

Holy Family Edges Roscrea in Thrilling Senior Leinster Cup Clash

Holy Family met Coláiste Pobal Roscrea in the 2nd Round of the Senior Leinster Cup on Wednesday. Kick-off was at 11:15 AM in Newbridge Town FC.

The match began with some great defending from both sides. The first corner of the game was awarded to Roscrea, but it was defended well by Holy Family, who then won possession and worked the ball up the pitch to set up a scoring opportunity. However, the ball was turned over to Roscrea. After some excellent forward play, Holy Family had their first shot of the game, taken by Tara. Shortly after that, HFSS won a corner, which was also defended well by Roscrea.

Another great shot from Olivia Hyland was well saved by the Roscrea keeper. Roscrea then had an opportunity, but the shot was saved by Betty, who cleared the ball out of defense to the midfield. The midfield then worked the ball to Shauna for a shot. There followed some brilliant team play by HFSS in and around the Roscrea penalty area, which led to a well-deserved goal by Ella Donellan, who slotted the ball into the top corner just before the halftime whistle.

Entering the second half a goal up, the girls continued to press Roscrea in both defense and attack. Tara Christie played a brilliant through ball to Olivia Hyland, and Betty pulled off a number of great saves. The HFSS girls continued to battle Roscrea defensively to retain their lead, with the forwards trying to extend it whenever possible, but to no avail. Despite HFSS's best efforts, Roscrea broke



through for a goal with two minutes of normal time remaining. There was no further action, and the game was tied at the final whistle, leading to extra time.

With the momentum from their late equalizer, Roscrea scored a second goal two minutes into extra time, despite the best efforts of the HFSS defense. This put Roscrea in the lead at 2-1. A great interception by Eva on the kick-out led to HFSS being awarded a free kick in the Roscrea half. It was taken by Jessica McNulty, who delivered a great ball into the Roscrea box, where Tara finished it off brilliantly with a goal, making the score 2-2 with ten minutes remaining in the second half of extra time. In a breakout from defense, Malvina made a great run down the wing, getting the ball into the Roscrea box, but HFSS couldn't find the final touch. Extra time finished in a draw at 2-2.

In the penalty shoot-out, Betty saved Roscrea's second penalty, putting HFSS in the ascendancy. All penalty takers held their nerve from then on, and it fell to Lily to slot the final penalty, allowing HFSS to progress to the 3rd round of the cup, which will take place after midterm.