you can, and we did that. But then at the same time, the wind doesn't win you anything, so we had to push on again.

"You could see the subs that came on, the impact they had. They won us the game, simple

as. They had it in the tank to finish strong, and the goals were key. Lorna got two and Áine got one. We have a good panel now and that's something we've been working on the last few years.

"We haven't that much silverware, so we're going to appreciate this while we can."

McNamara revealed that her second goal, a rugby-style intercept and resounding finish, came as a result of opposition analysis.

"Looking at them, they obviously like playing across the goal to the goalkeeper and I was aware of that, and looking

out for the opportunity and glad to take the chance when it came."

Dublin attacker Aisling O'Neill was "very disappointed," more so by the performance than the result.

"We didn't show up today," said O'Neill. "It feels like we didn't perform. There was only three points in it in the end, so we feel a bit sick. We'll have to turn it around for next week in the Leinster Championship.

"We probably didn't do enough with the wind. We'll just have to move on."

Scorers for Clare: L McNamara 2-6 (0-

3f), Á O'Loughlin 1-1, R Begley 0-1, M Millea 0-1, A O'Keefe 0-1, C Hehir 0-1. Dublin: A Maher 0-8 (0-3f, 0-2 45s), G O'Shea 0-3, A Gannon 0-2, S Wyde 0-2, S Power 0-1, A O'Neill 0-1.

CLARE: D Murphy, S O'Keefe, S Daly, N Mulqueen, A Walsh, C Hehir, L Daly, R McMahon, D Griffin, C Cahill, A O'Keefe, J Daly, Z Spillane, L McNamara, R Begley. Subs: M Millea for Cahill (9), E Casey for McMahon (40), Á O'Loughlin for Millea (43), M Scanlon for L Daly (47), C Carmody for Begley (59), A Cooney for J Daly (60).

DUBLIN: C Jones; E O'Byrne, A Ryan, E Adderly, S Power, E O'Brien, C Gannon, G Couch, S Wyde, G O'Shea, K Finnegan, J Couch; A Gannon, A O'Neill, A Maher. Subs: E Moran for Finnegan (51), N Comerford for Power (55), E Kehoe for O'Byrne (59).

Referee: Cathal McAllister (Cork).

It's third time lucky for Galway

Centra Camogie League Division 1A Final



Galway 0-13

Waterford 0-11

Daragh Ó Conchúir
UPMC Nowlan Park



CUP BEARERS: The Galway team and supporters celebrate after victory in the Centra Camogie League Division 1A final. Picture: David Ribeiro/Inpho

Finals are for winning. And winning is a habit. But you need not to be overawed by the occasion to produce in the occasion.

Galway are All-Ireland champions thanks to an injury-time point from their captain, Carrie Dolan, against Cork last August.

Digging deep is in their DNA.

It doesn't guarantee you victory that you know what the days silverware are handed out is about though.

Cathal Murray's squad had lost the last two Centra Camogie League Division 1A deciders.

But being comfortable gives you a better chance, not being overawed, not feeling enormity, not trying to end a lengthy famine.

So it was that Galway scored the last three points —

a pair from play by Dolan and sub Caoimhe Kelly's second — to wrest back the advantage, having trailed after the marvellous Mairéad O'Brien drove over her third score in the 49th minute.

Apart from the opening quarter, when Waterford looked crippled with tension, there was nothing between the sides in terms of application and endeavour. But their know-how got the job done in the end.

"It was a huge battle, we knew what Waterford were going to bring down here today, so we're just delighted to get the win," said Ciara Hickey, who was a stellar

performer in maroon.

"We knew at half time that, if we were there or thereabouts, there was a strong wind in it.

"We came in level [0-7 each], we were happy enough with our performance, but we knew that there was more in the tank, so it was just about trying to push on in the second half.

"There's older girls on the team that really stood up there when we needed them to. Impact off the bench was huge as well. Niamh Niland, Niamh McInerney, Caoimhe Kelly, all made such a huge impact, we were delighted."

Former skipper Róisín

Black was one of the senior players that played a big role.

"I don't know how many times we were level throughout the match, and that reflected the game itself," the flame-haired full-back noted. "It was tit-for-tat, and we're just delighted to come out on the right side. It showed a resilience and a never-say-die attitude.

"We have experience, but we were at Waterford's stage of development at one stage. We have the target on our backs this year. We have all the experience, and it helps, but it's whoever is hungrier and whoever turns up on the day is going to be on top."

Black was involved in a key incident in the second half, as Waterford looked to be imposing themselves, when Lorraine Bray raced through but went tumbling under a heavy challenge from the defender.

The Waterford supporters were baying for a penalty, but Liz Dempsey was unmoved. Was it a penalty?

"I don't know, I'll have to look back on it and see!" came the response, accompanied by a broad grin. "Whatever the ref says, I'll go by."

Bray, who provided another trademark all-action performance, also smiled ruefully when queried. She wanted to win a national title, but it

wasn't hard to find positives, especially given they never landed a blow when reaching the 2023 All-Ireland final.

"I'd have given it!" the Waterford captain remarked. As for the wider context, Bray was thoughtful.

"We're disappointed. Hurt, I suppose. You come so close, it's hard to be beaten by such a fine margin. But I couldn't be prouder of the girls out there today. Unbelievable work rate to the bitter end — just a few balls here and there let us down in the end.

"Coming out of here with a performance is massive for us, that we didn't let ourselves down. We have that consistency with us coming through the League and, hopefully, we'll have that going through from the Munster Championship as well."

Scorers for Galway: C Dolan 0-7 (5fs); C Kelly 0-2; R Hanniffy, C Hickey, N McPeake, S Corcoran 0-1 each.

Waterford: M O'Brien, N Rockett (fs) 0-3 each; B Carton 0-2; K Corbett Barry, E O'Neill, A Flynn 0-1 each.

GALWAY: S Healy, R Hanniffy, R Black, D Higgins, K Manning, C Hickey, K A Porter, J Hughes, C Dolan, N Mallon, N McPeake, A Donohue, S Corcoran, M Dillon, A Barry.

Subs: C Kelly for Barry (41); N Niland for Corcoran (55), N McInerney for Mallon (60+1).

WATERFORD: B O'Regan, A McNulty, K Corbett Barry, V Falconer, R Walsh, C Carroll, L Forrest, O Hickey, L Bray, E O'Neill, B Carton, A Flynn, M O'Brien, N Rockett, B Bowdren.

Subs: C Sherlock for Bowdren (ht), M Gostl for O'Neill (41), R Kirwan for Flynn (45), A O'Sullivan for O'Brien (60).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).

Collins goal key as Kerry seal league and promotion

Centra Camogie League Division 2 final

Kerry 1-7
Meath 0-8

Murt Murphy

Kerry produced a stirring second-half fightback to defeat Meath in this keenly contested Division 2 final, played at a windswept Banagher.

The result also means that the Kingdom will be playing Division 1 hurling next year.

Meath, who played with the elements in the opening half, retired 0-6 to 0-2 in front, but did not have a big enough of a

lead at half time to stave off the Kerry fightback.

Kerry were not at their best up front, and they could even afford to miss a penalty and still win as Meath could only muster two second-half points, both from Róisín Heaney. Patrice Diggin top-scored with seven points, although she will not be best pleased at having her penalty brilliantly saved by Meath keeper Maggie Randle midway through the second half.

Diggin gave Kerry the ideal start with a pointed free inside the opening minutes after Amy O'Sullivan was fouled.

Meath, with Sophie Payne

excelling in defence, and Emma Regan along with Ciara Foley causing the Kerry defence some discomfort, were soon up and running with a Heaney 45 after a huge block by Sara Murphy on Foley as she looked for an early goal.

Emma Regan then added two points from play, but Kerry's attacks were repelled by some superb Meath defending. Caoimhe Spillane was winning good ruck ball, while Diggin's leadership was always to the fore. Two Heaney frees saw Meath move in front, 0-5 to 0-1, but they needed more, as the wind to their backs was a factor.

Diggin added a Kerry free before half time, while Heaney responded in kind as Meath led 0-6 to 0-2 at the interval.

Kerry dominated possession for most of the third quarter, but only had a Diggin free to show for it as Jackie Horgan struck the post. Then, in the 43rd minute, Kerry were awarded a penalty for a push on Horgan, but Maggie Randle saved the day brilliantly.

Heaney added a superb point from near the sideline, and it was 0-7 to 0-3 at the end of the third quarter. But Kerry and Diggin in particular raised their game, with three

subs appearing to give the Kingdom new impetus as dual player Danielle O'Leary appeared to unsettle Meath.

Diggin added a point from play and a free, and in the 55th minute an Amy O'Sullivan sideline was not cleared and supersub, Shannon Collins, finish to the net. Suddenly Kerry were in front 1-5 to 0-7, but Meath refused to give up as Heaney levelled from a free.

Kerry went for broke, and after Diggin converted a 45 to restore Kerry's lead, the same player pushed Kerry two clear and over the line after Randle denied Jackie Horgan a goal with another incredible save.

Kerry repeated their Division 2 league final win of 2022, by a margin of one point more this time.

Scorers for Kerry: P Diggin (0-7, 4fs, 2'45's), S Collins (1-0).

Meath: R Heaney (0-6, 4's, 1'45), E Regan (0-2).

KERRY: A Fitzgerald; R McCarthy, S Murphy, M Costello; R Quinn, N Leen, E O'Donoghue; P Diggin, C Spillane; A O'Sullivan, J Horgan, K Lynch; R O'Connor, L Collins, E Conway. Subs: S Collins for K Lynch (43), D O'Leary for E Conway (43), A Behan for R Quinn (43).

MEATH: M Randle; S Payne, M Cline, R Moran; L Devine, A Donnelly, R O'Neill; A Lally, E Burke; O O'Halloran, A Carey, R Heaney; E Regan, C Foley, E O'Brien. Subs: I O'Connor for a Carey (17), G Connolly for A Lally (45).

Referee: J McAllister (Antrim)



Cork's Amy O'Riordan pops a pass against Waterford at MTU.

Picture: Noel Sweeney

Cork U23s impress again with a big win over Waterford

Cork 2-21
Waterford 0-3

CAMOGIE

■ Leonard Allen

Cork have qualified for the semi-finals of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland U23A Camogie Championship by defeating Waterford in a one-sided encounter at MTU.

The greasy conditions from heavy rainfall didn't help Waterford, with all of their scores coming in the first half from placed-balls. Cork played a more open game, with the majority of their scores coming from play.

With wind advantage in the opening half, Waterford made the better start, but Cork goalkeeper Anna Kearney pulled off a spectacular save, before her side seized the initiative.

Niamh McNabola got the game's opening score, for Cork, but this was cancelled out when Rhona Drohan converted a free for Waterford.

Cork had Waterford pinned back as Ciara Morrisson, Ciara Golden, and McNabola each tagged on unanswered points from play, to give Cork a lead of 0-4 to 0-1.

Cork continued to have Waterford on the back foot and they stretched the margin by a further three points as Eimear Duignan set up Amy Sheppard for the game's opening goal in the 10th minute.

Morrisson tagged on a further point for Cork midway through the opening half, before Drohan responded with two unanswered points from placed-balls for Waterford.

Approaching the interval, Golden added her second point for Cork and Sheppard also chipped in with two points, including a 45. This gave Cork a half-time lead of 1-8 to 0-3.

The second half was one-way traffic in Cork's favour, as they laid siege to the Waterford goal. Sheppard got the first point of the second half, two minutes after the restart,

as she slotted over a free.

In the 33rd minute, Morrisson set up Golden for Cork's second goal, to extend their lead to 2-9 to 0-3.

Cork added a further five unanswered points by Golden, Duignan, Orlaith Cremins, McNabola, and Amy McCarthy.

Waterford had their moments as they lifted the siege. Persistent fouling was proving to be costly for Cork, but wayward shooting was proving to be Waterford's undoing.

Sheppard and Rose Murphy got further points for Cork, before Waterford gained the upper hand, but Cork's defence held firm.

Cork had Waterford back on the defensive in the closing stages.

McNabola tagged on two points from play. Murphy and Duignan each added further points, before Sheppard completed the scoring with a free in stoppage time.

Scorers for Cork: A Sheppard 1-5 (0-2 f, 0-1 45), C Golden 1-3, N McNabola 0-5, C Morrisson, A McCarthy, R Murphy 0-2 each, E Duignan, O Cremins 0-1 each.

Waterford: R Drohan 0-3 (0-2 f, 0-1 45).

CORK: A Kearney (Blackrock); M de Burca (Carrigtwohill); A Barrett (Aghabullogue); A O'Riordan (Ballinora); L O'Donovan (St Finbarr's); L Dunlea (Sarsfields); K Goulding (Ballincollig); A McCarthy (Clonakilty); E Duignan (Mallow); N McNabola (Cloughduv); R Murphy (Ballinora); O Cremins (Éire Og); A Sheppard (Cloughduv); C Morrisson (Castletyons); C Golden (St Finbarr's).

Subs: A O'Sullivan (Mallow) for Goulding (14, inj); E Curtin (Blackrock) for Golden; E Crowley (Innischara) for Morrisson (both 43).

WATERFORD: H Acheson; K Brazil; F Murphy; E Foran; C Ryan; A Hartley; H O'Sullivan; R Mason; O Whelan; A Ferguson; M Kenneally; E Griffin; M Kearney; R Drohan; K McIntosh.

Subs: D Roche for Foran (h-t); J Landers for Kenneally; H Godkin for E Griffin (both 43); Foran for Drohan (57).

Referee: Donncha O'Callaghan (Limerick).



Holly O'Sullivan, of Waterford, solos past Cork's Eimear Duignan.



Cork captain Meabh Cahalane at the launch of the Munster Camogie Championship at FBD Semple Stadium, Thurles. Picture: INPHO/Morgan Treacy

Meabh relishing Munster test

Cork captain Meabh Cahalane said her side can't wait for Sunday's knock-out game against Tipperary in the Munster camogie championship at FBD Semple Stadium, Thurles, throw-in 2pm.



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

The game is a double header with the same two counties playing the men's championship at 4pm, and the sold-out signs went up on this fixture some time ago.

Meabh and her teammates are hoping the Cork crowd will be in early to help drive them on to victory, as they bid to make up for a poor league campaign.

Cork are the defending champions, having claimed the provincial crown in 2024, with no final played last year due to the skorts v shorts issue.

Last year's decider was called off the night before the Rebels were due to meet Waterford in the decider, and with a tight fixture calendar, the final was never played.

That's confined to history now as Meabh again leads the side as captain for a second successive season.

Speaking at the launch of the Munster championship, also held at Semple Stadium, the St Finbarr's star acknowledged that Cork's league campaign fell well short of expectations but insisted it has provided important learnings ahead of championship.

"Upon reflection, it was a very different league campaign to last year," said Meabh. "at the start, going in against Waterford, there were only two or three of our more established players, which is tough because there are players who hadn't played for Cork at that level and were coming up from U23."

"It was great they got game time, but it's a huge step up and probably a tough couple of weeks to find their feet and get into the rhythm of training."

Cork managed just one league victory and one draw, narrowly avoiding relegation, but Meabh felt performances improved as the competition went on.

"The Kilkenny game was probably our best performance. We didn't perform in

the second half against Tipperary - we could have come out with the win but could also have lost, so a draw was probably fair. There was disappointment again the last day against Galway."

"Maybe it shows the amount of work we have to do. For a team that has lost a few key players, we need to find our rhythm and get a bit of momentum. But we can't look beyond the Tipp game, and that's what we're preparing for at the moment."

Meabh said games during the league were vital for those new faces.

"It nearly was the opposite last year when you had 16, 17 or 18 players with All-Ireland experience. This year, not even a third of the team had that, so you must be patient. The girls are eager to learn, and hopefully the learnings from the league will stand to them."

Meabh said last season's narrow loss to Galway in the All-Ireland final remains a motivation for the squad.

"Last year was so disappointing, losing by a point, and we probably didn't perform to our potential in the first half. But you couldn't say we didn't show the fighting character of the group in the second half, even when we were down to 14 players. That's something we can draw on this year."

While Cork start their Munster journey in Thurles, she was clear about the wider championship landscape.

"This year, we're the hunters. Galway are the standardbearers. Even from what we saw in the league, they're balanced, very physical, move the ball fast, and get their dangerous players on it."

Meabh was also delighted to see the four (hurling, camogie, ladies football, and men's football) championships all being launched together at Thurles a few weeks ago.

"Camogie has come on leaps and



Meabh Cahalane in action against Galway's Niamh Mallon during their Centra Camogie League Division 1A clash at Kenny Park, Athenry. Picture: INPHO/Tom O'Hanlon

bounds since I started with Cork in 2015. Physicality is different, players are more athletic, and having the four codes here together is a step in the right direction.

"We want to be playing in front of big crowds, in that heat of Munster championship, in front of 30 or 40 thousand people."

The occasion also has a strong family appeal for the Cahalane household, with Meabh's brother Damien involved with the hurlers and her partner Tim O'Mahony also part of the panel.

"To have us playing on the same day, at the same venue, under the one roof, is brilliant, not just for families but for clubs too."

But for now, their focus is firmly on Tipp and nothing else.

"We're really going out to win the Munster championship. That's what we train for. Tipp were very impressive against us in the league, especially their work rate in the forward line. But that's what you want, Munster camogie is flying, and there's real bite in it now."

McCarthy dreaming big as Cork U23s on a roll

CORK 2-21
WATERFORD 0-3

GER MCCARTHY REPORTS

CORK have qualified for the All-Ireland U23 Camogie Championship semi-finals with two games to spare.

The unbeaten Rebels won their third round-robin game in a row when they hammered Waterford at MTU Cork on Friday evening. As a result, the Rebels are through to the last four ahead of their remaining group games against Kilkenny and Tipperary.

'We are delighted to get to the semi-finals and hope to drive it on from there,' Clonakilty's Amy McCarthy told *The*

Southern Star.

'I think beating (All-Ireland champions) Galway in our first game lifted our spirits. We believe in ourselves now. The Cork seniors playing with us are obviously a big asset too.'

'Hopefully, they can keep driving us on and keep our standards high. It's so competitive in this squad. You are constantly kept on your toes as starting places aren't guaranteed.'

Amid awful weather conditions, Cork managed to build a 1-5 to 0-1 lead inside the first ten minutes. Niamh McNabola and Rhona Drohan (free) exchanged scores before Ciara Morrison edged the Rebels back in front. The same player wasted a goal chance prior to

Ciara Golden and McNabola splitting the posts.

Next, Cloughduv's Amy Sheppard gained possession and raced clear before finding the bottom corner. Another Morrison point made it 1-5 to 0-1. Waterford stuck to their task, and a Drohan free and 45 reduced the deficit. Molly Kearney had a goal chance saved by Cork goalkeeper Anna Kearney before McNabola and two Sheppard scores sent Cork in 1-8 to 0-3 ahead at half time.

Jerry Wallace's side completely dominated the second period. A rampant Cork added 1-13 and prevented Waterford from increasing their total.

Ciara Golden netted Cork's second goal in a half McNabola, Sheppard, Amy McCarthy,

Rose Murphy, Eimear Duignan and Orlaith Cremin fired over a flurry of superb points.

Tougher tests lie ahead but last year's All-Ireland runners-up Cork are in good shape heading towards the business end of the competition.

'We were disappointed with our first-half performance tonight,' Amy McCarthy admitted. 'We were lacking energy and not making our usual runs off the shoulder. At half-time we said that we would start again at nil-nil, see if we could keep them scoreless and keep the ball moving.'

Scorers

Cork: A Sheppard 1-5 (3f); N McNabola 0-6; C Golden 1-2; C Morrison, A McCarthy, R Murphy

0-2 each; E Duignan, O Cremin 0-1 each.

Waterford: R Drohan 0-3 (2f, 45); A Kearney (Blackrock); M de Burca (Carrigtwohill); A Barrett (Aghabullogue); A O'Riordan (Ballinora); L O'Donovan (St Finbarr's); L Dunlea (Sarsfields); K Goulding (Ballincollig); A McCarthy (Clonakilty); E Duignan (Mallow); N McNabola (Cloughduv); R Murphy (Ballinora); O Cremin (Eire Og); A Sheppard (Cloughduv); C Morrison (Castletyons); C Golden (captain, St Finbarr's).

