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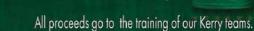
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Kerry fancied to get back to winning ways

By MURT MURPHY

Kerry begins their quest to win the Joe McDonagh Cup this season with a home game against Meath at the Austin Stack Park on Sunday. Kerry will need to bounce back from last Sunday's disappointment of losing the Div. 2A League Final to Antrim in Tullamore. It was a useful game though in comparison to Meath's preparation providing it hasn't left any mental or physical scars.

But Kerry's long serving boss Fintan O'Connor was not sure of who will be fit to play against Meath or who exactly will be available "I would say injury wise there are a few of them very sore and I would say we will have to reassess things during the week. Shane Conway took four or five very heavy knocks and he will do well to be fit. I knew at the start of the week that we would have to be right for Meath no matter how we got on today. Meath will have an eye on us and they will be waiting in the long grass. They probably had a challenge match over the weekend and they will be

fancying their chances coming down to Tralee. Two or three years ago they caught us in the first round up in Meath and they absolutely out hurled us for twenty minutes and it was game over. So, we have to be aware of that and cognizant of the fact that they are coming down to try and lower our colours on Sunday."

Fintan, while admitting there were positives to be had out of the Antrim defeat, maintained that losing a final is always hard to take and that lads were hurting after it. "Look losing a league final is not easy to take because its big game for the lads and one that they wanted to win. Then there was the huge a carrot of promotion to play the big boys next year and that was a big deal for the lads.

So they are coming down off a major disappointment and that has to be factored in. So the lads could react either of two ways but knowing them I think they will be up for the game and ready to go again. There were positives from the game and I think you could not fault the lads on work rate and a never say die attitude."

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2020 JOE MCDONAGH CUP ROUND 1 CIARRAÍ V AN MHÍ

TARRAI ()

So after what has been a strange and in many ways a disconcerting week for players and managers all over the country with squads being hit by Covid cases and close contacts, it must have been very hard to prepare teams for the weekend.

But Kerry will be hoping to be near enough full strengthandthedefenceplayed very well last Sunday. Tomás O'Connor could move to the half back line to join Jason Diggins and man of the match Fionan



Mackessy and that would be a very strong platform to launch attacks from. Evan Murphy could join his brother in the full back line with James O'Connor or possibly Eric Leen.

John Buckley might join Brendan O'Leary at midfield with Shane Nolan moving to the attack. Shane Conway, if fit, will be Kerry's chief scoring threat, while Mikey Boyle and Michael Leane could be joined by Michael Slattery who excelled with the Kerry U-20's on Monday night while Dan Goggin could also be hunting for a place.

Meath always play well against Kerry but it is also difficult to know who they will have available as there were reports two weeks ago that the squad were having Covid problems. However on the basis that they will have a strong squad coming to Tralee, Kerry can take nothing for granted. Meath's keeper Colm O'Riordan is a good shot stopper while Jack Regan is the main attacking threat while free taker Padraig O'Hanrahan does not miss too many.

Kerry gave Meath a right hammering in the league two years ago but this year in Trim Kerry won O-13 to O-8 on a terrible afternoon for hurling. Shane Conway, fresh from his Fitzgibbon Cup success, was the Kerry's star scoring O-8 so a repeat on Sunday would suffice. **VERDICT:** Kerry to win.



2020 JOE McDONAGH CUP ROUND 1

CIARRAÍ

2

S. Ó Buachalla **John Buckley** Leac Sna 3

B. Ó Murchu

Bryan Murphy (C)

An Tochar

4

E. Ó Laighin **Eric Leen** Naomh Breandánaigh

5

T. Ó Cathasaigh Thomas Casey 6

J. Ó Duigín **Jason Diggins** An Tochar 7

F. Macasa **Fionan Mackessy** Naomh Breandánaigh

B. Ó Laoire

Brendan O'Leary

Mainistir Ó dTorna

S. Ó Nuaillain **Shane Nolan** Na Níallaigh Crotta

10

B. Baróid **Brandon Barrett**An Tochar

_____11

M. Ó Laoire **Micheál O'Leary** Mainistir Ó dTorna 12

M. Ó Laighin

Micheal Leane

Baile Ui Thaigh

13

S. Ó Conhbuí **Shane Conway** Leac Sna 14

M. Ó Baoil **Mikey Boyle** Baile Dubh 15

M. Ó Slatara **Michael Slattery**Mainistir Ó dTorna

BAINISTÍOCHT:

Bainisteoir: Fintan O'Connor; Maor Fóirne/Roghnóir: Brian Culbert; Roghnóirí: Brendan Cummins, Sean Maunsell, Eamon Fitzgerald.



FIR IONAID

- **16.** M. de Stacapul **Martin Stackpoole** Leac Sna
- **17.** T. Ó Conchúir **Tomás O'Connor** Na Níallaigh Crotta
- **18.** S. Ó Conchúir **James O'Connor** Mainistir ó dTorna
- **19.** E. Ó Murchu **Evan Murphy** An Tochar
- **20.** C. Ó Caoimh **Conor O'Keeffe** Leac Sna
- 21. C. Ó hArtaigh Colm Harty An Tochar
- **22.** D. Ó Cathasaigh **Daniel Casey** Cill Garbháin
- **23.** D. Ó Goggín **Dan Goggin** An Tochar
- **24.** L. Ó Liatháin **Billy Lyons** An Tochar
- **25.** D. Ó Coileán **Daniel Collins** Cill Mhaoile
- **26.** P. Ó Baoil **Padraig Boyle** Baile Dubh

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaí	65m	Saor Pocanna
1 Adh Leath					
2 Adh Leath					
Iomlán					

2020 JOE McDONAGH CUP ROUND 1



FIR IONAID

- **16.** Gearoid Crowley Rath Tó
- **17. Gerard Murphy**Naomh Peadar Dún Bóinne
- **18.** Nickolas Potterton Cill Dealga
- **19.** Patrick Potterton Cill Dealga
- **20.** Jack McGowan Rath Tó
- **21.** Simon Ennis Rath Moliadhain
- **22.** Cathal McCabe Cill Teidhil
- **23.** Peter Slevin Na Fianna
- **24.** Daithí McGowan Rath Tó
- **25.** Ben McGowan Rath Tó
- **26.** Cian Kelly Rath Tó

AN MHÍ



Seán Geraghty (C)

Cill Scíre/Maolach

Shane Brennan

Michael Burke
Maigh Dearmhaí

5 hane Whitty

Shane Whitty Gaeil Bhláth Gall



Cill Mheasáin

Darragh Kelly Rath Tó



Cill Liadhain

8
Patrick Conneely

Cill Dealga

9 Mark Molloy

10

Jack Regan

11

Padraic O'Hanrahan Rath Tó 12

James Kelly Cill Teidhil

13

Éamon Ó DonnchadhaClann na nGael

Stephen Morris Gaeil Bhláth Gall 15

Jack Walsh Ó Math

BAINISTÍOCHT:

Nick Weir, David O'Reilly, Graham Dillon, Stephen Quirke, Niamh Guy, Vinny Guy, Shane Mangan, Martin O'Halloran, John Andrews, Paul Dunne, Gerry McLoughlin, Dom Reilly, Colin Brennan, Dr. Seamus McMenamin.

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaí	65m	Saor Pocanna
Adh Leath					
Adh Leath					
omlán					



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