
Holy Family Triumphs Over St. Wolstan's to Claim Leinster Knockout Place

by Olivia Hyland

On the morning of the 10th of October, Holy Family travelled to Celbridge GAA to face St. Wolstan's for an away match, kicking off at 11:30 a.m.



At the start of the game, Aisling Irlhue won the throw-in, setting the tone for an exciting and fast-paced contest. Both teams were in top form, with the ball zipping across the pitch. Faye Durney, playing as a sweeper, skilfully disrupted and dispossessed opponents, while Aisling continued impressive runs into the opposition's half. Jessica McNulty made a fantastic block, allowing Laura Jane (LJ) to score the first point, giving Holy Family a great start. Shortly after, LJ scored again from an off-the-shoulder pass. Wolstan's responded with a free, scoring their first point. Lily O'Connor delivered a crucial block to prevent the opposition from taking a shot, but they quickly bounced back, scoring two points.

In an attack, LJ made a quick switch to Ella Donnellan, who unleashed a stunning goal. The opponents retaliated swiftly, netting a goal and a point. Ella wasn't done yet—she scored again, keeping Holy Family's momentum strong. A free kick earned by LJ led to a point from Kate Murphy, followed by Sarah Phelan dispossessing an opponent and setting up Ella for another point.

As the midfielders showcased their speed, Jess scored from a well-timed pass, and Aisling added her name to the scoresheet with a great point. Kate pressured the other team into a turnover, and Aisling set up Kate for another point. Aisling capped off a strong first half with one last point, leaving the score at 1-9 to 1-4 in Holy Family's favour.

Aisling won the throw-in again to start the second half. Sarah dispossessed the ball in defence and moved it forward, resulting in a point from LJ. Sarah then made a fantastic block, leading to LJ passing to Kate, who scored a brilliant goal in the top left corner.

Elsie Whelan followed up with another crucial block, preventing the opposition from scoring. As both teams continued to move the ball rapidly, Kate netted another point from a sideline ball. Aisling earned a free, which Jess converted into a brilliant point.

Ella Murphy dispossessed the opposition's kick-out and quickly scored a fantastic goal. Grace Donnelly added another point moments later, showcasing Holy Family's relentless attack. Aisling continued to dominate, disrupting the opponents and driving the ball up the pitch for Kate to score again.

LJ added to the tally, while the strong defence kept St. Wolstan's at bay. Elsie was subbed off for Kate Dunphy, who stepped in as corner back, maintaining the team's defensive strength. Aisling swiftly dispossessed an opponent near the goal line, preventing them from scoring, and shortly after, Kate netted yet another goal.

With Lily making critical dispossessions, the team's defence held firm. As the clock wound down, LJ scored a spectacular goal just before the final whistle.

The match concluded with an impressive scoreline of 6-18 to 1-5, securing Holy Family's spot in the Leinster knockout stages! This victory marks their third consecutive win—what a performance from the senior girls! Let's carry this momentum forward into the Leinsters!