Subs: A O'Sullivan (Mallow) for K Goulding (14, 1n); S Murphy (Glen Rovers) for C Golden (41); E Curtin (Blackrock) for C Morrison (41); E Crowley (Inniscarra) for E Duignan (41); K Cahalane (St Finbarr's) for L O'Donovan (48).

Waterford: H Acheson; K Brazil, F

Murphy, E Foran; C Ryan, A Hartley, H O'Sullivan; R Mason, O Whelton (joint-captain); A Ferguson, M Keneally, E Griffin; M Kearney, R Drohan (joint-captain); K McIntosh. **Subs:** D Roche for E Foran (ht); J Landers for E Griffin (41); H Godkin for A Hartley (41); E Foran for R Drohan (55, 1n).

Referee: D O'Callaghan (Limerick).



Amy McCarthy

Cork lose out to Kilkenny in minor All-Ireland semi-final

Kilkenny 0-16
Cork 0-11

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

There was disappointment for the Cork minor camogie team as Kilkenny got the upper hand in their Electric All-Ireland camogie semi-final at the Ragg recently.

Playing with the aid of a gale force wind holders Kilkenny made the better start.

Four points in a row inside the opening 10 minutes gave Kilkenny a good start.

Ona Kennedy with one point from a 45 and a free, and one apiece from Amy O'Shea and Emily Phelan helped settle the defending champions.

Cork battling against the elements worked the ball well and they opened their account with a pointed Lexi Manley free 13 minutes in and as the strong wind continued to make conditions difficult, both sides were working extremely hard.

Cork were winning an equal amount of possession and a Leah Melliouin point narrowed the gap before Kilkenny hit four points in a row with Holly Ryan, Shauna Mahony, Ona Kennedy, and Amy O'Shea all on target.

Kilkenny had a let off on 20 minutes when a superb effort from Leah Melliouin hit the sides netting.

Holly Ryan then extended the Kilkenny lead linking up well with Emily Phelan before smartly clipping it over the bar to put Kilkenny seven points in front with five minutes to the break.

Cork were under huge pressure as Kilkenny were continuing to press and they were controlling matters as the clock ticked towards the half time whistle they added four points in succession.

Holly Ryan with two points and Ona Kennedy and Shauna Mahony had one each to see Kilkenny lead 0-10 to 0-2 at the break.

Cork applied huge pressure on the restart and they had narrowed the gap to six points as they pushed forward with the aid of the wind.

Four points without reply, one from Orla Troy and three

ley had Cork right back into the game.

Eleven minutes into the half Ona Kennedy pointed a Kilkenny free.

Lexi Manley responded with a point from play as Cork continued to win a lot of possession.

Entering the final quarter Kilkenny led 0-13 to 0-7.

Cork were pressing hard.

Ona Kennedy took the pressure off Kilkenny pointing a forty five.

Lexi Manley pointed a Cork free. Again, Shauna Mahony replied and Cork had a let off as Kilkenny hit the upright with a blistering shot.

Leah Melliouin narrowed the gap with a Cork point and with nine minutes on the stop-watch every possession was vital.

Kilkenny were carrying the ball out of the danger zone against the wind as Cork worked to win possession and battled to get vital scores.

Orla Troy and Lexi Manley both pointed frees to put four between the sides with a minute remaining.

Una Kennedy had one point for Kilkenny as the clock entered injury time.

Cork pressed and pressed but failed to breach a strong Kilkenny defence, who advance to the final.

Scorers for Kilkenny: O Kennedy (0-7, f's); H Ryan, S Mahony 0-3 each, A O'Shea 0-2, E Phelan (0-1).

Cork: L Manley 0-7 (0-5 f's); L Melliouin, Orla Troy 0-2 each.

Cork: K Crowley (Courage Rovers); T O'Neill (Fr O'Neill's); A Ashman (Killeagh); S Donohue (Blarney); A Halpin (Sliabh Rua); C O'Donnell (Sliabh Rua); M Lombard (c) (Ballinhassig); C Ryan; (Newtownshandrum); O Troy (Newtownshandrum); C Murphy (Eire Og); J. L Manley (Aghabullogue); L O'Connor (Killeagh); C Harte (Barryroe); L Melliouin (Inniscarra); L Hannigan (Ballincollig).

Subs: E Healy (Eire Og) for L O'Connor (ht); C Hayes (St Catherine's) for A Halpin (39); C Foley (Courage Rovers) for C Murphy (50).

Kilkenny: E Watson; H Tennyson, E Morrissey, M Duggan; C Hickey, O Kennedy, C Teehan; S Doherty, E Doherty; A O'Grady, S Mahony; H Ryan; E Phelan (c); R Crowley, A O'Shea.

Subs: S Shefflin for S Doherty (39); T Cody for R Crowley (50); E Treacy for A O'Shea (54); K O'Shea for A O'Grady (57).



Niamh Mallon (Gaillimh) agus Meabh Cahalane (Corcaigh). Ba é bua cinniúnach na Gaillimhe ar Chorcaigh a chinntigh a n-áit sa chluiche ceannais. Ar chlé: Imreoir Phort Láirge, Niamh Rockett. GRIANGHRAIF.

KEARYS SUPPORT



Cork camogie stars Libby Coppinger, Orlaith Cahalane, Meabh Murphy, captain Maebh Cahalane and Kitman Kieran McCarthy at the official handing over of the Cork Camogie kit van from sponsors Kearys Motor Group.

(Photo: Daragh McSweeney / Provision)

Féile na nGael a huge occasion for young Cork camogie player

CANOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Féile na nGael camogie gets underway on Saturday at venues throughout the county. Different venues will host the Division 1, 2 and 3 competitions.

Féile is a huge occasion for young camogie players and it is a day that they all remember.

A huge amount of work has gone into organising what is essentially a day of celebrating all that is good about underage camogie and whilst all clubs will battle to make it to the later stages of the competition it is essentially about enjoying the occasion.

There are three divisions with games form one end of the count to the other.

Division 1:

Group 1 is hosted by Newtownshandrum, starting at 10am and they are joined by Milford, Aghabullogue, Middleton 1 and Eire Og 1.

Group 2 takes place in Iniscarra, starting at 1.30pm, with Ballinhassig, Blarney Douglas and Mallow 1 in that group.

Group 3 will take place in Charleville, with throw in at 10am, with Barryroe, Valley Rovers, Fermoy and Ballincollig 1 all in action here.

Group 4 is at 12 noon in Kill-eagh with Watergrasshill, Sarsfields 1 and Carrigaline playing each other in this group.

In division 1, the semi-finals and final are down for decision on April 30.

The winners of group 1 meet the winner of group 4 and the group 2 winners meet the group 3 winners.

Division 2:

Group 1 is in Ballincollig at 12.30pm, where their second team host Nemo Rangers, Mallow 2, Castlemartyr and Fr O'Neill's.

Group 2 is hosted by St Finbarr's and has Kinsale, Middleton 2 and Watergrasshill 2 in this group and this gets underway at 1pm.

Group 3 hosts are Éire Óg 2 and they will be joined at 11.30am by Bandon, Cloughduv, and Bride Rovers.

Group 4 begins at 11.30am in Ballyhea, with Ballinora, Newcestown and Sarsfields 2 in action.

Group 5 goes ahead in Clonakilty at 10.30am, where they welcome Castlelyons, Sliabh Rua and Youghal.

Group 6 is on in Bishop-



Mairead Lynch, development officer Cork Camogie Board, presents the Féile Division 1 trophy to Blarney captain Eabha Lynch.

stown at 11am, where they host Cobh, St Catherine's and Erin's Own.

Group 7 is on in Millstreet at 11am, with Carrigtwohill, Kilbrittain — Timoleague and Brian Dillon's in action.

Group 8 is on in Courcey Rovers, starting at 1pm, with Banteer, Kilworth, and Inniscarra 2 in this group.

In division 2, there are four quarter finals which take place on April 25th.

The winners of group 2 will play the winners of group 5.

The winner of group 7 will face the winner of group 4.

The winner of group 1 will meet the winner of group 8.

The winner of Group 6 will play the winner of group 3 and the winner of group 6 will play the winner of group 3.

The semi-finals take place in division 2 on April 29.

Division 3:

Group 1 is being hosted by Ballinascorthy in St Oliver Plunkett's GAA Grounds in Ahiohill, starting at 11am.

Here it's Glen Rovers, Kilbree, Ballygarvan and Na Piarasigh.

Group 2 is on at 10.30am in Crosshaven, with Aghada, Tracton, St Colm's and Grenagh in action.

Group 3 starts at 10am in Dungourney, where they are joined by Kildorrey, Enniskeane, Rockban and Whites Cross.

Group 4 is on in Laochra Óg, starting at 10am, they are joined by Passage West, Blackrock and St Vincent's.

In Division 3, the semi-finals and final are on April 28th.

The winner of group 1 plays the winner of group 2 and the group 3 winners will play the group 4 winner.

Best of luck to all and here's hoping for an enjoyable Féile competition.

Cork exit Munster championship

TIPPERARY 1-18
CORK 2-9

BY MATTHEW HURLEY

GER Manley's Cork side will look ahead to the All-Ireland championship after Tipperary ended their Munster camogie championship interest in this quarter-final in Semple Stadium.

It was the Rebels' fourth loss in six competitive games this year, but a prolonged period of rest could do the Rebels good as injuries to key players are taking a toll on the season so far.

Their next game is their All-Ireland championship opener against holders Galway in June.

Tipp made their mark from the off and hit 0-4 without reply inside five minutes. Grace O'Brien (2), Caoimhe Stakelum and Kate Ralph put the home side in control.

Cork, to their credit, responded with three of the next four points as Saoirse McCarthy started to pull the strings with 0-2 while Sorcha McCartan also found the target.

Tipp found their groove again, outscoring Cork by 0-4 to 0-1 between the 13th and 27th minutes to make it 0-9 to 0-4.

Cork got a lifeline, however, as a brilliant turnover by McCartan put Orlaith Cahalane through on goal. The St Finbarr's player fired home to get the Rebels back in the game.

Niamh McNabola almost netted again for Cork but her pass was intercepted by Tipp full-back Mairead Eviston.

Cork's McNabola and Tipp's O'Brien traded scores to leave it 0-10 to 1-5 at the break.

Manley's team did start the second-half stronger and took the lead through three McCarthy frees.

The home side regained the advantage courtesy of Eimear McGrath and Eimear Heffernan but Laura Hayes levelled it, 0-12 to 1-9.

Another Cork goal chance drifted away after

McCartan was hooked before she attempted to strike.

It was Tipp who took a firm grip on this quarter-final though with 1-4 unanswered and killed off Cork's challenge.

McGrath was particularly on fire during this time with 1-3. Her goal, assisted by O'Brien, was hit with an effort that gave Cork netminder Amy Lee no chance. That left it 1-16 to 1-9 game over.

Substitute Keeva McCarthy got her name on the scoresheet with a goal but it was too little, too late.

It's back to the drawing board now for the Rebels, who will be hoping for better luck in the All-Ireland series.

Scorers

Cork: Orlaith Cahalane 1-1; Saoirse McCarthy 0-5 (4f); Keeva McCarthy 1-0; Sorcha McCartan, Niamh McNabola, Laura Hayes 0-1 each.

Tipperary: Eimear McGrath 1-4 (3f); Grace O'Brien 0-3; Caoimhe Stakelum 0-2 (1f); Kate Ralph 0-2; Eimear Heffernan 0-2; Jean Kelly 0-2; Karin Blair 0-2; Clodagh McIntyre 0-1.

Cork: Amy Lee (Na Piarasigh); Meabh Murphy (Ballinora); Libby Coppinger (St Colum's); Meabh Cahalane (St Finbarr's); Izzy O'Regan (Ballygarvan); Laura Hayes (St Catherine's); Ava Fitzgerald (Sarsfields); Millie Condon (Ballinascorthy); Orlaith Cremin (Eire Og); Emma Murphy (Glen Rovers); Orlaith Cahalane (St Finbarr's); Saoirse McCarthy (Courcey Rovers); Hayley Ryan (Blackrock); Sorcha McCartan (St Finbarr's); Ava McAuliffe (Castlemartyr).

Subs: Niamh McNabola (Cloughduv) for E Murphy (23); Keeva McCarthy (St Finbarr's) for O Cremin (44); Cliona O'Callaghan (Blackrock) for A McAuliffe (52); Rachel Harty (Ballyhea) for H Ryan (56).

Tipperary: Laura Leenane; Amy Quinlisk; Mairead Eviston; Eimear Loughman; Karin Blair; Celine Guinan; Caoimhe McCarthy; Karen Kennedy; Kate Ralph; Aoife Dwyer; Roisin Howard; Clodagh McIntyre; Caoimhe Stakelum; Eimear McGrath; Grace O'Brien.

Subs: Caoimhe Maher for C Guinan (ht); Eimear Heffernan for A Dwyer (39); Lucy Purcell for K Ralph (52); Niamh Treacy for R Howard (56); Jean Kelly for E McGrath (60).

Referee: Donnacha O'Callaghan (Limerick).

Courcey Rovers' Saoirse McCarthy scored 0-5 against Tipperary.

(Photo: Bryan Keane/INPHO)

'Green machine' can feed off Páirc support

Camogie

Therese O'Callaghan

Tipperary are Limerick's opposition in tomorrow's Munster Senior Camogie Championship semi-final in SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

After two productive terms with the juniors, it is David Deady's first year managing the Limerick senior team. He is in charge of the county U23s as well.

Limerick finished third in Division 1B of the league and are through to the All-Ireland U23B semi-final with a game to spare, so he is satisfied. "As a new management, we were quite pleased with how the league went. Overall, it was very positive. We were unlucky not to make the final. We lost to Clare by a goal and they went on to win 1B and were promoted," he said.

"We have a squad of about 42 and there are about 31 of them U23, so there is a big crossover between the two panels and we are finding that very beneficial.

"We know we're not far away, which is great. With the profile of the squad, that bodes well for next year and the year after to get up to 1A, which is the ultimate goal."

Tipperary have had the benefit of a quarter-final victory over Cork, albeit it will be a quick turnaround. They are a Division 1A team too.

"Tipp are very impressive," said the manager, who is also Bruree GAA secretary. "I thought they were a much stronger team and had a lot more scoring opportunities than Cork."

But the 'green machine' benefit from unwavering support, and the hope is Deady's charges can feed off this. "We have the unique opportunity in that it is a Cork and Limerick game we are playing before, so it will be lovely to see the Limerick crowd in early and, hopefully, the girls can show how much they are trying to progress and close that gap."

"If we can stay with Tipp for the first 35/40 minutes and you see the crowd coming in, you get an extra bit of energy from that as well. They could be the 16th person for us."

"The group is very excited about the opportunity to play in the bigger stadium to experience that level of atmosphere that we haven't had so far this year. We are a project. It is going to take two to three years to get these girls up to the top table. That doesn't mean we can't get there in the short term either."



Padraic Treacy, chairman Cork Camogie, presents Mallow's Sarah McCormack with the Division 2 Cork Féile trophy.





Celine Gordon of Tipperary and Sorcha McCartan of Cork contest a dropping ball.
Picture: Brendan Moran/Sportsfile

Manley: We're just not taking our chances

It was not to be for Cork in their camogie championship clash with Tipperary and manager Ger Manley was obviously disappointed afterwards.

As well as losing his other concern was the fact they now will have no competitive game until June, when they start their All-Ireland series away to Galway.

"We are very disappointed to lose but in fairness to the girls they battled to the end, it was always going to be a tough challenge coming up here, but they gave it everything," said Manley.

"We had a couple of chances there in the second half for a goal, and maybe if we took one we might have won."

"I thought we played quite well at the start of the second half and were on top. We're just not taking our chances."

"You know, we're struggling a bit up front and look we just have to get on with it and prepare now for the All-Ireland championship in seven or eight weeks time."

"To be fair to Tipp, they are a good side they're very good hurlers. When we played against them in the league there wasn't much in it and the same today."

"But look, at the moment, we're struggling to get scores and hopefully we'll improve in the next couple of weeks, because if we don't, I'll be talking about the same thing again."

"We're just not creating chances, and you need at least

REACTION Rory Noonan

80 or 19 points to win a game in camogie, and we're just a good bit away from it at the moment.

"Second half we improved a bit, were well in the game, but we struggled a bit near the end of the game again, some of these girls are playing with this level for the first time and it's going to take a bit of time to get used to it."

"We've a couple of players to come back up front, hopefully we'll get them back for the championship. We're just lacking a small bit of experience there and that will only come with time."

"In fairness they're putting savage effort in over the last couple of weeks, and we just have to push on now."

Cork will now have no competitive game until June, something that is a concern for Manley.

"It's hard to get challenge games, but we have a few of them involved with the U23 side, about nine, and they have qualified for the All-Ireland semi-final, so that will give them a couple of games."

"But we need a few games, you can see there we were a bit rusty, we weren't sharp and you can train all you want but you need games."

"We'll go back training this week and we'll give them a week off around the bank holiday weekend and drive on after that."



Cork manager Ger Manley.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare



STRIKE: Orlaith Cahalane of Cork scores her side's first goal at FBD Semple Stadium.
Picture: Brendan Moran/Sportsfile

Cork crash out of Munster camogie championship

Tipperary	1-18
Cork	2-9

Disappointment for Cork as they lost out to Tipperary in their Munster Senior Camogie championship quarter-final clash at FBD Semple Stadium on Sunday.

Overall, Tipp were the better side and were deserving winners on the day, despite the best efforts of the likes of Laura Hayes, Libby Coppinger, Ava Fitzgerald and Meabh Murphy in particular.

The loss now means that Cork won't have a competitive game until June when their All-Ireland campaign starts away to Galway, as the Munster championship is a knock-out competition.

Grace O'Brien opened the scoring for Tipp just 30 seconds in before Orlaith Cahalane set up Cork's first attack, which was cleared.

Caoimhe Stakelum got Tipp's second point as they were quicker to settle, to make it 0-2 to no score after four minutes.

Orlaith Cremin burst forward for Cork, but again the Tipp defence quelled the danger.

O'Brien added another, with Kate Ralph also on target as Tipp led by 0-4 to no score with seven minutes gone.

Sorcha McCartan got Cork off the mark



Saoirse McCarthy takes a free against Tipp.
Picture: Brendan Moran/Sportsfile



two minutes later, with Karin Blair replying at the other end.

Saoirse McCarthy got Cork's second point and she was on target again from a free, to make it 0-5 to 0-3 after 13 minutes.

Eimear McGrath pushed Tipp further ahead as they were enjoying the better of the opening exchanges as Cork had yet to settle.

Clodagh McIntyre pushed Tipp further ahead as Cork were finding it hard to get out of their own half.

Karen Kennedy added another before Orlaith Cahalane replied for Cork, to make it 0-8 to 0-4 after 25 minutes.

A brilliant turnover by McCartan put Cahalane through on goal and she made no mistake to put Cork back in contention as she made it 1-4 to 0-9.

The tips of Mairead Eviston's fingers denied Cork a second goal just before half time.

A ball across from Cahalane to Niamh McNabola was intercepted by Eviston at full stretch to deny Cork the chance of a second green flag.

McNabola pointed from distance just before the half time whistle to see Cork trail by 1-5 to 0-10 at the break.

McCarthy got the opening score of the second half, from a free, to put only one between the sides.

After 36 minutes, the Rebels were back on level terms, when McCarthy scored from another free.

Cork took the lead for the first time in the 39th minute when McCarthy pointed from another free, to make it 1-8 to 0-10.

Eimer Heffernan, not long on as a sub, equalised for Tipp with McGrath putting them back in front from a long distance free.

Laura Hayes had the sides level before another free from McGrath, somewhat a harsh decision, put Tipp back in front.

Cork had another goal chance when McCartan was played in, but she was

hooked just as she was about to strike. McGrath hit two more from frees, before she struck the killer blow with two minutes left.

