

## De La Salle take spoils in derby



Eastern Under-21 'A' Hurling Final

De La Salle 1-16 — Mount Sion 1-12

De La Salle lived up to their pre-match favourites tag when they overcame near neighbours Mount Sion by four points in this year's Under-21 Eastern 'A' Hurling Final.

On a crisp winter afternoon in Walsh Park, De La Salle were undoubtedly the better side but were made fight all the way by a battling Monastery side that just lacked sufficient firepower to cause an upset.

A sparkling display from Waterford senior inter-county star Jake Dillon did much to see the silverware resting with De La Salle and propelling them to another County Final.

In the very first minute Jake Dillon opened up the Mount Sion defence with a searing run before handing Shane Ryan a goal opportunity which was scrambled out for a 65' from which Ryan uncharacteristically hit wide.

Martin 'F' O'Neill had Mount Sion on the board with an excellent point in the second minute. Much of the early play was end to end with De La Salle responding with a pointed free from Shane Ryan and Jake Dillon's first point of the day to put them a point in front.

Jordan Boarders had Sion back level before Colm Morris and Austin Gleeson traded points to leave the sides deadlocked on three points apiece after seven minutes.

Predictably enough when the game's opening goal arrived it was the impressive Dillon who finished a good move to the back of the Mount Sion net from close range to put De La Salle in the ascendancy after eight minutes.

A point from the diminutive Stephen Roche and a pair of Austin Glesson frees had Sion back on level terms for a fourth time after 17 minutes.

It continued point for point with Jake Dillon and Martin O'Neill exchanging scores.

On 26 minutes, ending the need for a goal Austin Gleeson went for broke from a 21-yard line free but saw his low shot saved and cleared by the De La Salle defence.

Colm Morris had his second point from play just before the break to send De La Salle to the dressing rooms leading by the minimum (1-05 to 0-07).

Adam Farrell had his first point of the game just after half-time which was cancelled out by another pointed free from Austin Gleeson.

Four unanswered points from Shane Ryan (a brace), Dillon and Farrell had De La Salle five points up after 40 minutes.

An Austin Gleeson 65 and an Aiden Power score from play reduced Sion's deficit to just a goal. Unfortunately for Mount Sion their All-Ireland minor winner Austin Gleeson limped out of the game half way through the second half with a hamstring injury severely limiting their attacking options. The De La Salle scoring duo of Dillon and Ryan again hit points on 50 and 51 minutes with Evan Curran replying for Sion with a point from play leaving Mount Sion trailing 1-12 to 0-11 with the finish line in sight. County team mates Jake Dillon and Stephen Roche both then hit points for their respective sides.

Two further points from Adam Farrell and a sixth point for Dillon pushed De La Salle's lead out to seven points at full time.

Mount Sion goalkeeper Shane Forristal did his best Anthony Nash impersonation hitting a 21-yard free to the back of the net for a consolation goal in injury time.

Mount Sion had good performances in defence from Lee Thornton, Paddy McGrath and centre back Stephen O'Neill. Martin O'Neill, Austin Gleeson and Stephen Roche carried too much responsibility in the scoring stakes with a sterile full-forward line failing to deliver.

The winners who now face St. Carthage's (Lismore/Ballysaggart) in the County Final on Sunday week had top displays from Eoin Madigan and Tom Moran in defence.

Adam Farrell's efficiency in score taking proved invaluable while Jake Dillon was unquestionably the most impressive player of the 30 on view.

**De La Salle:** Kyle Sinnott, Stephen Dalton, Jack McCarthy, David Sutton, Adam O'Sullivan, Eoin Madigan, Tom Moran, Shane McNulty, Adam Farrell, Jamie Sage, Patrick Flynn, Colm Morris, Shane Ryan, Jake Dillon, Robert Daniels.

**Substitutes:** Dylan Foley for Robert Daniels and Adam Doyle for Dylan Foley.

**Scorers:** Jake Dillon (1-6; 0-1f, 0-1 65'), Shane Ryan (0-4; 0-3f), Adam Farrell (0-4) and Colm Morris (0-2).

**Mount Sion:** Shane Forristal, Lee Thornton, Craig Savage, Paddy McGrath, Conor Butler, Stephen O'Neill, Aaron Cody, Austin Gleeson, Aiden Power, Jordan Boarders, Stephen Roche, Martin O'Neill, Aaron Dempsey, Evan Curran, Darren Finn.

**Substitutes:** Ricky Freeman for Aaron Dempsey, Ben Walsh for Austin Gleeson and Bryan Power for Darren Finn.

**Scorers:** Austin Gleeson (0-5; 0-3f, 0-1 65'), Shane Forristal (1-0 f) Martin O'Neill (0-2), Stephen Roche (0-2; 0-1f), Jordan Boarders, Evan Curran and Aiden Power (0-1 each).

**Referee:** Alan Kissane