

Holy Family Newbridge Edged out in Holy Family Derby

The U17 squad traveled to Rathcoole Football Club on October 17th to compete against Holy Family Rathcoole in the first round of the cup.

The girls started off strong in the first half, with excellent defense from Malvina Dvorakova and Kate Dunphy, leaving Rathcoole struggling to score or create any scoring opportunities. Olivia Hyland intercepted a pass from Rathcoole and fought for a goal but narrowly missed. Goalkeeper Sadie Burke made a brilliant save, keeping the score at 0-0. Jessica McNulty set up a scoring chance for Bella, but Rathcoole's goalkeeper saved it. Twins Kate and Jessica McNulty demonstrated great passing and teamwork throughout the first half. Anniemae Dunne played an excellent ball into Ella Donellan, but her shot hit the crossbar, leaving the score unchanged at 0-0 as the first half ended, with everything still to play for.

The second half began with the girls determined to get on the scoreboard. Sarah Phelan showed great defensive skills, and the team worked hard to keep Rathcoole from creating scoring opportunities. Unfortunately, Holy Family Rathcoole scored in the 7th minute of the second half, but the girls kept their heads up and continued to fight. Their determination paid off when Olivia Hyland scored a brilliant goal, making it 1-1 and putting the



game back within reach. Bella took a shot on goal, which the keeper deflected, and Anniemae Dunne went for the rebound, but the keeper managed to save it again. Rathcoole got a shot on goal, which unfortunately deflected off a Holy Family Newbridge player for an own goal. Despite this setback, the girls remained undeterred, continuing to play with effort and determination. Leah Ward subbed in for Sarah Phelan, Sarah Dignam replaced Aoife Fox, and Libby Filgate came on for Olivia Hyland—all of whom made an impact on the game and displayed great skill.

Unfortunately, it wasn't Holy Family Newbridge's day, with the final score ending 4-1 in Rathcoole's favor. However, the scoreline doesn't fully reflect the game, as the girls fought hard until the end and showed great teamwork and communication throughout. This result means the girls are knocked out of the cup, but they are eager to train hard and come back stronger next year.