O'Brien played her in on goal and she gave Amy Lee no chance of saving, to make it 1-15 to 1-9.

Hayes had a chance for Cork but Laura Leenane saved superbly to deny her.

A late free from Stakelum rounded off the scoring as Tipp ran out deserving winners on the day and now face Limerick in the semi-final next weekend at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Scorers for Cork: Cahalane 1-1, S. McCarthy 0-5 (0-4 f), K. McCarthy 1-0, S. McCartan, N. McNabola, L. Hayes 0-1 each.

Tipperary: E. McGrath 1-4 (3f), G. O'Brien 0-3, C. Stakelum (1f), K. Ralph, E. Heffernan, J. Kelly, K. Blair 0-2 each, C. McIntyre 0-1 each.

CORK: A. Lee, M. Murphy, L. Coppinger, M. Cahalane, I. O'Regan, L. Hayes, A. Fitzgerald, M. Condon, O. Cremin, E. Murphy, O. Cahalane, S. McCarthy, H. Ryan, S. McCartan, A. McAuliffe.

Subs: N. McNabola for E. Murphy (23), K. McCarthy for O. Cremin (44), C. O'Callaghan for A. McAuliffe (52), R. Harty for H. Ryan (56).

TIPPERARY: L. Leenane, A. Quinlisk, M. Eviston, E. Loughman, K. Blair, C. Guinan, C. McCarthy, K. Kennedy, K. Ralph, A. Dwyer, R. Howard, C. McIntyre, C. Stakelum, E. McGrath, G. O'Brien.

Subs: C. Maher for C. Guinan (ht), E. Heffernan for A. Dwyer (39), L. Purcell for K. Ralph (52), N. Treacy for R. Howard (56), J. Kelly for E. McGrath (60).

Referee: Donnacha O'Callaghan, Limerick.



Amy Quinlisk of Tipperary in action against Ava McAuliffe of Cork.
Picture: Brendan Moran/Sportsfile



Cork's Amy Sheppard hit 1-2 for Cork in their loss to Kilkenny
Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork U23s lose out to Kilkenny in All-Ireland round robin series

Kilkenny	3-13
Cork	2-9

In ideal conditions in Páirc Lachtain Freshford, the Cork U23 camogie team were beaten by Kilkenny in round four of the All-Ireland U23 camogie championship on Sunday afternoon.

But, with three wins out of four games, Cork are still top of the group with Tipperary a point behind, followed by Kilkenny and Galway and all with one game to play.

With their place in the last four already secured following three wins out of their first three games, Cork took on a Kilkenny sides hunting to secure their place in the last four with one round of game to go and it was Kilkenny who ran out winners.

There was a lively start with a goal at either end within five minutes of throw in, Amy Brennan had pointed on twenty seconds to give Kilkenny the lead from play.

Cork opened their account with an Amy Sheppard goal on four minutes but on the restart Ciara Hurley had to be at her best to deny Leah Brennan won possession and finished to the net to restore the home sides lead.

Keeping the pressure on the Cork defence, Kilkenny extended their lead with two Ellen Gunner points and with the sides evenly matched they traded points Emily O'Donoghue narrowed the gap, Ciara Ryan responded as Kilkenny maintained their three point advantage.

Ellen Gunner pointed a free to stretch their lead to four points but a Ciara Golden goal on seventeen minutes had Cork back within touching distance.

As the pace dropped a little; the side's battled for scores. An injury held up play giving the sides a chance of a breather and on the restart Ellen Gunner pointed from play to put Kilkenny two in front.

Cork pressed hard and with Emily O'Donoghue winning a penalty Kilkenny keeper Ciara Duggan denied Eimear Duignan with an excellent save. Keeping the pressure on Amy McCarthy pointed but

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

again Ellen gunner who was superb for Kilkenny pointed, on the stroke of half time Amy Sheppard pointed a free to leave Kilkenny a point ahead at the break 1-7 to 2-3.

Scores came fast and furious on the restart Amy Brennan had two Kilkenny points but in between Maebh O'Brien had one back for Cork and as the sides traded score for score Amy Brennan and Ciara Ryan with a point each edged Kilkenny three points in front.

Cork worked hard and an Amy Sheppard pointed free narrowed the gap, Ellen Gunner and Amy Brennan were prominent for Kilkenny as they battled to hold onto their lead, Cork kept the pressure on and with a lot of stoppages for injuries it was a stop start closing quarter.

Ciara Hurley denied Kilkenny substitute Marie Clare O'Dwyer with an excellent save but winning possession again Kilkenny pressed and Claire Doheny finished to the net to put Kilkenny two goals clear as the game entered added time.

Cork responded well with three points without reply, Erinn Curtin, Ella Wiggington — Barrett and Eimear Duignan on target but a Kilkenny goal from Lucy Boyle and a Ciara Ryan point ensured it was the home side prevailed.

Scorers for Kilkenny: E Gunner 0-7 (0-3f's), A Brennan 1-3, C Ryan 0-3, C Doheny, C Boyle 1-0 each.

Cork: A Sheppard 1-2 (0-2f's), C Golden 1-0, E Duignan 0-2 (0-1f), E O'Donoghue, A Mc McCarthy M O'Brien, E Curtin, E Wiggington -Barrett 0-1 each.

Kilkenny: C Duggan; R Brennan, K Ryan, S Kerr; N Phelan, A Rohan, A Doheny; C Power, K McCluskey; K Ryan, E Gunner, C Doheny; K Brennan, L Brett, A Brennan.

Subs: M C O'Dwyer for K Brennan (49), L Boyd for L Brett (57), M Conroy for C Doheny (61).

Cork: C Hurley (St Finbarr's); M De Burca (Carrigtwohill), A Barrett (Aghabullogue) A O'Riordan (Ballinora); L O'Donovan (St Finbarr's), L Dunlea (Sarsfields); A O'Sullivan (Mallow); A McCarthy (Clonakilty), C Murphy (Kinsale); A Sheppard (Cloughduv) C Morrison (Castletyons) E Duignan (Mallow); M O'Brien (Enniskeane), E O'Donoghue (Bishopstown) C Golden (St Finbarr's).

Subs: S Murphy (Glen Rovers) for L O'Donovan (15 inj), E Wiggington-Barrett (St Finbarr's) for A McCarthy (h/t inj), E Curtin (Blackrock) for C Golden (45).

Referee: Gavin Donegan (Dublin).



Second place in the Cork Féile skills competition was Eimear Lynch, Valley Rovers, who was presented with her trophy by Mairead Lynch, Cork Camogie board development officer

Camogie Féile was a huge success for game and board's organisation

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

The Féile camogie competition dominated the Cork camogie calendar last weekend.

Matches were played in the four corner of the county in what was a huge logistics operation for the county board as they had to secure host venues, referees and coordinators and put a huge program of games together.

In total, there were three divisions at 16 different venues, 69 teams took to the pitches with the first section getting underway at 9.45am and they were still going at 7pm as there were quarter finals being played.

One thousand, six hundred and nine girls participated, with seven clubs fielding two teams, this was an amazing number of players, showing the huge interest there is in the game in Cork.

Huge credit must go to the referees, who put in a huge effort, with two pitches at most venues.

Two referees were on the go all day with no break.

Huge credit must go to the clubs, mentors, players and to the county board who organised a superb day of Féile camogie.

In Division 2, with eight groups, there were four quarter finals and as the eight clubs hit the road to get to the venues games were still taking place at 7.30pm.

Midleton 2 took on Clonakilty with Clonakilty running out 1-5 to 0-2 winners to make it through to the semi final.

Ballyhea met Kilbrittain /



Ellie Buckley, Banteer, Cork Féile Skills winner is presented with her trophy from Mairead Lynch, Cork Camogie Development Officer

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Timoleague and Kilbrittain / Timoleague were 1-3 to 0-1 winners.

Courcey Rovers overcame Nemo Rangers with two points to spare in a close 1-3 to 0-4 scoreline, while Bishopstown impressed with a 2-6 to 0-2 victory over Bride Rovers.

The semi-finals were down for decision on Wednesday night in Castle Road where Bishopstown met Kilbrittain / Timoleague and Clonakilty took on Courcey Rovers.

In Division 3, Glen Rovers, Rockban, Crosshaven and Passage West emerged as group winners, with the semi-finals and final played on Tuesday night.

Crosshaven overcame Glen Rovers whilst Rockban got the upper hand on Passage West to make it to the final where Crosshaven emerged as winners.

FÉILE SKILLS

There was huge talent on display as the Féile Skills competition saw divisional representatives take to the pitch for the county skills title.

In a contest that showcased the huge talent in all divisions, it was Ellie Buckley from Banteer who took first place, with Eimear Lynch, Valley Rovers, second and Zoe Harte, Sliabh Rua third.

Best of luck to Ellie and Eimear as they go on to represent Cork at the Munster Skills.

CORK UNDER 23s

The last round of Glen Dimplex All-Ireland U23 championship continues this weekend as Cork welcome Tipperary to Castle Road on Sunday at 2pm.

Both sides are already safely through to the semi-final stage, but the last games will decide the semi-final pairings, and as it stands, Cork are ahead of Tipperary by a single point on the leader board with Kilkenny behind by two and Galway by three.

Kilkenny take on Dublin and will be expected to get a win here, whilst Galway should account for Waterford.



Amy Sheppard scored 1-4 for Cork in their win over Tipperary.
Picture: Brendan Gleeson

Cork U23 team continue good form with win over Tipperary

Cork	2-19
Tipperary	0-7

■ Mary Newman

A very strong performance from the Cork U23 camogie side ensured they topped their group thanks to an 18-point win over Tipperary at Castle Road.

Torrential rain throughout the opening half made conditions difficult for both sides, who were both through to the knockout stages of the Glen Dimplex U23 Camogie Championship regardless of the result.

From the throw-in, Cork hit the front. A Ciara Morrison point inside two minutes gave them an early lead, and with Millie Condon adding a second point, they settled into the flow of the match.

Niamh Cunneen responded with a Tipperary point, but Cork hit 1-2 without reply in response.

Morrison set up Ava McAuliffe for a goal on seven minutes, and points from Amy Sheppard and Niamh McNabola gave Cork a 1-4 to 0-1 lead.

Danielle Ryan had a Tipperary point as they battled to get something against a strong defence but up front Cork were winning possession and on target again with points from Sheppard and McNabola.

Cunneen had one back but Condon and Avril Cashman split the posts at the other end.

Tipp began to settle with Ryan converting a free, and Ava Bevin hitting one from play, but Cork finished the half well with another McAuliffe point to lead 1-9 to 0-6.

From the restart, the result was put beyond Tipp's reach as a Sheppard goal inside a minute of the throw increased the Rebels' lead to nine. Piling on the pressure, Cork were winning possession in all sec-



Ava McAuliffe scored 1-2 for Cork in their win over Tipperary.
Picture: Brendan Moran/Sportsfile

tors. Their defence was well on top, whilst up front the scores continued to flow as they hit 10 points without reply.

McAuliffe, Sheppard, Cashman, Orla Cremin, Condon, McNabola, Morrison and Sarah Murphy all found their range as the Premier struggled to match the Cork intensity. It was 25 minutes into the half before they registered their only score of the period, a point from Emma Darcy.

Given the strong performances throughout the campaign one got the impression there is maybe more in Tipperary. With a semi-final meeting with Cork ahead, they may have been holding players in reserve.

Scorers for Cork: A Sheppard 1-4 (0-1 f), A McAuliffe 1-2, N McNabola 0-4, M Condon 0-3, C Morrison, A Cashman 0-2 each, O Cremin, S Murphy 0-1 each.

Tipperary: D Ryan 0-3 (0-2 f), N Cunneen 0-2, E Darcy, A Bevans 0-1 each.

CORK: A Kearney (Blackrock); M De Burca (Carrigtwohill), A Barrett (Aghabullogue), M Murphy (Ballinora); A Fitzgerald (Sarsfields), L Dunlea (Sarsfields), O Cremin (Eire Og); M Condon (Ballinascorthy), A Cashman (Youghal); N McNabola (Cloughduv), R Murphy (Ballinora), C Golden (St Finbarr's); A Sheppard (Cloughduv), A McAuliffe (Castlemartyr), C Morrison (Castletyons).

Subs: E Duignan (Mallow) for C Golden (38), S Murphy (Glen Rovers) for R Murphy (38), C Murphy (Kinsale) for A Sheppard (38), E Curtin (Blackrock) for A McAuliffe (42), K Cahalane (St Finbarr's) for A Fitzgerald (42).

TIPPERARY: M O'Dwyer; S McLaughlin, K Fitzgerald, E Kelly; E Cunneen, M Murphy, E Spillane; E Fogarty, K Ferncombe; N Cunneen, C Treacy, C Shelly; A Bevans, D Ryan, L Heffernan.

Subs: A O'Brien for E Fogarty (40), E McGrath for D Ryan (40), E Darcy for L Heffernan (40), J Heffernan for A Bevans (40).

Referee: Gavin Donegan (Dublin).



LINK: Millie Condon is a vital performer for the Cork U23 side at midfield. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork ready for a Tipp backlash in All-Ireland U23 semi-final

Cork and Tipperary meet for the third time this season but the stakes are their highest in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland U23 semi-final at SETU Waterford on Sunday, 2pm.

In the Munster final, Tipperary edged it with two points to spare, 1-12 to 0-13, surviving a strong Cork fight-back in the second half.

More recently, the sides met in the last group stage game where Cork had a resounding 2-19 to 0-7 victory. Tipp were totally overwhelmed by the full-strength Rebels. With the sides already though to the semis, Tipperary clearly weren't going flat out, especially when a win would have sent them into a game with last year's first All-Ireland U23 champions Galway. Tipp were down a lot of familiar faces who had been key in the campaign to date. Notable absentees included captain Eve O'Dwyer, Ciara Shelly, Lilly Fahie, Grace Moloney and Anna Fahie.

We expect to see a much stronger Premier this weekend as they go all-out for a place in the final.

In the group stages, Cork racked up high scores. They overcame a fancied Galway side 1-11 to 0-11 before going onto have big wins over Dublin, 5-19 to 0-9, and Waterford, 2-21 to 0-3.

They lost to an impressive Kilkenny 3-13 to 2-9 before bouncing back to get the upper hand on Tipperary.

With several senior panelists in the U23s squad, Cork's team has varied from game to game depending on availability due to senior league and provincial campaigns.

This weekend though, the priority is U23 and they have a strong panel available for se-

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

lection.

Millie Condon, Ava Fitzgerald, Meadh Murphy and Niamh McNabola were very much to the fore against Tipperary and through the campaign Amy Sheppard has been in top form notching up excellent scores.

As a unit, the Cork defence was superb holding Tipperary to one score in the second half in the last game.

Meadhb De Burca, Aoife Barrett and Meadh Murphy formed a solid full-back line while in front of them Ava Fitzgerald, Laura Dunlea and Orlaith Cremin were superb.

Avril Cashman partners Condon at midfield and up front Ciara Golden, Ciara Morrison and Ava McAuliffe completed the forward division that helped not up an impressive 2-19.

IMPRESSIVE

In the group stages, Tipperary drew with Dublin 0-12 to 1-9 before defeating Waterford 1-19 to 0-6.

They played out an exciting contest with Kilkenny where it finished level, 1-10 to 2-7, and went on to defeat Galway 2-14 to 2-13. This gives an indication of the quality they have. Cork were naturally be favourites, having reached last year's All-Ireland final, and with more familiar faces in their squad.

Still, Cork know the Tipperary challenge will be a much stronger one than it was in the group game.

They will no doubt prepare accordingly, especially after they lost the Munster decider earlier this season.

Saoirse McCarthy on Cork's season of change, the loss of experience, and why belief remains ahead of the All-Ireland championship

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

TRANSITION isn't a word that sits easily with Saoirse McCarthy.

'It sounds like an excuse,' she says, even if she understands why it has been used to describe Cork's underwhelming season.

This is, after all, a team that contested the last five All-Ireland senior finals, winning back-to-back titles in 2023 and '24. Yet this year has been a different story.

Cork have struggled to find their rhythm. One win from five Division 1A games saw them surrender their league crown, before a six-point loss to Tipperary ended their Munster championship at the quarter-final stage.

Now, attention turns to the All-Ireland series – the one that matters most. But McCarthy knows Cork have ground to make up this summer.

'I'm looking forward to the summer. It hasn't gone to plan and we are disappointed with how the league and Munster championship went. It's obviously a new team and a new challenge,' the Courcy Rovers ace says.

'There's a different type of pressure now. Last year it was about going for the three-in-a-row, whereas this year it's about whether we can pull things together after a slow start. But there are enough leaders in the group to rise to that challenge.'

Four-time All-Star McCarthy has been involved with

the county senior panel since 2018, so has lived it all, but the player turnover in the Cork squad this year is something she hasn't experienced before.

'Another county would be completely depleted after losing that level of experience,' McCarthy says. A quick look at the Cork squad highlights the scale of change in Ger Manley's team.

Laura Treacy has retired. Hannah Looney and Aoife Healy are AFLW-bound. Pamela and Katrina Mackey are not involved. Both Ashling Thompson and Amy O'Connor are injured. Cliona Healy has stepped back. Kate Wall has gone to Australia. And there's more.

'The biggest question I've been asked is, "What's going on?" The short answer is we lost 15 or 16 players from last year. There were over 30 All-Ireland medals gone from the dressing room,' McCarthy explains.

'It's not easy losing when you're

Saoirse McCarthy in full flight for Cork.



'I hate the word transition. It sounds like an excuse'



Brand ambassador Saoirse McCarthy at the launch of Feirla's debut range. (Photo: Dan Sheridan/INPHO)

used to success. There's always an expectation on Cork to be there or thereabouts.

'We're trying to keep going, playing for the jersey and each other, and get back to ourselves again.'

'But we've taken positives from games and there are so many new faces getting game time, making debuts and being blooded into the team. That's positive for the future.'

'There's unbelievable talent coming through in Cork and we're seeing that now at senior level.'

'We're not performing to our best yet, but it will only go in one direction. We're all putting the shoulder to the wheel and trying to work as hard as we can so that when the All-Ireland championship comes around, we're in the best position possible.'

McCarthy is key to the Rebels' revival. The Ballinspittle woman has developed into one of the top players in the country, shortlisted for Player of the Year in each of the past three seasons. If this classy attacker finds her groove, it gives Cork a chance.



St Finbarr's and Cork U23 camogie player Ciara Golden.

CAMOGIE

All-Ireland U16 A championship final: Galway 3-14 Kilkenny 2-17; U16 A Shield final: Derry 5-9 Wexford 2-8; U16 B Cup championship final: Kildare 4-11 Westmeath 2-6; U16 B Shield final: Carlow 4-6 Down 1-10; U16 C Cup final: Tyrone 1-8 Cavan 1-5; U16 C Shield final: Louth 2-8 Wicklow 2-7; Minor C final: Wicklow 2-10 Westmeath 0-14; All-Ireland U23 A championship (Rd 5): Cork 2-19 Tipperary 0-7, Kilkenny 0-16 Dublin 1-6; All-Ireland U23 B championship: Wexford 1-13 Antrim 4-6; All-Ireland U23 C championship final: Carlow 4-13 Meath 1-13.

CAMOGIE: All-Ireland U16A championship final replay: Galway 2-11 Kilkenny 1-9; All-Ireland U23A semi-finals: Kilkenny 2-14 Galway 0-18; Cork 5-19 Tipperary 1-8; All-Ireland U23B semi-finals: Antrim 2-10 Limerick 1-12; Wexford 2-10 Clare 1-6; Leinster senior championship final: Wexford 1-21 Dublin 0-21 (aet); Leinster intermediate championship final: Laois 1-15 Westmeath 1-13; Ulster senior camogie championship final: Antrim 2-11 Down 0-11.

Dominant Cork end Tipperary's final dream

Cork 5-19
Tipperary 1-8

Report: Joe Scully
SETU Arena, Waterford
Photos: Marty Ryan/SportsFocus

A massively disappointing end to what had been a promising year for the Tipperary Under 23's as they were blown away by a far more physical and powerful Cork side in the semi-final of the All-Ireland Championship on Sunday. The Munster champions, who had beaten Cork in the provincial final, were no match for a Rebelettes on this occasion who from the moment they opened the scoring in the fourth minute, through a Ciara Golden goal, and never looked back.

