

Lodgewood Engineering IFC - August 14, 2014

St Mary's (Rosslare) 3-12, Ferns St Aidans 2-8

St Mary's became the second club in Group B of the Lodgewood Engineering Intermediate football championship to reach the quarter-final following a hard-fought match against understrength Ferns St. Aidan's in Wexford Park on Thursday last.

Both sides came into the game having lost the middle tie in their three to date but also just one win away from the knockouts. It was Rosslare who rose to the occasion with a late burst from Lee Devereux and Tiarnan Rossiter doing the damage.

Ferns' chances of making it past the group stages are now in peril with only a game against table-toppers HWH-Bunclody remaining. There is clearly an appetite for football in the club but with the hurlers stuttering of late, the big ball has been put well and truly on the back burner with just 19 players available, including two Minors.

St. Mary's looked to have the game won at half-time and held a nine-point interval lead, but it was far from a virtuoso performance. The Wexford District side only broke out of a malaise when David Murphy's dipping effort looped over Colin Redmond into the top left corner of the Clonard end goal (1-3 to 0-1).

Three minutes later they were in again, with Devereux applying the finishing touches to a move involving Rossiter and Cian Boggan. Ferns sleep-walked through the first period and only had scores from Ben Cowman, Tommy Dwyer and Ryan Nolan to show for a poor half (2-6 to 0-3).

Whatever was said at half-time certainly woke the Gorey District side up. Within two minutes Benny Jordan released Jamie Whelan who played Christopher O'Connor into the clear. The attacker's initial shot was saved by Stephen Breen but he buried the rebound.

Rossiter pointed for Rosslare but Ferns goaled again when Morris fed Ryan Nolan and he hit the net (2-7 to 2-5). The sides traded scores into the last ten minutes as John Breen notched a treble, including a fine pair of '45s.

Leading by just a point (2-9 to 2-8), having never been caught, St. Mary's accelerated away in the last few minutes. Devereux got a superb brace in less than a minute and Rossiter also pointed.

The game was ended when Devereux was fouled just outside the large rectangle, yet a penalty was given that Rossiter converted. To add to their woes, Colin Leacy was black-carded having seen a similar incident punished with a yellow at the other end earlier in the half.

Ferns St. Aidans: Colin Redmond; Pat Nolan, Colin Leacy (capt.), Keith Rynhart; Derek Thorpe, James Tonks, Tommy Dwyer (0-1); Jamie Whelan, Benny Jordan; Christopher O'Connor (1-0), John Breen (0-3, 2 '45s), Ben Cowman (0-1); Ryan Nolan (1-2, 0-1 free), Paul Morris (0-1), Tomás Hawkins. **Subs:** Colm Whelan for Hawkins (36), Niall Maguire for P. Nolan (36), Conor Doran for Leacy, black card (57).

St. Mary's: Stephen Breen; Ned Power, Seán Finan, Gearóid Byrne (capt.); Niall Walsh, Paul Kinsella (0-1), Tiarnan Rossiter (1-3, 1-0 pen.); David Murphy (1-0), Andrew Murphy; Cian Boggan (0-1), Emmet Byrne, Larry Morrissey (0-1); Lee Devereux (1-3), Conor Cafferkey (0-2), Barry Quirke (0-1). **Subs:** Chris Walsh for Morrissey (38), Naomhan Rossiter for A. Murphy (51).