

Rossa v Lamh Dhearg Match Report 22/4/12

Rossa and Lamh Dhearg shared the spoils in the division two hurling clash at the Shaws Road on Sunday afternoon.

Lamh Dhearg came into the game off the back of a morale boosting victory over Gort na Mona, while Rossa suffered defeat to St. Galls, though the hosts came out of the blocks quickest with Stephen Beatty firing over an early point. The hosts were beginning to dominate the match and the scoreboard soon reflected this, Stephen Shannon was accurate from a free before Conor Rocks added a third. The visitors seemed to be in disarray, and when the Lamh Dhearg defence failed to clear their lines Chris Hamill found the time and space to lash the ball into the net and stretch the lead to six points. The home side were coasting towards half time, though Michael Herron finally registered Lamh Dhearg's first score with a long range free sneaking over the bar. The visitors needed to kick-on if they were to make inroads into Rossa's lead, though the last three scores of the half would come for the home side. First of all Conor Rocks added his second score of the game, before goal-scorer Hamill and a further point from Matt Devi meant Rossa took an eight point lead in at the break.

The visitors came out with the words of the management ringing in their ears, and message seemed to get through to the players when Joe Doone poked the ball home from a goal mouth scramble and reduce arrears to five points. This was a huge lift to Lamh Dhearg's chances, and a further point from Brendan Herron would reduce the deficit to four early on in the half. Momentum was very much with Lamh Dhearg with the goal and point reigniting belief, Michael Herron then showed his craft by adding a further two scores and leave two points between the sides. The hosts were badly in need of a score to regain some composure, and this would come when Paul Close coolly slotted the ball over the bar to leave three points the margin. The next score would be vital to the final outcome, and it was the visitors who clawed their way back into proceedings when corner forward Michael McGuigan was afforded the necessary time and space to blast into the net and level proceedings.

The visitor's joy was to be short lived though as the complexity of the game was to change once again, a foul on Donal Armstrong gave Donal Moran the opportunity to restore Rossa's lead and he dually obliged sending the resulting free over the bar. This spurred the home side and a point a piece from Stephen Shannon and Donal Armstrong would restore Rossa's three point lead. Lamh Dhearg were running out of time in pursuit of an equaliser, and things were about to get worse for them when Joe Doone was given his marching orders after receiving a second yellow card. A foul committed deep inside the Rossa half gave Lamh Dhearg a last opportunity to salvage a point, youngster Michael McGuigan took responsibility and floated a perfect ball into the oncoming Michael Herron who caught the ball well and kicked the ball low into the bottom corner of the net to equalise. The final whistle brought contrasting emotions, disappointment for Rossa who failed to hold onto to their lead and are still without a win. Lamh Dhearg on the other hand will be delighted with the second half response and never say die attitude and are still unbeaten after two games.

Final Score : Rossa 1-10 Lamh Dhearg 3-04

Rossa Scorers : Chris Hamill (1-01) Stephen Shannon (0-2) Conor Rocks (0-2) Stephen Beatty (0-1) Matt Devlin (0-1) Paul Close (0-1) Donal Armstrong (0-1) Donal Moran (0-1)

Lamh Dhearg Scorers: Michael Herron (1-03) Michael McGuigan (1-0) Joe Doone (1-0) Brendan Herron (0-1)

By Kevin Herron