They dominated all over the pitch, with their full forward line in particular causing all sorts of problems, with Amy Sheppard in sensational form scoring 2-7, all bar two points coming from play. She was ably assisted by Niamh McNabola in the half forward line, with Ava Fitzgerald and Aoife Barrett dominating at the other end of the field.

Tipperary, to their credit, never let their heads drop despite being under constant pressure, with the likes of Katie Fitzgerald and Danielle Ryan impressing.

Tip hit only one wide in the game, but that was a fact that came about by them not been allowed get enough shots away as Cork defended relentlessly as the Premier ladies struggled to make any impact in attack.

While it's a disappointing ending to the year, there were plenty of positives to take for the blue & gold, and

MATCH DIGEST

Player of the Match: Amy Sheppard (Cork)

SCORERS - Cork: Amy Sheppard 2-7 (0-2 frees); Niamh McNabola 0-6; Ava McAuliffe 1-2 (0-2 frees); Ciara Golden, Ciara Morrisson 1-0 each; Rose Murphy 0-2; Ava Fitzgerald, Orlaith Cahalane (free) 0-1 each.

Tipperary: Eva O'Dwyer 0-5 (4 frees); Grace Moloney 1-0; Danielle Ryan 0-2; Maeve Cunneen 0-1.

with plenty of players still available for next year, this game can be seen as a learning curve for the future.

After a slow start where Cork dominated, hitting a couple of wides before Rose Murphy picked out Ciara Golden with a superb ball hitting a bullet to the back of the net, to get Cork up and running.

Amy Sheppard, who proved a handful throughout, hit two points in a row, the second a great finish while on an advantage.

Tipp opened their account with a fine Danielle Ryan effort from distance, and an Eva O'Dwyer free shortly after had the arrears reduced to three.

Two minutes later, Tipperary suffered another blow, when after a fine run from Ava McAuliffe before passing to Sheppard who finished to the back of the net.

An O'Dwyer free in the 14th minute, was quickly responded to by two Sheppard points from play to leave Cork ahead by seven in the 19th minute.

O'Dwyer added another free but two-in-a-row from Niamh McNabola had Cork ahead by eight. A Danielle Ryan effort, and one from Maeve Cunneen had the gap back to six as Tipperary, despite not playing well, were keeping in touch.

However, Cork finished the half

strongly, with three points in a row from Amy Sheppard (1 free) as Cork went in at the break leading 2-9 to 0-6.

Any hope of a Tipp comeback in the second half was quickly extinguished as early as thirty seconds when a Ciara Golden effort rebounded off the post and Amy Sheppard was quickest to respond and had the easiest of finishes to the back of the net.

Eva O'Dwyer reduced the gap with two frees either side of another McNabola point.

Ava Fitzgerald was next on the score-sheet in the 40th minute, before Rose Murphy got her name on the score-sheet before in the 45th minute we witnessed the score of the game, a long ball was won by Amy Sheppard who laid it off to the onrushing Niamh McNabola who finished excellently to the net on the run.

From the resultant puckout, the ball found its way to Grace Moloney and she made a beeline for the Cork goal, before kicking the ball to the back of the net.

However, it proved to be their final score of the game as Cork continued to pile on the misery, starting in the 49th minute with a brilliant individual goal from Ava McAuliffe, before an Orlaith Cahalane free was quickly followed by another from McNabola following a fine team move.

Cork scored their fifth goal in the 55th minute, when McAuliffe won the ball off a Tipp defender before setting up substitute Ciara Morrisson who found the back of the net with ease.

McNabola and Rose Murphy added two more points and McAuliffe added two frees to round off an impressive win for Cork and a place in the final against Kilkenny.

TEAMS - Cork: Anna Kearney (6); Maebhdh De



Cork captain Ciara Golden and Tipperary defender Miriam Murphy in a race for possession.

Burca (7), Aoife Barrett (8), Maebhdh Murphy (7), Ava Fitzgerald (8), Laura Dunlea (7), Orlaith Cremins (6), Millie Condon (7), Avril Cashman (8), Niamh McNabola (8), Rose Murphy (7), Ciara Golden (7), Amy Sheppard (9), Ava McAuliffe (9), Orlaith Cahalane (8).

Subs: Amy O'Riordan (6) for Barrett (42 in); Elmeear Duignan (6) for Golden (43); Amy McCarthy (6) for Cashman (46); Ciara Morrisson (6) for Sheppard (52); Erin Curtin (6) for Cahalane (55).

Tipperary: Molly O'Dwyer (Moycarkey/Borris 6); Emma Kelly (Borris-Ileigh 6); Katie Fitzgerald

(Borris-Ileigh 7); Lily Fahle (Cashel KC 6); Paula Quirke (Boherlahan-Dualla 7); Miriam Murphy (Silvermines 6); Kate Dowling (Moycarkey/Borris 6); Ellen Cunneen (Silvermines 6); Anna Fahle (Cashel KC 6); Niamh Cunneen (Silvermines 6); Eva O'Dwyer (Eire Og Annacarty/D. Capt 6); Caithlyn Treacy (Moneygall 6); Grace Moloney (Cashel KC 6); Danielle Ryan (Eire Og Annacarty/D 7); Maeve Cunneen (Silvermines 6) for L. Fahle (52 in); Ava Bevens (Borris-Ileigh NR) for N Cunneen (58); Emily Spillane (St Rita's Fethard NR) for Dowling (60).

Referee: Enda Loughnane (Galway).

Darcy laments disappointing end to campaign

By Joe Scully

IT was a disappointed and magnanimous Tipperary manager Bryan Darcy following his sides heavy defeat at the hands of Cork in the semi-final of the All-Ireland Under 23 Camogie Championship on Sunday.

The Nenagh Eire Og clubman had no complaints about the result and felt his side were beaten by the better side. "You can analyse the game all you want but Cork were the better team on the day, they outplayed us, they were physically stronger than us, and we just have to take it on the chin and hopefully learn from it going forward in the future," he said.

"Obviously you're disappointed after losing a semi-final, but I'm more disappointed for the players that are

there, because they have put in a massive effort all year, and have done all that's been asked of them."

While Cork were far the better team throughout, their third goal just after half time, while leading by nine points was a crucial score as it seemed to end any hope of a Tipperary comeback.

"Cork got the breaks and that goal with it coming off the post, and down in front of the Cork player all she had to do was tap it in, and those breaks made it kind of hard, to claw back that first half lead Cork had built up," Darcy added.

"We had a good chance if that goal didn't go in but look that's the way sport goes and you just have to move on."

Despite the defeat, Darcy couldn't have been any prouder of his team

not just for the effort on the day, but throughout the year in which they won the Munster title and only lost two games, both to Cork in recent weeks.

"All year these girls, training wise, match wise, everything that has been asked of them there has never been an issue," Darcy said.

"We have been in situations where we needed to dig out results, whether its draws or wins and we done that, but today wasn't the day for them, Cork were the better side and we wish them all the best of luck in the final."

Tipperary's Maeve Cunneen wins possession ahead of Cork's Millie Condon



Injury-time goal ends Galway's hold on U-23 title

Tribeswomen pay the price for failing to take their chances as they lose their grip on crown

Kevin Egan

Kilkenny	2-14
Galway	0-18

Galway let slip their All-Ireland U-23 title in dramatic and heartbreaking circumstances in their last Saturday, conceding an injury-time goal that punished their lack of ruthlessness and dumped the champions out of the competition.

"We left Kilkenny in the game to be honest, they were the better team in the second half, especially in the first 10 or 15 minutes of it," was Cathal Murray's summary of his team's performance, and that was exactly what happened.

In the first half in particular, Galway looked that much more accurate and sharp despite playing into the wind and they were full value for their 0-11 to 1-6 lead.

Kilkenny's Claire Doherty squeezed the sliotar inside Laura

Freeney's near post from a very tight angle for an early goal for the Casts after cutting in along the left-hand end line, but the remainder of the first half saw Galway take control of the game, building on the physical dominance exerted by Ciara Hickey and Katie Anna Porter in the half-back line.

Kilkenny played with just two inside forwards throughout the game and that gave them extra cover close to goal, but Caoimhe Kelly struck a fine early point, Niamh McInerney was a constant threat scoring four in all, and Aoibheann Barry also stood out, converting her frees and causing real problems for the Kilkenny back division from open play.

In general Galway used the ball well, trying to exploit the space even though they were working the ball through the lines, with no easy long-ball option. Caoimhe Kelly wasn't as imperious as her senior status might indicate but she too was a threat, winning two of the frees

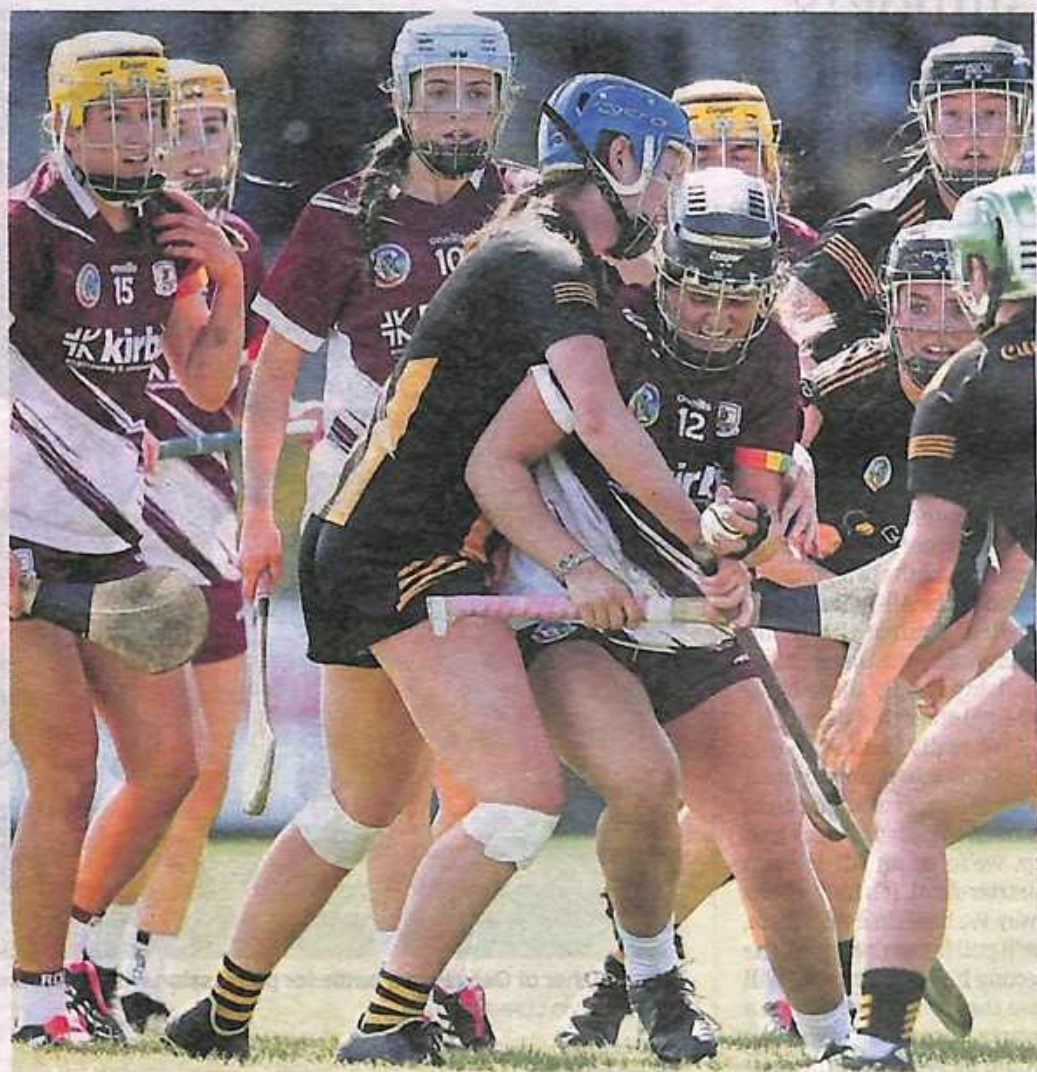
that Barry converted and knocking over one point of her own.

In the third quarter too, it largely went to plan for Murray's Galway side. Shannon Corcoran won a free that Barry converted, Porter set up Corcoran for a point of her own, and suddenly there was a gap of four points, which looked substantial in a game where the scoring rate was beginning to dip.

Perhaps it was that shift in mindset that made all the difference as while Kilkenny started to chase the game, as you would expect from any team trailing in the latter stages of an All-Ireland semi-final, Galway seemed more content to hold their lead, and that indirectly invited Kilkenny onto the front foot.

Ellen Gunner got her only score from play and Leah Brett added a point, and with a couple of frees scored at either end of the ground that pulled Kilkenny back to within one.

The match-winning goal was every bit as stunning as it was heartbreaking to the Galway



Galway's Aoibheann Barry looks to break through the Kilkenny cover. PHOTO: INPHO/GRACE HALTON.

players.

Lauren Ronan floated the sliotar into the direction of Doherty, who made a fine catch in traffic, held off a tackle and did brilliantly to get her shot away, a strike that arrowed between a crowd of huris and into the top corner.

"We were in a really good position at half-time, we were really, really happy where we were," said Murray.

"And maybe we were that bit complacent in the second half, because they came at us, we had chances, but we just didn't put enough delay between the two teams. They got the goal, you can't say they didn't deserve to win it."

Kilkenny: C Duggan; R Brennan, Katie Ryan, S Kerr; N Phelan, A Rohan, A Doherty; C Power, K McCluskey (0-1); Keara Ryan (0-1), E Gunner (0-10, 0-9f), A Brennan; L Brett (0-1), K Bren-

nan, C Doherty (2-1). Subs: L Ronan for K Brennan (41mins), L Boyd for Keara Ryan (47mins), F Kelly for Power (59mins).

Galway: L Freeney; R Kelly, L McGrath, A Crowe; A Hesnan, C Hickey, K-A Porter; Kayla Madden, A Joyce; K O'Driscoll, E Madden (0-1), A Barry (0-10, 0-7f, 0-1 45); N McInerney (0-4), S Corcoran (0-1), C Kelly (0-1). Subs: E Brogan (0-1) for Joyce (40mins), A Bloomer for Hesnan (49mins), O Mullins for Madden (49mins), E Lawless for O'Driscoll (57mins).

Referee: John Dooley (Tipperary).

Tipp and Déise in good form ahead of final

Munster senior camogie final



Tipperary v Waterford

Saturday: FBD Semple Stadium, 4.45pm

Referee: Aaron Hogg (Clare)

Therese O'Callaghan



When these sides last met it was in the final round of the Centra National League in March and it ended with an emphatic 19-point victory for hosts Tipperary.

However, Waterford were already qualified for the final and Tipp were keen to avoid relegation territory so one shouldn't read too much into that result.

This will be a much closer contest between rival teams that are eager to push on, especially when it comes to the All-Ireland series.

The Premier County, under new manager James Heffernan, are building nicely. Their provincial quarter-final win over Cork

in Thurles set the tone. When the Rebels came back at them in the second half, they had the ability and belief to pull clear and emerged with six points to spare.

A nine-point win over Limerick at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh followed in the semi-final. This was against a resurgent Treaty side and it enabled management to ensure girls got valuable minutes on the field.

The final was originally fixed for either FBD Semple Stadium today or the TUS Gaelic Grounds tomorrow, ahead of the Limerick v Waterford SHC clash. Waterford manager Mick Boland said this week that he had no problem travelling, viewing the Thurles venue as one of the best in Munster.

The Déise were Division 1A league finalists but a slow start didn't allow them to make the most of the elements against All-Ireland champions Galway.

No doubt the two-point loss will stand to them in the long run. Their high-scoring provincial quarter-final win over Clare after extra time in Ennis produced one of the highlights of the championship. Following a one-point triumph, they were off to

Fitzgerald Stadium in Killarney, where they met debutants Kerry and, due to the obvious gulf in class, the visitors ran out easy winners.

Lots of stars and standout names will feature this weekend, and playing this attractive showdown as a double-header allows people the perfect opportunity to see the massive amount of talent on view.

Given the current form of the two counties, both will fancy their chances. And rightly so.

Forward class propels Tipp to another Munster title

Munster Camogie SC final



Tipperary 1-14
Waterford 0-14

Therese O'Callaghan
FBD Semple Stadium



CLEAN SHEET: Tipperary's Laura Leenane and Clodagh McIntyre celebrate after their Munster final victory over Waterford at FBD Semple Stadium yesterday.
Picture: Laszlo Geczo/Inpho

Munster senior camogie championship games played as double-headers with the SHC have been an outstanding success in elevating its status. Visibility is everything, as we saw in Thurles on Saturday. The final was played in front of a fine crowd, with neither side giving an inch.

Tipperary's second provincial title in four years was secured by Caoimhe Stakelum's second-half goal.

"We have class forwards and Caoimhe has that in her locker," Tipperary manager James Heffernan said. "She really just pinned the ears back and took on her player. It was a great goal."

"I thought it was a big score and we really held on to that lead after that. The wind was strong in the second half and I thought we actually played the ball better against it."

The hosts in FBD Semple Stadium held a two-point advantage at the interval, 0-8 to 0-6, after the sides were level five times in the opening half.

Abby Flynn got Waterford off to a fast start, when she twice found the range, but Tipperary followed suit and a Karin Blair point edged them in front, 0-3 to 0-2, in the eighth minute.

The exchanging of white flags continued, and it took three great efforts from placed balls by Eimear McGrath to

send her side to the dressing-room two in front.

McGrath finished with seven to her name, and her perfect strikes earned her a deserved player-of-the-match award.

Stakelum and McGrath extended the lead to four points after the restart. Waterford replied through Alannah O'Sullivan and Beth Carton, the team's first scores in 15 minutes.

Tipperary would strike for home when Stakelum made her way through on goal in the 42nd minute and finished to the far corner.

There was also high praise for Stakelum — whose brothers, Conor and Darragh, featured on the Premier sen-

ior team — from forward colleague Clodagh McIntyre.

"To think she is only in Leaving Cert, she is an absolute exceptional asset to our team, with the cool and calmness she has on the ball."

The green flag was a massive blow to Waterford, who were looking to bridge a 67-year gap since last winning the title.

Management made three substitutes in quick succession to shift the momentum.

However, when Laura Leenane saved from Eimear O'Neill and the Tipperary backline maintained their defensive shape to shut down the space, the closest Waterford could get the gap to was three points.

The teams continued to trade scores in the fourth quarter, so it made for an intense finish. When awarded a couple of close-in frees, Waterford were forced to go for goal or drop the ball into the danger area, but each time Heffernan's charges stood firm.

To the sheer delight of the big home support, they saw it out.

These sides will renew their rivalry in the opening round of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior championship in three weeks' time.

■ Before the game, a minute of silence was observed in memory of Laura Kennedy, who tragically died in a car accident.

Scorers for Tipperary: E McGrath (0-7, 0-6 frees, 0-1 45), C Stakelum (1-1), E Heffernan and K Blair (0-2 each), C McCarthy and G O'Brien (0-1 each).

Scorers for Waterford: B Carton (0-2 frees) and A Flynn (0-4 each), N Rockett (0-2), A O'Sullivan, M O'Brien, L Bray and R Kirwan (0-1 each).

TIPPERARY: L Leenane; A Quinlisk, M Eviston, E Loughman; K Blair, C Maher, C McCarthy (Capt); K Kennedy, K Ralph; E Heffernan, R Howard, C McIntyre; C Stakelum, E McGrath, G O'Brien.

Subs: C Hennessy for K Ralph (36), S Corcoran for R Howard (48), J Kelly for C McIntyre (50), C Guinan for C McCarthy (54), A Dwyer for K Blair (60).

WATERFORD: B O'Regan; A McNulty, L Forrest, V Falconer; R Walsh, K Corbett Barry, C Carroll; L Bray (Capt), O Hickey; A O'Sullivan, B Carton, E O'Neill; A O'Flynn, N Rockett, A Fitzgerald.

Subs: M O'Brien for A O'Sullivan (42), R Kirwan for N Rockett (44), B Bowdren for O Hickey (46), M Gosti for R Walsh (54).
Referee: Aaron Hogg (Clare).

Cork claim first All-Ireland U23A camogie title

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Cork cantered to their first All-Ireland U23A camogie title, fielding a strong side full of senior experience — including the likes of multiple All-Ireland senior medallists Orlaith Cahalane and Máibh Murphy — to overpower Kilkenny at Cappoquin Logistics Fraher Field by 2-23 to 1-5.

Although Keara Ryan opened the scoring for the Cats with a nice point, Cork settled quickly and they had taken the lead thanks to scores from Amy Sheppard and Millie Condon when Ava McAuliffe goalied after eight minutes to send the Rebels on their way.

They got into a relentless rhythm thereafter, and while Cahalane did get among the scores, there was a real breadth of providers in that regard — McAuliffe and Sheppard adding a brace of points and Rose Murphy, Ciara Golden, Niamh McNabola, Laura Dunlea, and Condon also splitting the posts.

Katie Brennan provided a rare riposte and it was 1-14 to 0-3 at the change of ends.

The Noreiders got the ideal start to the second half, when Amy Brennan provided a goal six minutes after the restart.

However, any prospect of a comeback was doused immediately, as from the puck-out, the outstanding Sheppard ripped the net at the other end of the field for Jerry Wallace's squad, and that was that.

Cahalane, McNabola, Sheppard, Eimear Duignan, Máibh O'Brien, and McAuliffe kept the scoreboard ticking over for the Leesiders, while Amy Brennan and Ellen Gunner provided the only other scores after the former's goal.



CHAMPIONS: Cork players celebrate their comprehensive 2-23 to 1-5 All-Ireland U23A Camogie final win over Kilkenny at Fraher Field in Dungarvan. SEE Page 10
Picture: David Ribeiro/Inpho

CAMOGIE

Munster Senior Championship final: Tipperary 1-14 Waterford 0-14; **All-Ireland Senior Championship:** Offaly 2-10 Wexford 1-12; **All-Ireland U23A championship final:** Cork 2-23 Kilkenny 1-5; **All-Ireland U23B championship final:** Antrim 1-11 Wexford 1-9.



Ava McAuliffe and Amy Sheppard of Cork celebrate a goal against Kilkenny.

Pictures: David Ribeiro/Inpho

Cork storm to U23 title

CAMOGIE

■ Daragh Ó Conchúir

Cork	2-23
Kilkenny	1-5

Cork cantered to their first All-Ireland U23A camogie title, fielding a strong side full of senior experience, including the likes of multiple All-Ireland senior medalists Méabh Murphy and Orlaith Cahalane, to overpower Kilkenny at Cappoquin Logistics Fraher Field by 2-23 to 1-5.

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They got into a relentless rhythm thereafter, and while Cahalane did get among the scores, there was a real breadth of provider in that regard, McAuliffe and Sheppard adding a brace of points and Rose Murphy, Ciara Golden, Niamh McNabola, Laura Dunlea, and Condon also splitting the posts.

Katie Brennan provided a rare riposte and it was 1-14 to 0-3 at the change of ends, with the Noreiders facing a seemingly impossible task of turning things around in Dungarvan.

They did get the ideal start to the second half, when Amy Brennan provided a goal six minutes after the restart but any prospect of a comeback was doused immediately — as from the puckout, the outstanding Sheppard ripped the net at the other end of the field for Jerry Wallace's squad and that was that.

Cahalane, McNabola, Sheppard, Eimear Duignan, Maebh O'Brien, and the magnificent McAuliffe kept the scoreboard ticking over for the Leesiders, while Amy Brennan and Ellen Gunner provided the only other scores after the former's goal.

The U23B final was a far tighter affair at the Ó Raghallaighs GAA Club in Drogheda, where Antrim edged out Wexford by 1-11 to 1-9.

A sublime goal by Éabha McAllister at



Rose Murphy of Cork goes past Niamh Phelan of Kilkenny at Fraher Field, Dungarvan.

the end of the opening quarter was probably the game's key score and you couldn't have wished for a more fitting winner — if you could pin such a label on a score that came so early.

Cara O'Boyle had been involved as Antrim won possession in their own half and transferred it with a long delivery. McAuliffe just got ahead in the race to get to the sliotar first but it was the deft flick that nutmegged the onrushing defender and then the smart pick-up that made you get up off your seat.

It then needed the finish, from an angle but she made no mistake, with a rising shot that would not have been stopped with three goalkeepers.

That helped establish a four-point interval lead and for much of the second half, it looked like they were heading for an inevitable victory, keeping Wexford at arm's length.

Ellen McIntosh slotted a quick brace of points to add to an earlier score as the Saf-frons moved six clear. But an opportunistic finish by Aisling Goggins for a goal, within seconds of entering the pitch, turned proceedings completely on their head in the 50th minute.

The young Model County side threw everything at it in the closing stages but

Antrim showed commendable composure to see it out well.

Meanwhile, the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Championships got under way yesterday and Offaly marked their return to elite fare in memorable fashion, with Mairéad Teehan's 64th-minute goal snatching a 2-10 to 1-12 victory over a Wexford side that had won the Leinster title eight days previous.

Teehan has long been a superstar for the Faithful, including in last year's run to intermediate honours, and the Moneygall sharpshooter was the saviour once more, ramming a low, powerful drive to the net after points from Caoimhe Byrne and Chloe Cashe had moved the visitors into a two-point lead.

Gerry McQuaid's crew were overly reliant on Cashe for scores however, as she contributed nine points and apart from Ciara Butler's second-half goal, Wexford's attack found it difficult against a resolute Offaly defence in which Amy Byrne and the inspirational Aisling Brennan excelled.

Faye Mulrooney's first-half goal, set up by Grace Teehan, laid the platform for the hosts but it was tit-for-tat after the restart, with Mairéad Teehan having the final say for Jack Maher's charges.

CAMOGIE PLAYER AND PIONEER FOR FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN IRISH SPORT

Liz Howard

Born: November 25th, 1944
Died: May 21st, 2026

Liz Howard, a pioneer for female representation in Irish sport, has died at the age of 81.

The 27th president of the Camogie Association, she was also the first woman elected as a member of the Tipperary GAA County Board and was the first female analyst to appear on RTE's *The Sunday Game* programme.

Howard was named Tipperary Person of the Year by the Tipperary Association in Dublin in 2007. Often referred to over the years as "a force of nature", she left a lasting legacy across the Gaelic games family.

"Liz was so passionate about the GAA and of course her beloved Tipperary," commented former Tipp manager Liam Sheedy.

"She helped out so many over the years and made a telling contribution in senior positions across the GAA and camogie communities and of course her role on *The Sunday Game*."

Born in Carrick-on-Suir, her father, Garrett, won five All-Ireland senior hurling medals – three with his native Limerick and two with Dublin. The family later moved to Clare, where Howard's parents set up the Feakle camogie club.

As a camogie player, Howard wore the colours of Feakle (Clare), Roscrea and Knockshegowna (both Tipperary), Celtic and Phoenix (both Dublin).

She won a senior National League medal with Tipperary and an All-Ireland junior medal with Dublin but it was as an administrator where Howard really made her mark.

In 1980, she was elected as Tipperary GAA PRO – becoming the first female board member of the county where the association had been founded in 1884.

Howard remained in that role until 2003 and by the time she stepped away the Tipperary trailblazer had become one of the most recognisable

public relation officers in the GAA.

Howard was already a familiar face to the GAA fraternity anyhow after spending three years as a hurling and Gaelic football analyst on *The Sunday Game* – which launched in 1979.

Outside of sport, Howard had a long and successful career with Aer Lingus, working in several roles from ground and cabin crew to human resources and eventually manager of the airline's cabin crew for Europe.

And it was through her HR role that Howard ended up as a sports pundit. Having appeared on RTE Radio to promote a recruitment drive for Aer Lingus, broadcaster Mick Dunne heard the interview and recommended Howard try her hand at GAA punditry.

She was many years ahead of her time for it would be decades before television sports coverage would regularly feature female analysts.

Howard was president of the Camogie Association from 2006-09, the first Tipperary person to be elected to the organisation's top position.

She strived to modernise the association during her time in office and pushed for greater promotion of the sport.

A former PRO of the organisation too, she served the Camogie Association with distinction across several decades and continued to work for the betterment of the game after her presidency.

"On behalf of the Camogie Association, I would like to share my sympathies with Liz's family, her many friends, former colleagues and the wider Gaelic games community on her passing," said current Camogie Association president, Brian Molloy.

"Liz Howard was one of the great servants of our Association, someone who dedicated decades of her life to the promotion and development of camogie at club, county and national level. Her contribution to our sport was immense."

"Liz brought passion, intelligence and enormous energy to every role she held."

"She was a proud advocate for camogie and for women in sport, and her leadership helped strengthen and

■ Liz Howard, the former president of the Camogie Association who became a familiar face on RTE's *The Sunday Game* as a hurling and football analyst

Liz brought passion, intelligence and enormous energy to every role she held. She was a proud advocate for camogie and for women in sport



modernise the Association during an important period in its history.

"She will also be remembered as a deeply respected figure within Gaelic games, whose love for camogie and hurling shone through in everything she did."

A highly skilled administrator, Howard was asked to serve on several national committees by the GAA.

She was a strong advocate for integration of the three Gaelic games organisations – GAA, Camogie Association and Women's Gaelic Football Association.

Speaking to *The Irish Times* three years ago, she said: "I grew up in a household where equality was never mentioned, it just existed."

"We never thought we were any better or worse than our male counterparts. I think that was a great bonus, but in other ways it was also a big impediment because I believed everybody thought the same."

"If integration is entered with an open attitude, acceptance, respect, and in the true meaning of the word equality, then it can be the most powerful amateur sporting organisation in the world."

In 2012, she was appointed to Sport Ireland's anti-doping disciplinary panel and remained a keen and informed commentator of sport on social media until recently.

Howard was also a massive tennis

fan and travelled across the globe to watch the best players in the world – though primarily to catch her beloved Rafael Nadal in action.

It was joked at her funeral mass in the Church of the Holy Spirit, Youghalarra, on Monday that in Howard's mind the only blot against Nadal was that he never hurled for Tipperary.

For despite living in Dublin for many years, it was Tipp where her heart always remained.

On April 19th this year, while an in-patient at the Mater hospital, Howard convinced doctors she had to leave for the day to visit a very sick elderly aunt.

Later that afternoon, she was to be found in Semple Stadium watching Tipperary play Cork in the Munster senior hurling championship.

"Above all else, Liz will be remembered as a proud Tipperary woman, a trailblazer, a mentor and a loyal friend to so many throughout the GAA and camogie communities. Her passion for the Premier County never wavered," stated Tipperary GAA.

Liz Howard died peacefully at the Mater hospital last Thursday.

She is survived by her sisters Pat O'Driscoll, Jo Needham and Ann O'Meara, her brother Gary, sister-in-law Aileen, brother-in-law Tommy and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT:
Limerick's Laura Southern tries to find a way through



Clare and Kilkenny join Faithful County at top of the table

In UPMC Nowlan Park, Limerick got out to a dream start with Sarah O'Brien's goal, brilliantly finished after she broke through two tackles, and a point from Orlaith Kelleher boosted the visitors further. By the time they scored again, however, Kilkenny had 2-7 on the board, with a masterful display of slick attacking. Aoife Prendergast's free and a fine Laura Murphy point got the Cats moving. They edged into the lead on five minutes when a free from defence by goalie Aoife Norris, went over the heads of the a mass of bodies, leaving Prendergast to read the

breaking ball and finish a superb goal. It was all Kilkenny for the next ten minutes as further points from Laura Greene, Caoimh Keher-Murtagh and three Prendergast frees pushed them six clear and that suddenly became nine with a similarly sharp finish from the prolific Prendergast. Laura Southern and Donna Kenny pointed to reduce the gap by half-time and Limerick had the wind in the second half, but it was Kilkenny who surged out of the blocks with a third goal from a Sarah Barcoe flick, capitalising on good build-up play from the

O'Loughlin Gaels duo of Greene and Murphy. But the action for the remainder of the game lacked the same energy, with just five points scored in the next 20 minutes. Kilkenny did surge across the finish line however, adding injury-time points from Rachel Dowling (two), Prendergast and Barcoe to boost their scoring difference and run up a 3-19 to 1-11 final score. The other action of the day was in the Junior Championship, where Louth beat Mayo 4-8 to 1-8 and Monaghan beat Donegal by 5-14 to 3-8 in Clontibret.

Clare start with win but Foudy wants more

Camogie

Kevin Egan

Clare manager Eugene Foudy was disappointed his charges didn't push on from a commanding position but was overall content with a 2-16 to 3-10 win over Dublin in Zimmer Biomet Páirc Chiosóg on Saturday in their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Group 2 opener.

Dublin led by 0-3 to 0-1 after a quiet first quarter and also added two late goals but, in between, Clare were comfortably superior.

"We got the three points on the board, which was the main thing," Foudy said, before acknowledging that his own desire to bring fresh players into the action may not have worked out in this instance.

"We played well but bringing in five subs late in the game upset our rhythm a little bit. They pushed away from using the sweeper and pushed up, and we were a bit naive on one or two of the plays.

"Winning the first game out at home is very important.

"From the 20th minute on in the first half and the first 15 or 20 minutes of the second half, we were super. We got great scores, there was fantastic off-the-shoulder running, the goals were superb. Lorna [McNamara, who scored 2-7]

got some wonderful points but the quality of the ball going into her made it easy for her."

Kilkenny had it much easier in their battle with Limerick, running out 3-19 to 1-11 winners at a sun-kissed UPMC Nowlan Park.

Sarah O'Brien's goal in the first minute gave Limerick a dream start and that was followed up by Orlaith Kelleher's point but the Cats had 2-7 on the board before Limerick raised a third flag, and it was that response that delighted team mentor Michael Walsh.

"We got off to a terrible start, conceding 1-1 in the first couple of minutes, but it was a great response from the girls. They went to town in that 20-minute spell," said Walsh.

"The goal at the start of the second half was a killer blow to Limerick and the rest of the game petered out from there."

With one of the youngest panels in the championship, Kilkenny are disproportionately affected by exam season but the flip side of the coin is that strong performances from their minor, U16, and U23 teams have boosted the mood in their camp even further.

"Rachel Phelan played in every league match but her Leaving Cert is coming up. It goes to show the attitude that girl has, herself and Grace Brennan the same.

"Things like [underage success] have a positive effect."

CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Clare	3-9	Wexford	1-11
Limerick	3-13	Offaly	1-14
Kilkenny	2-16	Dublin	0-12

Dublin keen to set record straight in Ennis

Camogie

Brian Barry

Following Offaly's dramatic victory over Wexford in last Saturday's opener, Group 2 of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship steps up a level this weekend.

Clare meet Dublin at Zimmer Biomet Páirc Chiosóg today (2pm).

These sides met in last month's Centra Camogie League Division 1B final, with the Banner prevailing 3-11 to 0-17.

Eugene Foudy's side gave a strong account of themselves in the Munster Championship, taking Waterford to extra time.

Given that they fell to the Déise by 10 points last summer, Clare are clearly moving in the right direction.

The in-form Lorna McNamara led the charge in the springtime showpiece, notching 2-6, and Clare will be hoping for more of the same from their sharp-shooter.

Dublin looked to put the defensive lapses of that league final defeat in the rear-view mirror, as they made their way through the Leinster Championship.

Wins over Offaly and Carlow saw them through to the provincial decider, but a commanding nine-point half-time lead over Wexford ultimately evaporated, as the Model County snatched victory in extra time.

Bill McCormack's outfit will be gunning to set the record straight in Ennis, after a frustrating few weeks.

Broadcast live on the Camogie Association's YouTube channel today will be Kilkenny v Limerick at 3.30pm in UPMC Nowlan Park.

Kilkenny suffered a shock defeat to Wexford in the Leinster Championship semi-final, but will see themselves as frontrunners in Group 2 over the coming weeks.

It has been difficult to get a read on this Treaty outfit thus far in 2026.

A mixed league saw them narrowly miss out on a Division 1B final spot, but they then endured a heavy Munster semi-final defeat at the hands of eventual winners Tipperary.

They will be looking to make a statement on No-reside.

The 2025 semi-finalists are seeded in Group 1, which kicks off in a fortnight's time.

Limerick looking to bounce back against Offaly

All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship previews

It may just be the second round of action in Group 2 of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship but there is a real sense of jeopardy in this weekend's contests as counties chase the top two spots in the six-team table.

Group 2: Wexford v Clare, Chadwicks Wexford Park, 3.30pm, live on the Camogie Association's YouTube channel
Leinster champions Wexford suffered a shock defeat at the hands of Offaly in their opening assignment and know they must make amends this weekend at home in

order to breathe fire into their championship campaign. The Model County accounted for Kilkenny and Dublin to claim provincial honours but defeat in Tullamore leaves them with their backs against the wall in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Championship. The in-form Banner come to town hot off an opening-round 2-16 to 3-10 victory over Dublin. Goalkeeper Doireann Murphy produced a last-minute save to deny the Dubs a draw in Ennis, while Lorna McNamara backed up her Centra Camogie League final tally of 2-6, going one better with 2-7 against the same opposition. The Yellowbellies will need to keep tabs on one of the most in-form

forwards in camogie right now, if they are to prevail.

Clare boss Eugene Foudy said his team are braced for a "dogfight" in Chadwicks Wexford Park, with their hosts in need of victory.

Group 2: Dublin v Kilkenny, Parnell Park, 4.30pm

The stakes are strikingly similar in Parnell Park. The visitors arrive with a pep in their step after an impressive victory last weekend, while the hosts will feel they are in 'must-win' territory.

The Girls in Blue have struggled to build upon their run to the 2024 All-Ireland semi-finals but the talent is clearly there in the panel at present. If things click, there is no doubt that they could match their county hurlers' feat against the Cats at the same venue six days earlier.

Kilkenny, meanwhile, ran riot against Limerick at UPMC Nowlan

Park last weekend, with Aoife Prendergast striking for 2-8. Jimmy Meagher's team are fancied to claim one of the two All-Ireland quarter-final berths on offer in this group and victory in Donny-carney today would set them up nicely.



Kilkenny's Aoife Prendergast scored 2-8 last weekend.

Group 2: Limerick v Offaly, TUS Moylish, 3.30pm

Limerick are looking to turn things around after an 11-point defeat to Kilkenny last weekend and face a Faithful County side riding a wave of momentum upon their return to the senior ranks.

After heavy defeats to Kilkenny and Tipperary in their last two games, the Treaty need to make a statement in TUS Moylish if they are to steady the ship. Mairéad Teehan's last-minute strike secured an unlikely opening win for Offaly and another three points today would go a long way to achieving their primary objective of avoiding an immediate return to the intermediate ranks.

The Leinster outfit have loftier ambitions, however, as captain Amy Byrne targeted a quarter-final spot at the outset of the championship.

Words: Brian Barry



Ballincollig celebrate after Ballincollig's win over Sarsfields 2 in the Premier Intermediate League Camogie Final at Castle Rd.

Picture: Noel Sweeney

Ballincollig up the pace to beat Sars for the intermediate title

Ballincollig 2-15
Sarsfields 2 1-7

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Ballincollig took the Premier Intermediate Camogie league title as they overcame Sarsfields second adult team in Castle Rd yesterday.

A close opening 30 minutes saw the side's level at four points each, in a half where both defences were under a lot of pressure.

Lucy Lynch in the Sarsfields goal was in superb form denying Ballincollig twice with excellent saves.

Twenty three minutes in Ballincollig had opened up a three point advantage, but Sarsfields keeping the pressure on were back on level with three points without reply to tie it up on the half time whistle.

Ballincollig upped the pace in the second half picking off five points without reply before introducing their new signing Cork senior panelist Clodagh Finn into the game 12 minutes into the second half it helped them close out the game as she contributed two goals and four points to seal the game in their favour.

Linda Dorgan had the game's opening score and with Chloe Casey replying the sides were tied at a point each before Leah Hannigan edged Ballincollig in front.

It took an excellent save from Lucy Lynch to deny Ballincollig a goal.

Sorcha McCarthy and Olivia O'Leary were winning lot of Ballincollig possession, but with Ciara Rice and Eimear O'Callaghan strong in the Sarsfields defence, they held firm.

Leah Hannigan and Blaiithin Cuniffe added Ballincollig points to stretch their advantage to three, but driven on by Deirdre McCarthy, who was doing huge work, Sarsfields were back on level terms

with points from Ciara Rice, Deirdre McCarthy and Chloe Casey to tie the sides up at the break.

From the restart, Ballincollig began to gain a grip.

Blaithin Cuniffe, Sorcha McCarthy, Linda Dorgan, and Keeley Goulding had points as the young Sarsfields sides battled to get back into contention.

Chloe Casey and Lily May Kelleher narrowed the gap in between Ballincollig added a point.

Clodagh Finn grabbed two goals and adding to their tally they added on points.

Sarsfields to their credit never gave up.

Chloe Casey sent a free to the net before adding two points, but finishing strong Ballincollig had points from Saoirse McCarthy and Finn to run out winners.

Huge credit must go to Sarsfields on reaching the Premier Intermediate League final with their second adult team, many of whom were minor players.

Scorers for Ballincollig: C Finn 2-4, L Hannigan, B Cuniffe, S McCarthy, K Goulding, L Dorgan (0-1) 0-2 each O'Leary, 0-1.

Sarsfields: C Casey 1-4 (1-4fs), C Rice (f), D McCarthy, L M. Kelleher 0-1 each. **BALLINCOLLIG:** A Hartnett; U Berbecka, M Healy, S Buckley; K Goulding, L Weste, R Millett; I Fleury, A Scanlon; B Cuniffe, L Dorgan, S McCarthy; L Cooper, L Hannigan, O'Leary.

Subs: F Cousins for L Cooper (h/t), C Finn for B Cuniffe (42), E Casey for L Dorgan (57).

Sarsfields 2: L Lynch; S Scanlon, A Nestor, N Quirke; A Soden, C Rice, E O'Callaghan; C Tierney C Galvin; D McCarthy, M Sheehan, L Walsh; C Casey (c), S Duggan, E Hegarty.

Subs: M Bracken for S Scanlon (22), L M. Kelleher for S Duggan (h/t), E Kelleher for L Lynch (inj 46), J Power for C Galvin (54), A Ryan for E O'Callaghan (58), S Costello for L Walsh (58).

Referee: Brendan Barrett (Ballygarvan).



Captain Katie Barry and the rest of the Sarsfields players celebrate after defeating St Finbarr's in the Cork Camogie Senior League final 2026 at Castle Rd.

Pictures: Eddie O'Hara

Sars too good for Barrs

Sarsfields 2-17
St Finbarr's 0-12

CAMOGIE

Sarsfields won the Cork Camogie Senior League final at Castle Rd yesterday as they proved far too strong on the day for St Finbarr's.



Rory Noonan

They were by far the better side overall, but they will also be aware that the Barrs were missing nine of the side that started the Cork championship final last year and will be far stronger in a few months' time come this year's championship.

That said, this was a very impressive display by the winners and, if they produce that level of performance in the championship, they will be a hard side to beat.

There were quality displays from the likes of Olivia McAllen, Lucy Allen, and Rachael Roche, with Keeva McCarthy the pick of the Barrs side.

Ella Woods opened the scoring for Sars but unfortunately for her she had to go off injured shortly afterwards. Lucy Allen added a second as Sars were the quicker to settle.

Keeva McCarthy got the Barrs off the mark from a free, and she added a second from play to make it 0-2 each after six minutes.

Maeve McCarthy put Sars back in front, with Keeva McCarthy replying at the other end in an entertaining start to the game. Another from Keeva McCarthy put the Barrs in front as they led by 0-4 to 0-3 after 14 minutes.

Allen got her second, with Aoife Byrne replying for the Barrs.

With 20 minutes gone, it was level again when Clare Mullins scored for Sars as they finished the half strongly. Olivia McAllen put them in front with Kate Fennessy extending their lead to 0-7 to 0-5.

Keeva McCarthy had a shot on goal well saved by Molly Lynch before Fennessy got the last score of the half as Sars led by 0-8 to 0-5 at half time.

Sars moved further ahead less than a minute into the second half when McAllen set up Mullins for their first goal, before Allen added a point: 1-9 to 0-5.

Keeva McCarthy replied for the Barrs, as she proved to be their only scorer in the

second half.

Roche got on the scoreboard for the winners, with Allen adding another, before McCarthy replied at the other end.

Mullins, Cliona Lynch, and Hollie Herlihy extended Sars lead to make it 1-14 to 0-8 after 43 minutes.

McCarthy and Lynch exchanged points before Sars got their second goal.

A superb ball from Lucy Kelly played McAllen in to find the back of the net and with it went any chance of a Barrs comeback.

Maeve McCarthy and Herlihy added points, with Keeva McCarthy replying, but they were no more than consolation scores at that point, as Sars ran out defending winners to win back the cup the last won in 2023.

Scorers for Sarsfields: C Mullins 1-2, O McAllen 1-4, M McCarthy, K Fennessy, C Lynch (2f), H Herlihy 0-2 each, E Woods (f), R Roche 0-1 each.

St Finbarr's: K McCarthy 0-11 (7f), A Byrne 0-1.

SARSFIELDS: M Lynch; E Murphy, K Barry, T Elliott, Kelly, L Dunlea, C O'Donovan; C Lynch, R Roche; Allen, O McAllen, E Woods; C Mullins, M McCarthy, Fennessy.

Sub: H Herlihy for E Woods (10 inj).

ST FINBARR'S: C Hurley; G Fitzgerald, A Egan, O'Neill; C Golden, G O'Connor, I Keegan; A Shannon, Cahalane; N Oiden, K McCarthy, A Byrne; C Twomey, Hurley, H Fitzpatrick.

Subs: J Keating for H Fitzpatrick (43), N Varian for Byrne, S McTiernan for C Golden (both 54).

Referee: John Horgan, Inniscarra.



Linda Dorgan accepts the trophy after Ballincollig's win over Sarsfields 2 in the Premier Intermediate League Camogie Finals at Castle Road.



Cork camogie treasurer Mary McSweeney presenting the Cork Camogie Senior League trophy to Sarsfields captain Katie Barry.



Sarsfields' Lucy Allen shoots despite the attentions of St Finbarr's Aisling Shannon during their Cork Camogie Senior League final.

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

GER Manley is confident fans will see a more familiar Cork camogie team in their All-Ireland championship campaign that starts this Saturday.

The Rebels, minus a host of regulars, endured a challenging league campaign before suffering a surprise Munster quarter-final loss to Tipperary on April 19th – that was Cork's last competitive outing.

It's been a wait of over seven weeks until this Saturday's Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Championship Group 1 opener away to All-Ireland champions Galway in Athenry (2pm).

But that break has been a blessing in disguise, as Cork are set to welcome back a number of familiar faces, including experienced forward Amy O'Connor and Newcestown's Ciara O'Sullivan, who is back in contention after her second cruciate injury.

'We can't wait for the championship,' Manley says.

'I always say the league is the league, but championship is a different gravy altogether.'

'The girls have brought huge energy to training over the last couple of months.'

'The results could easily have gone differently for us in the league, but we've definitely improved. Getting players back has strengthened us.'

'We're better in the forward line, we're scoring more goals and we're defending well.'

'Look, Galway are the team to beat. They won the All-Ireland last year and they won the league. They're a serious side and it won't be easy. But we'll give it our best shot on Saturday.'

Cork's returning players will make a difference, especially Amy O'Connor, who is in her 13th season at the top level.

'We have Amy back now, which is a big boost,' Manley says.

'She has been back on the field four or five weeks now and she's been excellent.'

'Amy is a leader; it's all about the team with her. She gets on with it and she's really good around the younger players, giving advice and helping

them along.'

With Orlaith Mullins and Clodagh Finn also expected back in action in the weeks ahead, you can understand why Manley is feeling more optimistic about the All-Ireland series.

The eventual return of six-time All-Ireland winner Ashling Thompson, sidelined since March by an elbow injury, would provide another huge boost.

'Hopefully we'll see Ashling at some stage during the All-Ireland championship. I couldn't put a date on it because she had a very bad injury, but her attitude and confidence have been phenomenal. She has done everything asked of her to get back,' said Manley, who gave youth its fling in the league as a new-look Cork took to the field.

As well as injuries, Cork are without Laura Treacy (retired), Hannah Looney (AFLW), Aoife Healy (AFLW), Pamela and Katrina Mackey and Kate Wall this season, so the Rebels have had to dig deep.

'That's where the strength of the squad comes in. Somebody else steps up,' Manley explains.

'There'll be a couple of girls making their debut at the weekend too, which is great for Cork camogie and great for the players themselves because they've shown up very well with the U23s,' he adds, a nod to Cork's recent All-Ireland U23 triumph that highlights the talent in the squad.

'We have been missing a lot of players, but it has given a great opportunity to some of the younger players to get valuable experience. You saw the U23s had an excellent campaign – we have 14 or 15 players from that group involved with the senior squad and they've all played league games this year, which is great.'

The new championship format this season could also help Cork. As one of the four 2025 semi-finalists – along with Galway, Waterford and Tipperary – the Rebels are in Group 1 and already assured of their place in the knock-out stages. The top two teams go into

Manley: Cork ready to show true form

Cork camogie manager Ger Manley.

'Hopefully we'll see Ashling at some stage during the All-Ireland championship'

the semi-finals, while the third and fourth teams from Group 1 progress to the quarter-finals, where they will meet the top two sides from Group 2.

So, this format can allow Cork to build for the business end of the championship.

'You're spot on,' Manley agrees.

'We'll probably need a game for Ashling Thompson when she's back. We'll need games for Orlaith Mullins and Clodagh Finn. Ciara O'Sullivan needs game time too – she's back in full training now the last couple of weeks and taking contact again.'

'The important thing for me is that the squad is getting stronger. We gave a lot of game time to girls during the league and there's good talent there.'

'Now it's about getting everything to gel. There are three tough matches ahead,

but we're still in the mix and we're hoping to give a good account of ourselves on Saturday.'

With games away to Tipperary (June 14th) and home to Waterford (June 28th) to follow, all eyes now are on Galway in a rematch of the 2025 All-Ireland final where Cork's three-in-a-row bid came up short.

It's the ideal game to focus the mind.

'For us it's all about performance,' Manley says.

'Of course we want to win, but the backdrop to the championship this year is that the four teams from last year's semi-finals are all in one group and they're all already qualified for the knockout stages.'

'Naturally you want to get straight through to a semi-final, but it's a funny situation when you're preparing for a championship and you know you can't be knocked out.'

'For us, we're concentrating solely on Galway. We know how tough it will be in Athenry. We've had some tough days up there over the years, but I think we've turned a corner at the moment and we're hoping

CIARA'S RETURN

CIARA O'Sullivan could make her return for Cork as early as this Saturday's All-Ireland championship opener against Galway.

The Newcestown star has been sidelined since suffering a second cruciate ligament injury last summer, having first sustained the injury in early 2023.

'Ciara will definitely be in the panel and she's in the mix,' Cork boss Ger Manley says.

'We haven't picked the team yet, but she's certainly in contention. She has done very well and looked sharp in the challenge games.'

'She was non-contact for a while, but she's back now and the amount of work she has put in to get back has been unbelievable. She needs game time now and she'll get some game time.'

'Ciara has a couple more weeks to get everything exactly right, but she's in a good place.'

Ciara O'Sullivan.



for a good performance.

'As I always say, Cork hurlers love hard ground, whether it's camogie or the men's game, and you can see the

sharpness coming back.

'We're just hoping now that we can bring what we've been doing in training into the game on Saturday.'

Glen Dimplex Senior Camogie Championship Cork v Galway in Athenry on Saturday at 2pm

It's been a quiet few weeks for Ger Manley and his crew as they have been out of competitive action since losing the Munster Championship opener to Tipperary, but that will change very quickly.

It starts with a trip to the All-Ireland champions on Saturday and they are raring to go. 'We got a lot of work done since our last game, played a few challenge matches and even though we have a couple of injuries, we are looking forward to this game.'

Cork have had a strange season so far. They've had 'a lot of injuries and players for a variety of reasons no longer with us but that is something you have to deal with and the girls have'.

Winning the Under 23 All-Ireland was very important: 'It was and a lot of our panel were involved and it's a good grade and to end up as champions will give the players confidence going forward.'

Cork and Galway have been the standard bearers in recent years and Ger

knows this is not an easy opener. 'Never is but look they are probably saying the same about us but we are ready and will give it our best shot.'

Even without key players, there is a lot of quality in this team: Meabh Murphy, Laura Hayes, Saoirse McCarthy, Emma Murphy, Amy O'Connor, Orlaith Cahalane and Sorcha McCartan among them.

Galway are the league champions and playing at home might be enough to see them collect the points.

The format has changed this year and all teams in this group will progress to the knockout phase – Waterford and Tipperary are the other teams – top two go direct to the semi-final, the other two go to QF's which are played in Croke Park and that might be the right route to take.



Orlaith Cahalane takes on Ally Hesnan of Galway during the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final last year.
PHOTO: RAMSEY CARDY/SPORTSFILE



Mairead Lynch, development officer Cork Camogie Board, presents the Junior B League trophy to her club colleague Kilworth captain Laura Sheehan.

Club sides claim a host of camogie league titles

A busy week of adult league finals saw titles going to Bishopstown, Blarney, Kilworth, Carrigtwohill and Kilbrittain/Timoleague.

Bishopstown 3-10 Sliabh Rua 0-18

Bishopstown took the Intermediate League title in an exciting contest.

At the interval, Sliabh Rua led 0-12 to 1-4 after Emma McSweeney hit 0-5, Hannah Deasy, Abbey O'Brien and Caoimhe Horgan 0-2 each and Niamh Nash grabbed one. Bishopstown had three Julie Scally points and one from Niamh O'Donoghue, along with a Natasha Barrett goal.

The second half was close. Maeve Scannell was prominent as Bishopstown began to gain a grip.

Sliabh Rua hit three without reply through McSweeney (2) and Kayleigh Murphy before two Scannell goals within a minute saw Bishopstown edge in front.

Sliabh Rua added a point with three minutes on the stop watch but added-time scores from Scannell and Kate Richardson saw Bishopstown take the title.

Blarney 1-14 Youghal 2-9

In the Premier Junior final, Blarney led 0-11 to 1-5 at the break.

All through, little divided the sides. Sam Swaine had Youghal's first-half goal and their second-half goal came from an Amy O'Connell free. Ciara Crowley, Avril Cashman, Ava Hennessy, O'Connell and Swaine struck for points but in the finish, Blarney had enough.

Lucy O'Connell was on target with 0-10, three from play, Grace Hughes grabbed a goal

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

and points from Megan Murphy, Kelly Hedderman, Katie Kelleher and Grace Hughes swung the game in Blarney's favour.

Kilworth 2-11 Cobh 2-8

A Caoimhe O'Flynn goal, five minutes into the Junior B final, settled Kilworth, with Lucy Beecher and Emma Gibson adding points.

Gibson's goal, with four minutes to the interval, was followed by Ella May Fahy points to see Kilworth lead 2-8 to 0-5 at the break.

Cobh came into the game with goals from Erica Walsh and Aoibhinn Anderson. Kilworth settled though, with points from O'Flynn and Ella May Fahy (2) proving key.

Kilbrittain/Timoleague 1-13 Watergrasshill 0-7

Kilbrittain/Timoleague lifted the Lily Grant title. They led at the short whistle 1-7 to 0-5. Anna Crowley had 1-1, Eva Nagle converted two frees and a 45 and with Rachel Butler (2) and Jess Harrington also on target.

Grace Moran had the Hill's five points, one from play.

The West Cork side kept the pressure on through the second half with points from Nagle (2), Harrington, Butler and Crowley.

Moran hit two frees but Watergrasshill were unable to break down a strong defence.

Carrigtwohill 1-10 Bandon 1-9

A late free gave Carrigtwohill the Junior C league final in a game that went down to the wire.



BACK: Amy O'Connor in action against Kilkenny, makes a welcome return of the Cork panel for their trip to Galway tomorrow.

Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach

Rebels hope for winning start to All-Ireland campaign

Cork head to Galway tomorrow to take on the Tribeswomen in their opening round of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie championship.

The game throws-in at 2pm, and the Rebels will be hoping for a better result than their last visit to Kenny Park, Athenry.

They took on Galway at the same venue in the league earlier in the season, and it was a tension-filled game for the Rebels.

They lost out by 0-18 to 1-9, a result that could have seen them relegated.

They were saved by Kilkenny's win over Antrim, as thankfully, Cork remained in the top flight of the league.

While Galway were short several players that day, but it was nothing compared to Cork, who had only six of the side that played in their All-Ireland loss to the same county available for selection.

It has been a season of change for Cork and one where they were not helped by injuries to key players.

The likes of Amy O'Connor, Clodagh Finn, Meabh Cahalane, Sorcha McCartan, and Ashling Thompson were among those not available at various stages in their league campaign.

Up to tomorrow, O'Connor and Finn have yet to feature in the Rebel red this season. On that front, there is good news as O'Connor is available for selection and is likely to feature at some stage tomorrow, if not in the starting 15.

Finn did come on for her club last Monday in their league final clash with Sars-



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

fields second side and scored 2-4 but she is a bit off inter-county level yet.

But as the season progresses Finn is likely to come into the reckoning which can only be good news for manager Ger Manley.

Thompson picked up a serious elbow injury against Kilkenny in the league and is still a bit off returning to action.

They were also dealt another blow with Meabh Cahalane picking up a hamstring injury in training a few weeks ago, and she is also out of tomorrow's game.

There was also a hope that the Mackey sisters - Pamela and Katrina - would return to the squad, but they have stepped away from camogie and are unlikely to feature for their club, Douglas, this season.

Ava McAuliffe and Anne Kearney are others that won't feature as they are doing their Leaving Cert.

So, Cork go into tomorrow's game as clear underdogs as they bid to upset the form book.

Galway are the defending All-Ireland champions and will want to lay down a

marker against the side they considered their biggest rivals for the title, and they like nothing better than beating Cork.

They have a talented squad with the likes of Carrie Dolan, Niamh Mallon, Olwen Rabbittie, and Dervla Higgins just some of the players they can call on tomorrow.

They have already won the league this year and will be determined to retain their All-Ireland crown come the end of the season.

The odds are stacked against Cork, but there is nothing better the Rebels like than upsetting the odds.

Cork have plenty of talented players at their disposal with Libby Coppinger and Laura Hayes leading their defence.

Meabh Murphy was another to impress across the league, and Izzy O'Regan is back to her best after a serious injury kept her out of the 2025 campaign.

Orlaith Cahalane is a handful for any defence, as are McCartan and Saoirse McCarthy.

In some ways it's a free hit for both sides in a group that also contains Tipperary and Waterford.

All four sides will qualify for the quarter-finals at the very least, with the top two going to the semi-finals.

In the other group, the top two, most likely Kilkenny and Clare, will join the bottom two from Cork's group in the quarter-finals.

So, while Cork and Galway will both be aiming for a winning start, they can still afford to experiment and look at a few players tomorrow.



Padraic Treacy, chairman Cork Camogie Board, presents the Intermediate League trophy to Bishopstown captain Abbie Ahern.



Cork captain Meabh Cahalane has been ruled out of their clash with Galway with a hamstring injury.

Picture: ©INPHO/Laszlo Geczo



Meabh Murphy had an impressive league campaign for Cork.

Picture: INPHO/Laszlo Geczo



Cork's Orlaith Cahalane takes on the Galway defence during their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Group 1 game at Kenny Park, Athenry. Picture: James Lawlor/Inpho

Cork off to a winning start

Galway 1-8
Cork 0-18

Cork got their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Championship round robin campaign off to a winning start at Athenry in Co Galway on Saturday.

It's never easy to beat the Tribeswomen up there as Cork, despite a poor league and Munster campaign, reminded all others they are not gone away.

Any time you win it's always a good day, but what was most impressive about Cork's success was their work rate and physicality as they took the game to Galway from start to finish.

Cork were simply back to near their best with impressive displays all over the pitch.

Their new look half-back line was outstanding, led by Meabh Murphy at centre-back.

Behind her Libby Coppinger, once again, showed why she is considered one of the best defenders in the game.

Laura Hayes and Millie Condon were in control at midfield, with Saoirse McCarthy, in particular, leading the Galway defence a merry dance all through.

Whilst Cork won't be getting carried away with this win, it was one they needed as a major confidence boost after their recent showings, including being well beaten in the league at the same venue.

Hayes opened the scoring for Cork after she was played in by Hayley Ryan, with McCarthy adding a second as Cork were far quicker to settle.

Galway got off the mark after seven minutes when Niamh McPeake scored, but the Rebels were dominating at this stage.

McCarthy added another from a free, with Isobel Sheehan getting Cork's fourth to put them 0-4 to 0-1 up after 12 minutes.

Sorcha McCartan and McCarthy added two more as Galway were finding it difficult to get to grips with Cork.

Aine Keane replied for the Tribeswomen from a free, but two more from McCarthy kept Cork well in front at 0-8 to 0-2.

Aoife Donohue replied for the home side, with McCarthy getting her fourth in-



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

a-row to keep the scoreboard ticking over for Cork.

Amy O'Connor, in her first game back from injury, pointed from a free with Ava Fitzgerald also scoring, to make it 0-11 to 0-3.

Keane replied from a free for Galway, but late scores from McCartan and Hayes saw Cork lead by 0-13 to 0-4, as they turned to play against the strong wind.

Two early frees from O'Connor increased Cork's lead as they kept putting pressure on the Galway defence.

Keane and McPeake replied for Galway before Cork had their first goal chance.

Orlaith Cahalane burst through the Galway defence only to be denied by a superb save from Sarah Healy.

Cahalane pointed, after 48 minutes, to keep Cork well in control as they led by 0-

16 to 0-6. Two minutes later and, Cork had another goal chance, this time Healy denying McCarthy a green flag.

Two frees from Aoibheann Barry made it 0-16 to 0-8, before O'Connor was on target again for Cork.

In injury time, Galway pulled a goal back when Caoimhe Kelly scored, with Ciara O'Sullivan replying at the other end as Cork ran out deserving winners to get their All-Ireland campaign off to a winning start.

Scorers for Galway: C Kelly 1-0, A Keane 0-3 f, A Barry f, N McPeake 0-2 each, A Donohue 0-1.

Cork: S McCarthy 0-6 (0-4 f), A O'Connor 0-4 (0-3 f), L Hayes, S McCartan 0-2 each, I Sheehan, A Fitzgerald, O Cahalane, C O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

GALWAY: S Healy; R Hanniffy, R Black, D Higgins; K Manning, C Hickey, KA Porter; A Keane, A Hesnan; N Mallon, N McPeake, A Donohue; S Corcoran, M Dillon, K Madden.

Subs: A O'Reilly for N Mallon (30), C Dolan for K Madden (35), A Barry for A Donohue, C Kelly for A Keane (both 51).

CORK: A Lee; I O'Regan, L Coppinger, A Egan; A Fitzgerald, M Murphy, I Sheehan; M Condon, L Hayes; H Ryan, S McCarthy, E Murphy; S McCartan, O Cahalane, A O'Connor.

Subs: R Murphy for H Ryan (51), C O'Sullivan for M Condon (58).

Referee: Liz Dempsey, Kilkenny.



Galway's Shannon Corcoran is tackled by Cork's Libby Coppinger and Millie Condon during their championship clash at Kenny Park. Picture: James Lawlor/Inpho



Niamh Mallon of Galway is tackled by Aisling Egan of Cork during their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship clash at Kenny Park, Athenry. Picture: INPHO/James Lawlor

Manley: Our work rate was phenomenal

CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

'That's more like it' is probably the easiest way to sum up Cork's win over Galway in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Championship at Athenry last Saturday.

After league and Munster campaigns that fell below the high standards they expect of themselves, they bounced back with a good win over the All-Ireland champions by 0-18 to 1-8. While no one will be getting carried away and Galway won't be overly concerned either, it was an important win for the Rebels.

They needed to remind others they haven't gone away, and they needed to remind themselves that they are still a quality side and on their day can beat anyone.

It's not too often Cork have won in Galway, and it was manager Ger Manley's first win there. But as delighted as Manley was with the win, he was more delighted with the performance and the work rate of his side.

"Look, we're delighted, I know it's only one game, but for us it's a good start to the campaign," said Manley. "It's my first time winning Galway in five years. I've not had a win here before. I don't know if we've ever won up here."

"We've been going well in training, but that doesn't always transfer onto the pitch. To be fair, it was some performance from the players, and to give them their credit, they drove it on themselves."

"You can see today, they were driven on the pitch, and we had a few new girls out there, and I thought they did very well, all the young players did well. I think it was a deserved win, but there is still plenty of work to do in the coming weeks."

The work rate of Cork was impressive from start to finish, and Manley said they have been working on that since the Munster championship loss to Tipperary, six

weeks ago. "Sean (Crowley), James (Nyhan), and Gemma (O'Connor), and the others have been driving that in the last couple of weeks."

"We also had players coming back, Amy O'Connor made a big difference. Laura Hayes was phenomenal, Milly Condon, Saoirse McCarthy, and Libby Coppinger was outstanding at full-back."

"Meabh Murphy, making her first appearance here for us at centre-back, led by example, while Aisling Egan was excellent in her first championship game. She was very solid and difficult to get past. At this level, that kind of work rate is essential. You have to work hard to win matches, and I thought our physicality, tackling, and overall intensity were very good. It is never easy against Galway. They are an exceptionally good team, and they are not going away, but neither are we."

Some people may have been writing Cork off after the league, but this was just a reminder they're still in the reckoning. "We're not guaranteed anything. It's one performance. We must back it up next week against Tipperary, but it gives us a bit of confidence."

"Our confidence was probably a bit low there after the league and stuff. I think summertime suits us a bit better. Look at Orlaith Cahalane there today, her touch and stuff. She won vital ball there in the second half, creating goal chances. I think, with this team, they have been like that for the last couple of years. Championship has been their goal, and it's our focus now."

"We will get back at it in training during the week and concentrate on the Tipp game."



Cork's Saoirse McCarthy takes on Galway's Ally Hesnan during their championship clash last Saturday. Picture: INPHO/James Lawlor



The Sliabh Rua team and management who won the Lillian O'Sullivan cup last Saturday when they defeated Brian Dillons.

League title

Sliabh Rua captured the Lillian O'Sullivan junior A league title with an impressive 1-18 to 1-8 victory over Brian Dillons at Castle Road last Saturday.

The South East side produced an outstanding team performance to claim the silverware, with Hannah Deasy leading the way as she finished with seven points. Caitlin Hurley's first-half goal gave Sliabh Rua an early advantage, while Kayleigh Murphy also contributed seven points in a superb attacking display.

Sliabh Rua led 1-5 to 0-5 at half-time and took complete control after the break. Deasy was particularly influential in the second half, while Robyn O'Brien, Evelyn Rath and Murphy all added important scores.

At the back, the defence was excellent throughout, with Áine Cummins and Aisling Coleman prominent as they limited Brian Dillons' scoring opportunities.

Camogie

Well done to Ballinascorthy camogie player Éabha O'Leary from Castlevue who played with the primary school team at halftime during the Munster senior hurling final in Páirc Uí Chaoimh last Sunday.

It was a fantastic occasion for all the young players, their families and clubs. Congratulations to Millie Condon and the Cork seniors on their win in the first round of the championship against Galway last weekend.



Éabha O'Leary represented Knockskeagh National School and Ballinascorthy camogie club when she played at the interval in Páirc Uí Chaoimh last Sunday.

Inniscarra capture the league title after big win over Éire Óg

Inniscarra	2-12
Éire Óg	0-5

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

First half goals from Aoibhinn Murphy and Anne-Marie Coleman helped Inniscarra lead by six points at half time 2-7 to 1-1 in the Barry O'Sullivan league final against Éire Óg.

Éire Óg battled hard in the second half to try and find a way back with Roisin Murphy, Maria Barry Murphy and Ciara Roche working hard but Inniscarra kept ahead thanks to good work with Ava O'Regan, Aoife Power, Sinead Herlihy and Aoibhinn Murphy, who were all prominent as they held the upperhand to ensure they held on to take the title.

Scorers for Inniscarra: A Murphy, AM Coleman 1-0 each, A O'Regan 0-3 (0-1f), A Power 0-2, A Sheehan, N Dinan, S O'Connor, S Herlihy 0-1, A McCarthy, A Lynch, A Brislane 0-1 each.
Éire Óg: R Murphy 0-3, M Barry Murphy, C Roche 0-1 each.

U14 FINALS

The juvenile camogie board will hold their U14 final this weekend in Castle Road.

Tomorrow, Saturday, in the U14 B2 "1" final, Inniscarra 2 will meet either Watergrasshill or Sarsfields at 10.30am.

This will be followed by the U14 B2 "2" final at 1.30pm between St Colm's and Sarsfields 3.

The U14 Premier 2 final is on Tuesday at 7.15pm when Middleton will meet Ballincollig.

The U14A camogie final is on Wednesday with Barryroe meeting Erin's Own.

In the U14 B final, Rockbawn play Fr O'Neill's on Tuesday 18 or Tuesday 23, the date is still to be confirmed for this final.

On Friday, June 17 in the Premier 1 final, Newtownshandrum will meet Sarsfields 1 at 7.15pm.

MINOR

The minor camogie championship draws took place recently.

With the county board deciding to start the championship earlier this year, clubs will have to have their first game played on or before 30th of June.

Second round games are to be played on or before July 21, with third round on or before August 11.

There will be a big break then until October when the group winners and second

placed teams go forward to the quarter final.

The decision to play through the holiday months will impact on a lot of clubs with families heading away through the popular school holiday months.

In premier minor camogie, there are three groups of three teams.

In group one we have Barryroe, Aghabullogue and Newtownshandrum. Group two is Éire Óg, Douglas and Ballincollig and in group three, Sarsfields, Sliabh Rua, and Inniscarra will play each other.

In the premier 2 grade, there are 14 teams broken into four groups.

There are two groups of four, and two groups of three.

Group one is Clonakilty, Ballyhea, St Finbar's and St Fanahan's.

Group two is Killeagh, Middleton, Cloughduv, and Ballinhassig.

Group three is Fr O'Neill's, St Catherine's, and Kilbrittain / Timoleague.

Group four is Bishopstown, Blarney, and Kilworth.

Minor A

In the minor A camogie grade there are 14 teams in four groups.

There are two groups of four teams and two groups of three teams.

Group one is Erin's Own, Inniscarra 2, Glen Rovers, and Newcestown.

Group two is Charleville, Milford, Laochra Og, and Youghal.

Group three is Douglas 2, Banteer, and Ballygarvan.

In Minor B there are 12 teams.

In group one we have Valley Rovers, Ballinascorthy, Dungourney, and Brian Dillon's.

Group two is Mallow, Fermoy, Ballinora, and Carrigtwohill.

Group three is Bride Rovers, Bandon, Kinsale Castlemartyr, and Aghada.

The Minor C grade has 16 teams broken into four groups of four.

Group one is Aghada, Grenagh, Tracton, and Watergrasshill.

Group two is Crosshaven, Enniskeane, Cobh, and Passage West.

Group three is Blackrock, Kibree, Castletyons, and Kildorrey.

Group four is Rockbawn, St Colum's, Na Piaras, and St Vincent's.

SUMMER CUPS

The adult and juvenile boards have organised summer cup competitions for the month of July to keep players playing during what is traditionally holiday time.

These competitions are organised to enable clubs to keep players who may be available playing matches.

The competitions are played on a small-sided basis with reduced numbers due to players being on holiday.



FAB FOUR: Cork's Hayley Ryan, Isobel Sheehan, Cliona O'Callaghan, and Aoife Barrett savour their All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Group 1 win over Tipperary at Semple Stadium. See report on Page 15.

Picture: Dan Clohessy/Inpho

Internet star Ryan relishing breakthrough season

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Hayley Ryan began posting videos of her impressions of *Love Island* contestants in 2019 and to say they took off would be a significant understatement. One quick internet search will disclose the nationwide coverage her mimicry received, in terms of print and online reaction.

The young Douglas talent hit the local airwaves and exhibited her broad range beyond that show. Her Joe Broly is magnificent. That exposure earned her a gig as a radio host on Cork station Red FM.

The Blackrock attacker represented the county at U16, minor, and

intermediate level, before winning two All-Ireland medals as part of the senior panel.

Now, after taking a year out, she has established herself as a regular starter. She was beginning to strain at the seams so the radio gig had to be relinquished but, after last year's sabbatical from the Cork set-up, Ryan accepted an invite to do some analysis for Clubber.

Now, with the conclusion of the school year, the 28-year-old is taking a career break from teaching to take up an internship in RTE's sports department.

"It's all go at the moment," Ryan concedes. "I'm still in Dublin midweek and coming down at weekends but I'm going to try to sort something out midweek. I'm a busy woman at the minute but

management have been extremely understanding and supportive.

"I'm diving more into the media stuff and taking a career break next year."

Clearly, that media engagement seven years ago provided the opening window.

"I haven't put up a video in a while," she says. "I know *Love Island* is on at the moment but, would you believe, I haven't had time to watch it yet. But after a few weeks watching it, I would get the voices. That time, it just blew up. I wasn't expecting that at all. But that was the start of it."

Ryan is one of a number of newcomers to the Rebels line-up as Laura Treacy, the Mackey twins, and Hannah Looney have stepped away, while injury has sidelined Ashling Thompson

and inhibited the first half of the season for Amy O'Connor and Saoirse McCarthy.

After a stuttering spring, Ger Manley's crew got this year's championship campaign off to the perfect start with last Saturday's comprehensive victory over Galway.

While a sixth consecutive appearance in the decider is a long way away, and Tipperary will provide a stern examination at FBD Semple Stadium on Sunday, it was a tremendous boost.

"We won the All-Ireland in '23 and '24 and then I decided last year that I wanted to do a bit of travelling. I suppose I wanted more game time too and felt I would be better giving time to my club."

"When Ger rang me at the beginning

of this year, I said, 'If I'm going to do it, I'm going to give it everything,' I have gotten a lot of game time, so I'm very grateful."

"Obviously, we were over the moon to get the win against Galway. A win was very important for us because we did have a very tough league campaign and the Munster campaign didn't go the way we wanted. So the outside noise with all of that was that Cork were gone away."

"We actually never listened to that. We are blessed that camogie is huge in Cork, and the talent is there. It was just a panel of very talented players that had never played together. So, like anything, if you've a very smart student and they just sit a test, they're not going to ace the test — but let them do a bit of



GRATEFUL: Hayley Ryan says the team 'are blessed that camogie is huge in Cork'.

study and then they'll do better.

"So we needed that league and we needed that Munster campaign to have those losses and take the learnings."

Rebels look to build on Galway win

Camogie

Brian Barry

After roaring into life last weekend, Group 1 of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Championship continues tomorrow.

With two automatic semi-final berths up for grabs, the four teams will be looking to take a major step towards Thurles on July 25.

As Kilkenny and Clare, in particular, look dangerous in Group 2 — on a break this weekend — last year's semi-finalists Waterford, Galway, Tipperary, and Cork will be wary of taking the scenic route to the last four.

Waterford had their chances against Galway in the Centra Camogie League final in April but were left to ponder what might have been as the Tribeswomen won out 0-13 to 0-11.

The Déise used home advantage to avenge a Munster final defeat against Tipperary last Sunday and will look to set the record straight once more when the Westerners come to Walsh Park at 2pm tomorrow.

Cathal Murray didn't mince his words after Galway's defeat to Cork, conceding "we were a long way off our own standards".

A late Ailish O'Reilly goal merely put some gloss on the 0-18 to 1-8 full-time score, and Murray will know the All-Ireland champions must raise their game if they are to get back on track.

There were legitimate questions around Cork heading to Athenry last weekend but Ger Manley's team answered every single one of them.

While Saoirse McCarthy and Amy O'Connor led the charge, they were ably assisted by the younger cohort. Orlaith Cahalane took a major step forward and looked at home in the Rebels' forward line.

The resounding seven-point victory over the reigning All-Ireland champions put any worries about Cork's early-season form to bed.

Is this version of Cork here to stay for the summer? The coming days will tell.

The Leesiders travel to Thurles (3.30pm tomorrow) with a pep in their step, looking to reverse Tipperary's 1-18 to 2-9 victory in the Munster Championship at the same venue.

The Premier County were impressive in their run to provincial honours but were bested by a strong Waterford side last weekend.

Seven points from play were all that Tipp could muster on Suirside last Sunday in their 0-16 to 1-10 defeat.

James Heffernan's team know another defeat will see their top-two hopes hanging by a thread.

Superb away win all but sees Cork into All-Ireland semi-final

Cork	0-21
Tipperary	0-18

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Back-to-back victories for the Cork senior camogie team as they overcame the challenge of Tipperary to ensure they are top of their group with a game to play in two weeks time against Waterford.

This victory will almost certainly ensure they will progress to the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland semi-final.

It was by no means an easy victory as Cork were made fight hard to the finish for their win.

Tipperary battled hard but Cork had excellent displays in defence with Izzy O'Regan, Meabh Murphy and Libby Coppinger solid all through.

In an opening half, where Tipperary played with the aid of a strong wind blowing towards the Killanien end of FBD Semple Stadium, the sides were level on six occasions and it was 0-11 each at the half time whistle.

It took Amy Lee to deny Tipperary's Eimear McGrath the game's opening goal from a 20-metres free after referee Brian Kearney had moved the ball forward. McGrath pointed the resulting 45 and it was level pegging after 30 minutes.

Cork had opened up a five point to three lead 10 minutes in with Amy O'Connor Sorchá McCartan, Hayley Ryan, and Emma Murphy on target as the Rebels dictated the opening 10 minutes.

Tipperary, with Grace O'Brien and Eimear McGrath finding the range kept in touch.

Sorchá McCartan and Eimear McGrath traded points as Cork kept their noses in front, but an ever improving Tipperary were finding gaps, and with Eimear McGrath and Grace O'Brien proving a hand full they were back on level terms at seven points apiece with 20 minutes played.

Cork were winning a lot of possession with Laura Hayes, Emma Murphy and Millie Condon moving the ball quickly and as the sides traded point for point it was level pegging to the half time whistle - Laura Hayes, Amy O'Connor and Saoirse McCarthy with Cork points, as Eimear McGrath, Roisin Howard and Grace O'Brien picked off Tipperary scores.

Referee Brian Kearney was over fussy penalising for over-carrying on three consecutive

occasions in the half which was leading to frustration and with the ball being moved forward McGrath saw her chance and went for a goal but the alertness of Amy Lee ensured no way through and with the resulting 45 pointed it was all square at the break.

The second half took on the same pattern as the opening half, but crucially Cork edged ahead in the opening minute with points from Amy O'Connor and Emma Murphy.

Tipperary responded with an Eimear Heffernan point, but again Cork hit two in a row with Saoirse McCarthy and Amy O'Connor pointing frees.

McGrath fired over two points in reply to one from Saoirse McCarthy and from here on it was score for score as play swung from end to end.

Cork held their lead as Tipperary could never manage to get in front.

With four minutes remaining Cork led by four points Sorchá McCartan, Amy O'Connor and Saoirse McCarthy cancelling out points from Aoife Dwyer and Eimear Heffernan.

As Tipperary pushed for something they won two frees, which Eimear McGrath duly slotted over to reduce the deficit to two points as the game entered three minutes of added time.

But the final say was with Cork as Amy O'Connor pointed a close in free with seconds remaining as they had done enough to get over the line.

Corks Laura Hayes was named player of the match after an excellent display.

Scorers for Cork: A O'Connor 0-9 (0-6fs), S McCarthy 0-5 (0-1f), S McCartan 0-3, E Murphy 0-2, H Ryan, L Hayes 0-1 each.

Tipperary: E McGrath 0-9 (0-6fs), 0-1 (45), E Heffernan 0-4, G O'Brien 0-4, R Howard, A O'Dwyer 0-1 each.

Cork: A Lee; I O'Regan, L Coppinger, A Egan; A Fitzgerald, M Murphy, I Sheehan; M Condon, L Hayes; H Ryan, S McCarthy, E Murphy; S McCartan, O Cahalane, A O'Connor.

Subs: R Murphy for H Ryan (38), A McAuliffe for E Murphy (58).

Tipperary: L Leenane; A Quinlisk, M Eviston, E Loughman; S Corcoran, C Maher, C Guinan; K Blair, C McIntyre; E Heffernan, L Purcell, C Hennessy; R Howard, E McGrath, G O'Brien.

Subs: A Dwyer for C Hennessy (48), K Ralph for C McIntyre (54), N Treacy for G O'Brien (57).

Referee: Brian Kearney (Kildare).

Glen Dimplex Senior Camogie Championship

Cork v Tipperary on Sunday in Semple Stadium at 3.30pm

A rare but well deserved win in Athenry for Ger Manley's side has put them in a strong position to make the semi-final and they will head to Thurles on Sunday in confident mood.

"We played very well but looking the training over the last few weeks, I could see it coming and of course we had big players returning as well."

Ger was also looking forward to Sunday: "Tipp are a good team; we drew with them in the league and they beat us in the Munster Championship and playing in Thurles is important - a big open field that will suit both sides."

The win in Athenry was achieved with a solid first half having played with the wind. But also crucial was the start of the 2nd half when "we didn't allow Galway to build any momentum and the goal came in the last minute when the match was won".

Injuries are still an issue. "Meabh (Cahalane) and Ashling (Thompson) are still out but getting there and hopefully another couple of weeks and they will be back."

Tipperary lost to Water-

ford last Sunday and they will be anxious to get the win particularly as they are playing at home and with All-Ireland champions Galway in their last game they certainly won't want to be heading west on the back of two defeats.

They were missing a couple of players last Sunday and they will hope that Eimear McGrath, Caoimhe Stakelum, Karen Blair, Eimear Heffernan and Laura Leenane can recapture the form that saw them win the Munster Championship.

As for Cork, Libby Coppinger, Meabh Murphy, Laura Hayes Saoirse McCarthy, Orlaith Cahalane and Emma Murphy all delivered big displays in Athenry - a repeat performance will be enough for another win.

CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Laois.....	3-12	Westmeath.....	1-9
Meath.....	4-15	Carlow.....	1-12

CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND PREMIER JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Cavan.....	0-16	Kildare.....	1-9
Roscommon.....	7-21	Wicklow.....	1-6
Armagh.....	3-15	Tyrone.....	0-9

CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Mayo.....	1-12	Monaghan.....	1-6
Louth.....	2-18	Donegal.....	1-8



MAKING A POINT: Cork's Amy O'Connor scores a point against Galway in their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie clash at Athenry. O'Connor made a welcome return to the side following a recent injury. Picture: INPHO/James Lawlor

Cork focused on Tipp clash

Cork travel to Tipperary on Sunday in confident form after their win over Galway in Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship.

The game throws-in at 3.30pm on Sunday at FBD Semple Stadium, and the Rebels will be looking for a bit of revenge over the home side.

Tipp knocked Cork out of the Munster championship several weeks ago at Semple Stadium and were deserving winners on the day.

Cork's win over Galway last Saturday was a bit like the expression — one swallow doesn't make a summer.

The same can be said for the Rebels — one win won't make their summer.

But it was a much-needed win for Cork and a confidence boost to Ger Manley's side.

Some outside of Cork would have put the Rebels down the pecking order in terms of winning the All-Ireland so it was a timely reminder that they are not gone away.

They won't be getting carried away with the win and know another tough challenge lies ahead on Sunday.

Tipperary are the Munster champions and are one of the sides fancied by many to be in contention to lift the O'Duffy Cup.



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

They started their All-Ireland campaign last weekend with a loss to Waterford, another side on the up.

Tipp won't be happy with that and will be determined to bounce back against Cork as they hope to secure a semi-final spot.

Of the four teams in this group, two will automatically go to the semi-finals and the other two to quarterfinals, where they will take on the top two in the other group, which most likely will be Kilkenny and Clare.

A win for Cork will put them on six points and that should be enough to secure a semi-final place. It won't be guaranteed but if Waterford manage to beat Galway the same day, then it would secure Cork and the Deise's semi places.

Both would be on six points and with Tipp and Galway on zero they couldn't be caught ahead of the final group games.

So there is a lot to play for at the wee-

kend for all four sides, but all Cork can do is worry about themselves and try build on their win over Galway.

There were many impressive parts to that win, but none more so than their work rate.

It was obvious to all watching they had done a lot of work in this area over the last six weeks.

That, coupled with the move of Meabh Murphy to centre-back and Laura Hayes to midfield, were key parts of their win.

Speaking after the Galway game, captain on the day Libb Coppinger, said: "The league wasn't exactly what we wanted from it but I think looking back we probably learned a lot and we've improved a lot since then."

"We had a six-week block there together and everyone just worked extremely hard and we're delighted to come out with a result today."

"Everyone on that field gave it all and left it all out there and I think that's really all we were talking about the last couple of weeks is just working hard and when you work hard, the rest follows itself."

"It's a win today, but that's all it is. Nothing is achieved yet, so we play Tipp next Sunday and that's going to be a massive battle."

"We're focused on them now because that's the next job at hand."



Sorcha McCartan put in another impressive display for Cork against Galway, and they will need more of the same from her against Tipperary this weekend. Picture: INPHO/James Lawlor



Cork manager, Ger Manley, presents Saoirse McCarthy with her player of the game award after their win over Galway. McCarthy will be a key player again this weekend for the Rebels. Picture: NPHO/James Lawlor



CHASING: Cork's Meabh Murphy challenges Tipperary's Eimear Heffernan in their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship tie at FBD Semple Stadium. Picture: Dan Clohessy/Inpho

the lads to lose by eight points, because I don't think it was an eight-point loss. Both teams just went at it and I don't think there was even a yellow card in the game. It was hard and fair and the referee, Niall Malone, did a super job. He was sensible."

Scorers for Tipperary: C Dunne 3-5 (0-2 f, 0-2 sh), E Tucker 1-4, C Morrisson 0-4, J Moroney 1-1, S Ryan, C Kennedy, Z O'Keefe, KJ Dunne 0-1 each.

Scorers for Cork: B Power 2-8 (0-6 f), S McCarthy 0-3, S Riordan, R Cagney 0-2 each, L O'Regan, S McHugh, C Coffey,

C Murphy 0-1 each.

TIPPERARY: E Connolly (Carrick Swan); C Ryan (Newport), D Groome (Borris-Ileigh), C Collins (Galtee Rovers); O Kennedy (Newport), J Finn (Golden-Killfeacle), T McLoughlin (Cahir); S Ryan (Borris-Ileigh), H Healy (Kilruane MacDonaghs); C Kennedy (Clonoulty-Rossmore), C Morrisson (Moyle Rovers), E Tucker (Nenagh Eire Og); Z O'Keefe (Hollycross-Ballycahill), C Dunne (Gortnahoe-Glengoolie), KJ Dunne (Toomevara).

Subs: J Moroney (Ballina) for O'Keefe (43), C Gantley (Cappawhite) for Healy (60), S Burke (JK Brackens) for S Ryan (60+1), R McGrath (Kiladangan) for C

Dunne (60+4).

CORK: M Walsh (Youghal); J Batterberry (Castletownroche), F Cahill (Midleton), N Coffey (Na Piarasigh); E Considine (Sarsfields), D Nolan (Erin's Own), L O'Regan (St Finbarr's); A Hennessy (Midleton), S McHugh (Newtownshandrum); C Murphy (Ballinora), S Riordan (Kilworth), R Cagney (Mallow); C Coffey (Na Piarasigh), B Power (Ballincollig), S McCarthy (Castletownroche).

Subs: T McCarthy (Watergrasshill) for C Murphy (39), C Barry (Bride Rovers) for S McCarthy (56), C Ronayne (Dungourney) for Cagney (60+1).

Referee: N Malone (Clare).



JOY OF SIX: Cork's Molly Lynch with her cup after winning the senior camogie competition in the M Donnelly GAA Poc Fada All-Ireland final. Picture: Ben McShane/Sportsfile

Hayes: It wasn't perfect but we ground out win

Cork close in on All-Ireland semi-final

CORK 0-21
TIPPERARY 0-18

BY DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR

CORK have taken a giant step closer to the semi-finals of the Glen Dimplex Senior Championship.

One week after beating All-Ireland champions Galway in their Group 1 opener, the Rebels won on the road again, defeating Tipperary by three points at Semple Stadium.

It's a result that leaves Cork within touching distance of the semi-finals, though they will still need a result in their final group game at home to Waterford to confirm their place.

While all four teams in the group advance to the knockout stages, the top side progresses directly to the last four and bypasses the quarter-finals.

'We're absolutely delighted to get over the line and I suppose it's pleasing in a way that it wasn't a perfect performance at all but we still ground out the win, so we'll take a lot from that,' Laura Hayes said.

'We knew we were going to be up for a big battle. We had a very positive result the last day against Galway and we wanted to come here and back that up today. That was our main focus and we were delighted to get the result.'

Cork are hitting their stride at the right time, having endured a challenging league campaign and a short Munster championship that ended with defeat to Tipperary at the quarter-final stage.

'We had a really, really tough league and a really tough Munster and that's certainly not something we're used to,' Hayes added.

'There was a huge turnover of players, a lot of new faces coming in, and it took all of us time to bed in together.'

'But I honestly think we've been working so hard. We've been plugging away in training, doing a lot of fitness and a lot of hurling and, by the time we came back, we were really hungry.'

'This is just a group game, though, and there's a high possibility we'll meet one of these teams again and it could be a different story, so we won't be getting ahead of ourselves.'

Eimear McGrath shot nine



Cork's Hayley Ryan, Isobel Sheehan, Cliona O'Callaghan and Aoife Barrett celebrate the win against Tipperary. (Photos: Dan Clohessy/INPHO)

points, including four from play, and Eimear Heffernan and Grace O'Brien added seven between them, but Cork just had a little more in the tank.

Amy O'Connor matched McGrath's tally, though with one fewer point from play, while Saoirse McCarthy and Sorcha McCartan split the posts eight times between them.

There were never more than two points in it during the opening half, which finished 0-11 apiece after some excellent attacking play on the fast Thurles surface.

Right from the throw-in, the tempo was high, with Mairéad Eviston producing a brilliant tackle to dispossess McCartan as she drove through on goal for Cork.

O'Connor flashed a ground shot across goal from a tight angle in a frantic start, and the sense that Tipp were up for the fight was heightened when O'Brien gathered a good diagonal ball and opened the scoring to crown a breathless opening minute.

Róisín Howard's catch and lay-off to set up McGrath, Hayley Ryan's sweeping strike



Cork's Daire O'Brien warms up ahead of the match.

with her back to goal and Hayes splitting the posts from 60 metres out and just five metres in from the sideline were among the highlights in a first half full of quality.

Tipperary lost momentum somewhat in the third quarter, scoring just one point in 14 minutes, in no small part due to Hayes' dominance around the middle.

The 2024 Player of the Year

was at her brilliant best, moving the sliotar with control and precision to allow O'Connor (0-9, 6f), McCarthy (0-5) and McCartan (0-3) to deliver the scores that secured a second successive victory.

Cork now sit top of Group 1 with two wins from two games and are within touching distance of a semi-final place ahead of their final group outing against Waterford.

CAMOGIE GROUP 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Cork	2	2	0	0	39	29	6
Waterford	2	1	1	0	29	29	3
Galway	2	1	1	0	27	31	3
Tipperary	2	0	2	0	31	37	0

was not part of the script for Wexford when they hoisted the Leinster Championship trophy last month. However, their fortunes have dipped significantly since then. The Model County still have work to do as they look to dig themselves out of relegation danger. Limerick come to town in a similar position to Offaly and Dublin. They must win to keep their quarter-final ambitions alive.

Words: Brian Barry

hugely impressive 1-18 to 0-8 victory over Wexford. The Faithful County enjoyed a remarkable home victory over the Slaneysiders in their opening assignment, but have failed to follow it up. Form would point to the Dubs, but last year's intermediate champions will look to make home advantage count. Also today at 3.30pm at Chadwicks Wexford Park, being out of quarter-final contention after three games

ticket to Croke Park for an All-Ireland quarter-final on July 4/5. Throw-in at Nowlan Park is 2.30pm and at 4.30pm it's win or bust for Offaly and Dublin at St Brendan's Park, Birr, both sides knowing they must claim victory to stay in with a chance of cracking the top two. Dublin have prevailed in the sides' previous two meetings this year, in the league and Leinster Championship. They travel to Birr with a pep in their step, off the back of a

among their top performers, and Jimmy Meagher's outfit will be eager to make it four from four when the Banner come to town. Eugene Foudy's charges return to the site of their Division 1B league final success, eager to build on an already hugely impressive season. A season-ending injury to star forward Lorna McNamara is a major setback, but others took up the mantle in recent weeks. Today's winners will stamp their

Undefeated records on the line

joyed perfect starts to their All-Ireland Championship campaigns and share the summit of Group 2, with three wins apiece. The Noreiders have been more emphatic on the scoreboard, accounting for Limerick, Dublin, and Offaly by an 11-point winning margin on average. Sarah Barcoe and Aoife Prendergast have been

it's another big weekend in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Championships, as counties vie for position with the knockout stages nearing. Group 2 in the senior championship enters its penultimate round, with the seeded teams in Group 1 on a break weekend. Both Kilkenny and Clare have en-



Barryroe flew the flag for Cork camogie at the Féile.

Barryroe flew flag for Cork camogie in Division 1 Féile

The Féile was held at eight venues across the country and it was an action-packed weekend for all involved.

In total, there were eight divisional competitions and Cork had representatives in four of them.

In the Division 1 grade, Barryroe represented Cork and in their opening game in the group, they overcame Wexford representative Rathnure 2-4 to 1-5. The second game was against Tipperary representative Thurles Sarsfields and in a close contest, Barryroe ran out winners with two points to spare, 1-5 to 1-3.

In the semi-final, Barryroe overcame Kilmaley of Clare to make it to the final where they met a very strong Erin's Own side from Kilkenny, who ran out winners on the day but not before Barryroe battled to the finish.

Crosshaven participated in the Regional Féile Region 4 Cup Semi-Final C, which was held in Waterford, where they made it to the semi-final against Galway representatives Craughwell. In a close and exciting contest, it took an excellent save from the Craughwell keeper to deny Crosshaven a place in the final as she stood firm in the dying seconds as her side held out for a 3-2 to 2-3 victory. They went on to take the title as they overcame Faughs.

Bishopstown travelled to Kinvara in Galway, where they participated in the regional Féile, where they reached the semi-final. The Town battled hard but it was Ballingarry who ran out winners.

Passage were in Carlow, where they finished third in their group and qualified for the Shield semi-final where they met the host club Setanta. Despite a huge effort

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

they lost out.

Representing your county at Féile is something very special and all of the Cork clubs can be proud of their efforts.

LEAGUE FINALS

Newtownshandrum took the U14 P1 title.

They turned in a flawless display as they overcame Sarsfields.

In a game played in appalling weather conditions, Rockbawn and Fr O'Neill's battled wind and rain in the U14 B League final, where it was nip and tuck all through.

Fr O'Neill's started well and opened up a six-point lead but Rockbawn dug deep in the second half and took the lead and held on to take the title.

In the U16 B2, Midleton overcame Éire Óg to take the league title. The U16 C final saw Millstreet face Ballinascarthy.

The U16 B2 1 final is down for decision on Sunday, featuring Inniscarra and Sarsfields.

The U16 P1 semi-finals were Inniscarra versus Charleville and Milford against Blarney.

The U16 A semi-finals feature Ballygarvan against Ballinhassig and Castletyons versus Fermoy. The final is scheduled for Thursday, July 2.

In U16 P2 decider, Ballincollig meet Sliabh Rua with the winners taking on Mallow on Friday, July 3 in Castle Road.

In U16 B, the semi-finals see the winner of Kilworth-Carrigtwohill against Bishopstown, with Brian Dillon's facing Bride Rovers.

The final is scheduled for Monday, July 6.



The Setanta camogie team that took part in Féile.



GAME ON: Ava Fitzgerald has settled into the new-look Cork half-back line in their championship wins over Galway and Tipperary. Picture: INPHO

Cork are aiming for a semi-final spot

Cork go into their final game of the round-robin stage of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Camogie Championship in the strongest place they have been all season.

The league and Munster championship are now well behind them, and so is their performances in both.

Now they are back to somewhere near their best as they are starting to string a run of results together.

Sunday sees them home to Waterford in their final group game, at 3.30pm at Páirc Uí Rinn, in what will be another tough tie.

Cork can go into it full of confidence after two tough away games against Galway and Tipperary. The Tribeswomen are the current All-Ireland and league champions so beating them at Athenry is never easy.

The Rebels were deserving winners on the day, and that set them up for their clash at FBD Semple Stadium with Tipp.

Another good win on the road for Cork, and if they can follow it up with a win or a draw on Sunday, they will go straight to the All-Ireland semi-final and avoid the quarter-finals.

Waterford beat Tipp in their first game, before losing to Galway in their second outing.

Galway take on Tipp on Sunday, at the same time, and a win here for the former should also be enough to see them into the semi-finals, provided Cork do the business against Waterford.

CAMOGIE



Rory Noonan

Cork are currently on six points, with both Waterford and Galway on three, and Tipp have yet to get off the mark.

So, in simplest terms, wins for Cork and Galway would see them go to the semis. Draws in both games would also suit the Rebels and Tribeswomen, but neither will be thinking that way.

Tipp and Waterford would then go through to the quarter-finals, where they are most likely to face Kilkenny and Clare. Where they all finish will decide who faces whom.

The Rebels won't think about any of them as they face a Waterford side that beat them in the league earlier in the season by 1-12 to 0-9. The Deise's manager, Michael Boland, won't be paying too much attention to that result as he will be aware Cork are in a far better position now.

They will travel to Cork knowing that a win would put them into the semi-final, so they won't be there just to make up the numbers.

They have plenty of talented players in their side and are more than capable of winning this one.

Vikki Falconer, Abbie Flynn, Bevan Bowdren, and Beth Carton are just some

of the players Boland can call on, with the latter the leader of their attack.

Niamh Rockett, another quality player, was ruled out of their clash with Galway, but is expected to return to their starting line-up on Sunday.

The Rebels two main injury concerns are Meabh Cahalane and Ashling Thompson, neither of whom have featured in their recent wins.

Thompson picked up a serious elbow injury in Cork's league clash with Kilkenny and Cahalane got injured in a training session.

It will be a late call to see if either will play any part in this tie, but with a quarter-final slot at the very least secured, manager Ger Manley may not risk them.

He still has an array of talented players at his disposal, and Cork can go into this game confident of getting the job done.

Meabh Murphy has been outstanding since moving to centre-back, allowing Laura Hayes to go to midfield.

Aislinn Egan has slotted in at corner-back, with Ava Fitzgerald and Isobel Sheehan also coming in, and they can't be faulted for their displays.

The return to full fitness of Amy O'Connor and Saoirse McCarthy has helped the Cork attack, and Manley will be hoping that Clodagh Finn will be available as well shortly.

So even if Cahalane and Thompson don't make it, Manley has plenty of talent to choose from, and Cork will be expected to advance to the semi-final.



Cork's Isobel Sheehan, in action against Tipperary's Lorna Ryan, is another to impress for the Rebels in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland championship this year. Picture: INPHO/Leah Scholes



The return to action of Amy O'Connor has helped to strengthen the Cork attack. Picture: Eddie O'Hare